



## GREETING AND PRAYER FIRST READING: based on Genesis 1

Silence. Spirit.

God created everything.

The heavens, the skies, the air, the rain, the water, the earth.

God created [people] all over the earth.

Seeds, plants, and trees all over the earth; lions, giraffes, tigers, and elephants, cats, dogs, horses, and bears—all over the earth.

. . .

God created birds, insects, fishes, whales, plants in the water, the river, the pond, the sea, the ocean caressing the land.

God created all these and much more, and much more, so much more.

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God created life—all that is seen and unseen.

God created life—love from God that will never end.

Adapted from God Created, written by Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones and illustrated by Jui Ishida (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2003).





SONG: A Place in the Choir (Joan on guitar) Author: Bill Staines

Chorus: All God's creatures got a place in the choir Some sing low and some sing higher Some sing out loud on the telephone wire Some just clap their hands or paws, or anything they've got now

Listen to the top where the little bird sings On the melodies and the high notes ringing And the hoot owl cries over everything And the blackbird disagrees

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day When little duck quacks and she's on her way And the otter hasn't got much to say And the porcupine talks to himself

Chorus: All God's creatures got a place in the choir Some sing low and some sing higher Some sing out loud on the telephone wire Some just clap their hands or paws, or anything they've got now

Dogs and the cats, they take up the middle While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles The donkey brays and the pony neighs The old grey badger sighs

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus Moans and groans with a big t'do And the old cow just goes moo

Chorus: All God's creatures got a place in the choir Some sing low and some sing higher Some sing out loud on the telephone wire Some just clap their hands or paws, or anything they've got now





## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE BLESSING OF ANIMALS

[The minister circulates through the congregation, asks the name of the animal, places her hand on the animal's head (if appropriate) and then blesses the animal]:

[insert name], you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING SENDING

Go out into God's world. Live in peace with one another and with all God's creatures.

Thanks be to God!