



## *Prayer related to compassion to animals from many religious traditions*

Kudos to Herma Caelen for collecting the wide variety of inspiring prayers below, from many religious traditions. May they provide the impetus to help create a more humane, compassionate, just, peaceful and environmentally sustainable world.

Many of the world's people profess to be religious and attend services on a regular basis. There are many prayers recited daily in religious institutions and in private settings. Yet, we live in a world threatened as perhaps never before by global climate change, rapid species extinction, widening water shortages, deforestation, desertification and many more environmental threats. Although every religion stresses compassionate behaviour, billions of animals are badly mistreated at factory farms, fur farms, vivisection laboratories, circuses and other settings.

Perhaps there would be a better, more humane world if, as a society, we considered the following with regard to our prayers:

- Might our prayers for compassion be answered more favourably if we showed greater compassion for God's defenceless creatures ?
- Might our prayers for sustenance be responded to more positively if our eating habits were consistent with needy people obtaining an adequate portion of God's abundant harvests?
- Might our prayers for good health receive a more favourable response if we did not consume animal products with high doses of pesticides, antibiotics, and other chemicals, as well as cholesterol, saturated fat, and animal protein?
- Might our prayers for rain to nourish our crops produce better results if much of that rain was not used primarily to grow feed crops for animals destined for slaughter, while many people lack adequate food and water?
- Might our prayers for peace be answered more favourably if we shared God's provisions more equitably, thereby reducing the prospects for war *and violence*?

Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D.

*Professor Emeritus, College of Staten Island President of Jewish Vegetarians of North America (JVNA) and Society of Ethical and Religious Vegetarians (SERV) [www.jewishveg.com/schwartz/](http://www.jewishveg.com/schwartz/)*

## *Our father*

*And think also of our older sisters and brothers, the animals.*

*For their protection renew your old command of the sixth day of creation that humans are to eat plants of the field, but not animals (Genesis 1. 29-30).*

*Forbid humans from killing animals to eat them because they are also sentient beings with the same longing for life.*

*They are our companions on our communal way to immortality.*

*As long as humans kill animals, they will also wage wars.*

*As long as humans eat animals, they will torment their innocent victims to death:*

*Hundreds of thousands in laboratories,*

*Millions in factory farms,*

*Billions in the slaughterhouses of the cities,*

*Trillions in the oceans.*

*Their blood may no longer serve as food, their bodies no longer as raw material, their lives no longer as food for us humans.*

*Forbid us, LORD, our daily meat. Our daily bread give us.*



*Sent by Eugen Drewermann, German theologian, author*

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## *Prayer of one of the former Chairmen of Catholic Concern for Animals*

*Fr Ambrose Aguis OSB, used at animal blessing services*

*O God, all-wise and all-merciful,*

*Author of all life both in mankind and in every other living being, bless,  
we pray Thee, these Thy creatures here present before us and with them all  
other creatures in the whole universe,*

*that dwelling happily in that nature that Thou hast given them,  
they may thus glorify Thy name and bear testimony to Thy creative power,  
Thy wisdom, and Thy providence; through Christ our Lord.*

*Sent by Deborah Jones, Catholic Concern for Animals  
[www.catholic-animals.org](http://www.catholic-animals.org)*



*From the Sacred Scriptures and Prayers of the Jewish people,  
especially the Book of Psalms*

## *Introduction to the Morning Psalms*

*„Blessed is the One Who spoke,  
and the world came into being.*

*Blessed is the One Who maintains creation.*

*Blessed is the One Who has compassion on the earth;  
blessed is the One Who has compassion on the creatures.“*

### *Psalm 147:7-9*

*„Call out to the Compassionate One with thanks, with the harp sing to our  
God - Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth,  
Who makes mountains sprout with grass; the One Who gives to an  
animal its food, to young ravens that cry out.“*

### *Prayer Before the Weekday*

*„O compassionate and gracious God,  
have compassion on us and all your  
works.“*

### *Grace After Meals*

*„Blessed are You, O Compassionate  
One, our God, Sovereign of the  
universe,*

*Who nourishes the entire world with goodness - with grace, lovingkindness,  
and compassion.*

*He gives nourishment to all flesh, for His lovingkindness is eternal.*

*And through His great goodness, we have never lacked, and may we never  
lack nourishment for all eternity, for the sake of His great Name.*

*For He is God Who nourishes and sustains all, and benefits all, and He  
prepares food for all of His creatures that He has created.*

*Blessed are You, O Compassionate One, Who nourishes all.“*



## *A Prayer for Animal Welfare*

*Almighty God, maker of all living things, in whose Fatherly wisdom we trust and depend. Enable us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, to recognize the works of your hand in all things.*

