

# Not Ordinary Church

## Blessing of the Wild Creatures

Allyson Sawtell, 2022

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

### **Opening Words**

Now is the time for the Blessing of the Animals. We give our blessing and prayers and love for them.

And this is the time also to recognize the blessing OF the animals, for they are a blessing just by being. They are a blessing within the web of life, in that careful and miraculous dance of a balanced eco-system. Like God, they create order out of chaos, whether they are predator or prey.

Let us celebrate the blessings that are the wild creatures of God’s good Creation.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Reader 1: We give thanks for the wild creatures:  
The whale, wolf, wolverine, wombat

Reader 2: The tiger, tarantula, tapir and termite

Reader 3: The aardvark, alligator, alpaca and anaconda,

Reader 1: The majestic, graceful, powerful and strong ones,

Reader 2: The small, quick, nimble and nearly-unseen ones,

Reader 3: The gross, slippery, squirmy and slimy ones

*Everyone: We give thanks for the wild creatures:*

Reader 1: The scary and the scared – all sacred

Reader 2: The predator and prey – all precious

Reader 3: The lovely and the funny-looking – all beautiful.

*Everyone: Oh God, the miracles of creation, evolution, instinct, and life are all around us.  
With grateful hearts, we celebrate.  
We give thanks for the wild creatures! Amen!*

**Song – Pray for the Wilderness** (New Century Hymnal, p 557 vss 1,2,4)

### **Remembering Endangered and Extinct Species**

#### **Reading: Mother Jones Said**

Reader 1: When Mother Jones said, “Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living.”  
She was not thinking of  
The West African Black Rhinoceros  
The Pinta Giant Tortoise

The Splendid Poison Frog  
 Or the Bramble Cay Mosaic-Tailed Rat  
 All these gone extinct in the last decade or so

Reader 2: Nor did Mother Jones specifically call us to fight like hell for  
 The Amur Leopard  
 Three species of Rhino  
 The Bornean Orangutan  
 Or the African Forest Elephant,  
 All critically endangered.

Reader 1: But shall we, anyway? Pray and fight like hell?

Reader 2: Today as we bless the wild creatures, we hold space for, and mourn, all those gone extinct. There is an empty space in our worship table/altar today, for those gone extinct. May there also be an empty space in our hearts, so we know the loss deep down. May grief kindle compassion and hard work.

Reader 1: So we light a candle for hope for the endangered and threatened species.  
 And we celebrate those brought back from the brink of extinction (like the humpback whale and the greater one-horned rhino). May their light never go out! May their light burn strongly and live! May we find ways to make that so. Amen!

*The candle is lit*

### **Blessing of the Wild Creatures**

#### **Reading: The Pledge**

Reader 1: To the mourning dove outside the window, and to the song;

Reader 2: To the humpback whale leaping from the cold Alaska waters;  
 To the earthworm churning through the soil, bringing in air and life,  
 and occasionally feeding the persistent robin;

Reader 1: To the wolves, coyotes and bears,  
 Who by their very nature bring eco-systems into balance;

Reader 2: To the bee on the dandelion, being nourished, then nourishing others;

Reader 1: To the salmon pushing upstream to spawn and die,  
 That uphill battle for life, the giving of itself for the sake of the future;

Both Readers: To these, and all wild creatures, we pledge...No...We *pray*:

Reader 1: In gratitude and with joy for their part and presence in the web of life;  
 For forgiveness for the threat we bring, the damage we are doing, and for the disruption we cause.

Reader 2: We pray for the courage to seek, learn, commit, and fight like hell, for the sake of all wild life

Reader 1: For the sake of God's good Creation  
 And for the whole web of life which we share with all wild creatures.

Reader 2: We pray, and lament.  
We pray, and we dance with joy.

Reader 1: We stand in awe and wonder,  
And we wonder what the future holds.

Both Readers: And so we pray:

Reader 2: For courage and focus,  
For strength and compassion.

Reader 1: As we work to fashion that future where all of us, together, mend and  
spin our web of life.

Both Readers: May this be so. Amen!



This document is shared under the terms of [a Creative Commons license](#), which allows reusers to copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator. You may contact Rev. Allyson Sawtell at [Allyson@RevSawtell.org](mailto:Allyson@RevSawtell.org)