

Prayers Suitable for Use in Church or for Other Gatherings, at the Adoption, Illness, Loss, or Death of Companion, Service, or Other Beloved Animals

At the adoption of an animal

God, whose nature and whose name is Love: We thank you for this new relationship between N. [and N.] and this animal A. Let their home be filled with kindness and care; let them be the delight of one another's hearts; and watch over and keep them from this day forward in safety and peace; for your Name's sake. Amen.

For a lost or missing animal

Almighty God, you watch over every creature, every moment of every day: Hear our prayers for N. as she worries for the safe return of A. By the grace of your Holy Spirit, protect and keep them both, and bring A. quickly home. Amen.

For a sick animal

God, whose compassion and mercy are over all your works: Hear our prayers for A., this creature of yours, in her illness. Ease her suffering and help her not to be afraid. Help her to rest and heal, and comfort us who worry, [especially N. and N.]. We pray through your beloved Son Jesus and by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

For one whose beloved animal has died

God, the refuge and strength of all who mourn: Hear our prayers for N. [and N.], who grieves the death of her beloved A. Bring comfort in loneliness, peace in distress, and joy in remembering; and lift her heart in thanksgiving for the gift of companionship she has known. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

At the euthanizing of an animal

God, your wisdom and mercy are over all your works: Be with us who have decided to end the suffering of A., this creature of yours entrusted to our care. Our power to heal has reached its end, and we put our trust in your mercy. Reassure and comfort us, that we make these decisions in compassion and kindness, as we pray through the kindness of Jesus Christ and the grace of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

For the suffering of animals during warfare

Eternal God, the comfort and peace of all your creatures: Hear our prayers for all animals that suffer in times of war, especially for those that bear burdens, those that serve as food, those that detect mines, those that search for the missing and the dead, and for all creatures in the path of war's destruction. May your divine assistance be with them according to their need; and may our swords be beaten into plowshares and our hearts be softened toward animals of every kind; for they are yours, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

For the loss of a farm animal

Gracious Lord, we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand: We thank you for placing us among beasts of the field and for allowing us to care for them, and that through them, you provide us with food, clothing, and livelihood. We grieve this day the death of A., a creature of your own making, and a sign for us of your generosity and love; through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd.
Amen.

At the death of a wild animal

Almighty God, who make the beasts of the wild move in beauty and show forth the glory of your Name: We grieve the death of this creature, whose existence was a reminder to us of your creative presence in the world. We give you thanks for that which was never ours to claim, but only to behold with wonder; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 719-721.