*We give thanks to You, O God, for the opportunity to worship you this day and we remember with joy and gratitude, all your creatures, whose beauty and diversity enriches our lives beyond measure.*

*We ask Your forgiveness for the many ways in which animals are abused and exploited, through both ignorance and greed and we confess before You our part in their suffering, acknowledging the times we have remained silent, lacking the courage to speak out in their defence.*

*Strengthen us in our resolve as we aspire to lead the 'simple' life of faith and obedience, free from all earthly entrapments and material wealth, using earth's resources wisely and thoughtfully, faithfully following the example of your servant, St. Francis of Assisi.*

*Help us, O Lord, as we endeavour to live in harmony with all your creatures, leaving only the footprints of true discipleship upon this earth when we leave and not the deep scars of greed and exploitation.*

*Encourage and inspire each one of us to grow in your likeness and to be remembered for our simplicity of heart and generosity of spirit and for our 'oneness' with all creation.*

*Grant us, O merciful God, humble and contrite hearts and a clear vision of Your purpose for us in Your world, that we may become faithful stewards of your wondrous creation.*

*These things we ask in Jesus' name.  
Amen.*



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## *Prayer of St Basil*

*Oh, God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things; with our brothers the animals to whom Thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us.*

*We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to Thee in song, has been a groan of travail.*

*May we realize that they live not for us alone, but for themselves, and for Thee, and that they love the sweetness of life even as we, and serve Thee in their place better than we in others.*

Sent by Deborah Jones, Catholic Concern for Animals  
[www.catholic-animals.org](http://www.catholic-animals.org)

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## *A Christmas prayer for animals*

*As Christmas approaches,  
Dear God up above,  
Please fill every heart  
With compassion and love.*

*Fill all with the knowledge  
That piglets and geese,  
And turkey's are also  
Entitled to peace.*

*Please let people see  
That to harm and to kill,  
Just doesn't make sense  
At a time of goodwill.*

*This Christmas, dear God,  
Please answer my prayer,  
May love for all creatures  
Abound everywhere*



Jenny Moxham  
With the kind authorization of [www.all-creatures.org](http://www.all-creatures.org)

## *Thanks Giving Prayer*

*Today we give thanks for this vegetarian meal and the people who have labored to harvest and prepare this meal for us. We give thanks for the many lives that have contributed to our lives. We also ask for forgiveness from the living beings that we have harmed, intentionally and unintentionally.*

*We are grateful for our health and the opportunity to eat with others on this day. We aspire, with compassionate hearts, to use the energy that we gain from this meal and our friends to contribute to the peace and happiness of all living beings.*

*We pray that all the people of the world will avoid inflicting harm on animals and fellow human beings and practice nonviolence and compassion. We express our sorrow at the suffering of all the turkeys and other animals that have died.*

*May peace and compassion grow in ourselves and extend to all around us.*

Sent by Dr. Jina Shah of Northern California and edited by Jaina Education Committee

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## *„Selections from the Writings of, Abdu'l-Bahá'*

*Unless ye must,  
Bruise not the serpent in the dust,  
How much less wound a man.  
And if ye can,  
No ant should ye alarm,  
Much less a brother harm.*

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*Train your children from their earliest days to be infinitely tender and loving to animals. If an animal be sick, let the children try to heal it, if it be hungry, let them feed it, if thirsty, let them quench its thirst, if weary, let them see that it rests.*



*Briefly, it is not only their fellow human beings that the beloved of God must treat with mercy and compassion; rather must they show forth the utmost loving-kindness to every living creature.*

## *From Dovid Sear's book*

*„The Vision of Eden: Vegetarianism and Animal Welfare in Jewish Law and Mysticism“ (pages 43-44):*

*I ask forgiveness from all creatures — whether in the mineral, vegetive, animal or human realms — for my having transgressed against them and caused them suffering, whether physical or spiritual.*

*Also, from the depth of my heart, I beg all souls, both the living and the dead, and all celestial beings, from the lowest to the highest, to have mercy and forgive me completely for all my transgressions and sins against them, and for having caused them any form of grief or spiritual defect.*

*Instead, may they intercede for me and tip the scales of judgment to the side of merit. May they beseech God to forgive me for everything, and may I be protected by the shadow of His compassion.*

Sent by Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, College of Staten Island  
[www.jewishveg.com/schwartz/](http://www.jewishveg.com/schwartz/)

