

Open Table Worship
Blessing of the Animals Service
Communion (optional)
Compiled by Ana Gobledale

Materials needed:

- Bowls for water for blessing
- Pitchers of water
- Bowls of water for drinking (animals)
- Copies of the dramatized reading, 'In our hands' for each reader (3-10)
- On each table:
 - items people bring: photos of their pet(s), soft toys
 - If a charity is being highlighted in the service or a collection taken for a charity include educational and promotional items from the charity, e.g. RSPCA, Dog Trust or Cat Protection
 - Any readings or handouts
 - Bible marked at the readings
- Bible translations: suggested are *The Inclusive Bible: the first Egalitarian Translation* 2007 by Priests for Equality; *New Revised Standard Version*; or *The Message*. Ideally, have all three available. NRSV provides the scholarly translation and TM provides an interpretation in modern vernacular. *The Inclusive Bible* provides a ready-to-read inclusive language translation.
- Candles to light (one lit candle to use for lighting others)
- Communion elements: juice – or grapes - and bread to be shared (gluten free and non-alcoholic, so no one is excluded)
- A special collection might be taken for the Dog Trust, the Cats Protection League or another charity caring for animals. The collection might be financial or goods needed by said charity, e.g. pet food, old towels and blankets, cat/dog toys.