



Blessing of Creatures

St. David's Episcopal Church,
Bean Blossom, Indiana

Welcome!

*Please take as much room as you need for you and your companion animal to feel comfortable and safe.
We are on a busy street, so please keep your pet caged or leashed.*

Leader O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

People **May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.**

Psalms 104: 25, 32

Leader The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray.
Most high, omnipotent, good Lord,
grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world;
that, following the way of blessed Francis,
we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Saint Francis's Canticle of the Sun

Leader Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

People **Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
of You Most High, he bears the likeness.**

Leader Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

People **Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.**

Leader Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.

People **Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.**

Leader Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

People **Praise be You my Lord through those
who grant pardon for love of You
and bear sickness and trial.**

Leader Blessed are those who endure in peace,
by You Most High, they will be crowned.

People **Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no-one living can escape...
Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will...**

Leader Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks,
and serve Him with great humility.

Prayer on Behalf of All Creatures

Leader Gracious Creator, on behalf of all creatures, we offer these prayers.
We pray first for their safety: for abundant food and clean water, for quiet nests and healthy young.

Anyone may speak a prayer here for the safety of creatures.

Leader On behalf of the creatures, let us say Amen.

People **Amen!**

Leader We give thanks for humans who care for animals with kindness and integrity. We pray for compassion to grow in the hearts of all people everywhere.

Anyone may speak a prayer here for those who care for creatures.

Leader On behalf of the creatures, let us say Amen.

People **Amen!**

Leader We offer thanks for the ancient bond of friendship and mutual care that can grow among people and animals. We pray for animals and people who suffer because they have lost each other. We name before you the creatures from whom we are parted by death.

Anyone may speak a prayer here for creatures that suffer, or name a pet that has died.

Leader On behalf of the creatures, let us say Amen.

People **Amen!**

Leader We give thanks for the mighty and holy web of creation, for stars and galaxies, for the blessing of water on Earth, and for life, springing out of the infinite universe. We pray for greater wisdom as stewards of our planet.

Anyone may speak a prayer here for the created order and our stewardship of it.

Leader On behalf of the creatures, let us say Amen.

People **Amen!**

Leader Let us pray together the prayer of our brother Jesus Christ, born in a stable.

Leader and People

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing of the Creatures

After all Creatures have been blessed, all present turn and stand facing outward towards the world, during this Reading.

A Reading from Scripture: Ecclesiasticus 65

The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven, a glittering array in the heights of the Lord. On the orders of the Holy One they stand in their appointed places; they never relax in their watches. Look at the rainbow, and praise him who made it; it is exceedingly beautiful in its brightness. It encircles the sky with its glorious arc; the hands of the Most High have stretched it out. By his command he sends the driving snow and speeds the lightnings of his judgement. Therefore the storehouses are opened, and the clouds fly out like birds. In his majesty he gives the clouds their strength, and the hailstones are broken in pieces. The voice of his thunder rebukes the earth; when he appears, the mountains shake. At his will the south wind blows; so do the storm from the north and the whirlwind. He scatters the snow like birds flying down, and its descent is like locusts alighting. The eye is dazzled by the beauty of its whiteness, and the mind is amazed as it falls.

He pours frost over the earth like salt, and icicles form like pointed thorns.
The cold north wind blows, and ice freezes on the water;
 it settles on every pool of water, and the water puts it on like a breastplate.
He consumes the mountains and burns up the wilderness, and withers the tender grass like fire.
A mist quickly heals all things; the falling dew gives refreshment from the heat.
By his plan he stilled the deep and planted islands in it.
Those who sail the sea tell of its dangers, and we marvel at what we hear.
In it are strange and marvellous creatures, all kinds of living things, and huge sea-monsters.
Because of him each of his messengers succeeds, and by his word all things hold together.
We could say more but could never say enough; let the final word be: 'He is the all.'
Where can we find the strength to praise him? For he is greater than all his works.
Awesome is the Lord and very great, and marvellous is his power.
Glorify the Lord and exalt him as much as you can, for he surpasses even that.
When you exalt him, summon all your strength,
 and do not grow weary, for you cannot praise him enough.
Who has seen him and can describe him? Or who can extol him as he is?
Many things greater than these lie hidden, for I have seen but few of his works.
For the Lord has made all things, and to the godly he has given wisdom.

Silence

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

The Priest dismisses all the Creatures with these words.
May the one who creates and restores everything that is,
the One who is Mary's child, and child of God,
the One who is the Holy Spirit,
may this Holy One bring you compassion and peace,
and bless your life with joy.

People **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

St. David's Episcopal Church

Corner of SR 135 and SR 45, Bean Blossom, Indiana
PO Box 1798, Nashville, IN 47448

Pastor: The Rev. Jonathan Hutchison
Lay Pastoral Associate: Deborah Hutchison
Pastors' Office: 812-988-7672
Pastors' email: chesed2@msn.com
Web site: saintdavidsbeanblossom.org

Choir Director: Joe Ridenour
Organist: George Cullinan
Church Office: 812-988-1038
Church email: stdavids@iquest.net
Photo album: stdavids.smugmug.com