## *Buddhist Prayers*

*O Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, and  
 disciples  
 of the past, present, and future:  
 Having remarkable qualities  
 Immeasurably vast as the ocean,  
 Who regard all helpless sentient  
 beings  
 as your only child;  
 Please consider the truth of my  
 anguished pleas.*

*Buddha's full teachings dispel the  
 pain of worldly  
 existence and self-oriented peace;  
 May they flourish, spreading  
 prosperity and happiness through-  
 out this spacious world.*



Composed by the Dalai Lama  
[www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Dojo/1299/buddha.htm](http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Dojo/1299/buddha.htm)



## *A Prayer for Animals*

*Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals,  
especially for animals who are suffering;  
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry;  
for all that must be put to sleep.*

*We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity,  
and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion  
and gentle hands and kindly words.*

*Make us be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the  
merciful.*

By Albert Schweitzer



## *Franciscan prayer*

*Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.  
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land.  
You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.*

*We ask you to bless this pet.*

*By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan.*

*May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.*

*Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!*

*Amen.*





*From the RSPCA Order of Service (1987)*

## *Closing prayers*

*Heavenly Father  
Your Holy Spirit  
Gives breath to all living things;  
Renew us by this same Spirit  
That we may learn to respect  
What you have given  
And care for what you have made  
Through Jesus Christ  
Your Son our Lord.*

*Almighty God  
Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
Taught us to love  
Even the least among us;  
Give us the courage to care  
For all living creatures  
And the strength to defend  
Even the weakest of all.*



# *The ancient Indian Holy Scripture Yajur Veda says:*



OM

*Peace be in the universe,  
Peace be in the atmosphere,  
Peace be on earth,  
Peace be in the waters,  
Peace be in the herbs and fruits,  
Peace be in the plants and trees,  
Peace be in the elements,  
Peace of the Supreme,  
Peace be everywhere,  
Peace, only peace,  
Peace be in my mind and heart.*

*OM Peace, Peace, Peace.*

*I offer my humble prayer to the Almighty to bless his divine creation and free them from torture, pain, suffering and illnesses."*

Vishwaguru Mahamandaleswar, Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda  
Yoga in Daily Life Society - Vienna/Austria

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*„Dear God, Thou art the Supreme!  
Thou art Omniscient and  
Omnipresent, Thou art the  
Antaryami – only Thee can place in  
the human mind the seed of  
preservation of Life and in our hearts  
the seed of Love towards all forms of  
living beings.*



*This way Thee can inhibit the  
suffering on this planet, to take roots, to grow and spread a beautiful and  
graceful tree in our minds, our  
speeches and in our actions: Don't kill animals!*

*Fight for a clean environment! Sustain, preserve and take care of our collective  
divine Nature – outwardly and inwardly!"*

Sadhvi Savitri  
Koper, Slovenia



## *What is Christmas?*

*Christmas is not a celebration of death, but a celebration of life. It is not a celebration of bloody hands and lips, but a celebration of purity and love and joy. It is liberty from all cruel killings because Christ came to free all of creation!*

*However, we bring terrible sufferings to humans and animals. We ignore that God is alive and that all animal sacrifices are horrible and that only the sacrifice of our hearts and minds is needed.*

*The human ingratitude shown to God and mother earth is without limits. We make earth suffer from rivers of blood stemming from masses of slaughtered animals. Earth does not need blood to provide us with good harvests and delicious fruit. Earth needs clean water, fertile grounds and clear sunlight for everything to prosper.*

*Only earth's wonderful fruits are God's true gifts which he grows for us in the Garden of Eden. They are beautiful with perfect forms and colors, sweet tastes and of most diverse aromas. Only they bless us with abundance and welfare for our physical, mental and spiritual existence. Only with plants and fruit can you serve peace on earth and contribute to triumph over hunger, poverty and early death – for the benefit of all living beings.*

*Wake up, learn and help all tormented animals to attain their God-intended right to life. Do not kill and do not let others kill for you. This will bring you closer to God because this is also the only way to do justice to fellow humans. This will allow you to fulfill the law of Christ – to love, to be gentle and to be compassionate.*

Sigrun Koerner, a Christian lady of 93 years, member of the European Vegetarian Union





From the book:

*„Paving the Way for Peace“*

*„All this talk about nature and wildlife protection would be more effective if each individual was to believe in the earth as a living, breathing entity and fight for its survival the way we do.“*

Johra Ram, Bishnoi

<http://www.lppindia.com/htm/8188629235.htm>

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On behalf of the Board of the European Vegetarian Union  
I wish everyone a happy New Year

Renato Pichler  
President



The European Vegetarian Union (EVU)

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