

Blessing of the Animals

We worship with the creatures we love

29 September 2019



***CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL GRAFTON***

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds

Gathering

*All present who have brought an animal, or a picture of one, form a circle, each person placing a hand on the animal being held, with space between the various animals. From there we cry loudly: **Praise the Lord.** It adds to the celebration if some animals bark or cry out during this time.*

Leader ***Praise the Lord.*** Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

People **We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.**

Leader Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

People **We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*, on the creatures present here that we love, and all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

Leader In the name of God, who creates all life, In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

People **Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!**
May your blessing come!

Circle of Blessing

The leader then moves to each animal, saying its name, holding a hand over the animal, and blessing it in the name of the Cosmic Christ who fills and heals creation.

Blessing: ‘N,’ the power of this blessing from Christ fill you with life, bind you to your human partners and lead you to praise your Creator. Amen.

Sending Out

L Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for her creatures.
Will you care for creation?

P **We will care for creation! We will nurture our animals!**
We will celebrate the circle of life with them!

Blessing

L May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God’s presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you. Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving all creatures!

P **We go in peace,**
servicing Christ and loving our animal kin.