

## Opening

### Hymn

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam:  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O rushing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise God, Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice:  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your God to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blazing fire who lights the night, providing warmth, enhancing sight,  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And all forgiven tender hearts, forgiving others, take your part,  
sing praises, alleluia!

You who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.  
O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### Prayer

Creator God, You have made a beautiful world filled with wonder and surprises!  
We adore you.

**Creator God who has gifted us with the blessing of animals, those in the wild, those on farms, those in our own homes  
We adore you.**

Creator God, you brought into being that which we could not imagine for ourselves, life we cannot see without the aid of microscopes, animals we can only see in pictures from remote regions of this planet earth,  
We adore you.

**We thank you for abundant life; for the birds we hear in the morning, for the drone of the bees when we are outside, for the vast tapestry of life which is interwoven,  
We give you thanks.**

We thank you for the gift of our own animal companions; For the joy they bring us, For the unconditional love and forgiveness which teaches us about you; For the confidant, the listener, the stress-releaser, For the benefits they are to our health-and to our Spirit.  
**We give you thanks.**

And yet, we know that we have not always been faithful caretakers of our animals; Forgive us when we have dirtied their environment, erased places of shelter, polluted the waters, killed off their food supplies or neglected to feed or tend animals in our own communities.

**Forgive us.**

Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture; when we have neglected the animals in the wild, the cruelty inflicted in the name of 'sport', or in the name of food production. Forgive us when we have focused only on our 'favourites' and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful.

**Forgive us.**

Each year more animals are becoming extinct, or are added to the endangered species list: forgive us, for allowing beauty to be forever destroyed.

**Forgive us when we neglect to see all animals as part of your creation, forgive us when we neglect to acknowledge that your love beats in all hearts, and that you give breath to all creation.**

As you take care of us, so also we ask your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Solo:**

“All God’s Critters”

**Blessing of Animals**

**Hymn**

“This Is My Father’s World”

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the flowers bright, declare their Maker's praise.  
Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass I hear God pass, who speaks to me everywhere.

Our God has made this world: oh, let us ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair.  
All earth and trees, the skies and seas, God's creatures everywhere.

**Benediction**