

# Blessing God's Creatures

This celebration of thanksgiving for pets was held at Woodland Hills Community Church, Woodland Hills, California, in September, of 2003. The service involved the children of the congregation. They were invited to be readers and, especially, along with other youth and adults, to bring their pets to the service.

## Opening

One: Bless, our God, all you creatures.

People: **Bless God in heaven and earth.**

A Reading of Genesis 1:23–28, 31a *(read by young person)*

A Reading of Psalm 104: 24, 27–31 *(read by young person)*

## Responsive Prayer

One: For all your creatures that breathe and move and have life.

People: **We thank you, O God.**

One: That we may love and honor the works of your hand.

People: **We thank you, O God.**

One: That each pet here may be treasured with care.

People: **We thank you, O God.**

## Music

*(Special music may include a recording of the song “Bless the Beasts and the Children” recorded by the Carpenters.)*

## Blessing

One: When the leaders signal, please bring your pet(s) to one of the two blessing stations. After the blessing, go in peace.

Leader *(holding or touching each pet)*:

*(Name of animal)*, you are blessed in the name of God, our Creator, Jesus our brother, and the power of the Holy Spirit. May God's love strengthen you and comfort you. And may you and *(owner's name)* find joy in each other's presence and peace with God who created us all. Amen.