

# Not Ordinary Church

## Blessing of Our Animal Companions

Allyson Sawtell, 2022

*Note to Pastors/Worship Leaders – be sure to read the [Notes to Pastors](#)*

### **Reading – “An Enormous Blessing”**

I parakeet-sat for friends once, a long time ago, shortly after our beloved dog died.  
Each morning, I’d let Budgie out of his cage.  
He would stand on the table while I read the morning newspaper.  
Sometimes he’d try to nibble on my cereal.  
Occasionally he did more than just stand on the newspaper.  
But we co-existed well, and I missed him when his family came home.  
That small creature was an enormous presence, comfort, and joy.  
An enormous blessing.

### **Prayer of Gratitude and Celebration**

Reader One: Thanks be to God for our animal companions!

The birds that sing to us and sometimes talk back to us

The cat who may ignore us but loves us all the same, and cries when we leave.

***Congregation’s response: We thank you and honor you!***

Reader Two: Thanks be to God for our animal companions!

The fish who flash their bright colors in the bowl, who are pictures of grace and beauty (at least until they go belly up one day),

The huge dogs who think they are lap dogs, the small ones who think they are giant guard dogs – and all in between, who grace us and love us beyond anything we deserve.

***Congregation’s response: We thank you and honor you!***

Reader One: To our animals that keep us safe and stable, who walk with us when our steps falter, or our fear paralyzes.

Who guide us, calm our fears, and let us know when someone’s at the door.

***ALL: Thanks be to God for our animal companions, those with us now, those gone before, and those yet to enter our lives.***

Reader Two: And thanks be to God for those domesticated animals who give so much to us whether they want to or not. May we work to see that humane conditions prevail for them.

***Congregation’s response: We give thanks for these gifts!***

Reader One: For the bees and their honey, for chickens and their eggs,

For cattle, pigs, poultry, and fish and all other animals who give their entire lives for our nourishment and well-being, we give bittersweet and humble thanks.

Reader Two: For silk worms and alpacas, we give thanks! For sheep and their wool, for goats and their milk (and their hilarious YouTube videos), we give thanks.

***ALL: We are grateful and honor all their gifts and their sacrifices.***

***Thanks be to God for the animals in our lives! In humility and gratitude, we offer this prayer. Amen!***

### **Blessing of Our Pets and Service Animals**

*Pets/service animals and their people may come forward to receive a blessing from the worship leaders. Those who are unable to bring their pets to church can bring a picture to be blessed at this time, as well.*

*Those who have pictures of their beloved deceased pets/service animals may bring them forward at this time and place them on the table.*

*Lighting of a candle of celebration for all those animal companions yet to come into our lives.*

### **Song – Song for Our Animal Companions**

*To the tune of “God of Grace and God of Glory”*

1. God of Grace, and Riley and Mittens,  
Budgie, Max, and Chevy Lou;  
God, our blessed animal companions  
Shine with love and joy so true!  
Songs of praises,  
Songs of gratitude  
For the critters in our lives,  
Gifts of love that never die.
  
2. All the ones we call companions,  
Furry baby, feathered friend.  
Truly are your miracle beings,  
Praise to you, our God we send.  
Songs of praises,  
Songs of gratitude  
For the critters in our lives,  
Gifts of love that never die.



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