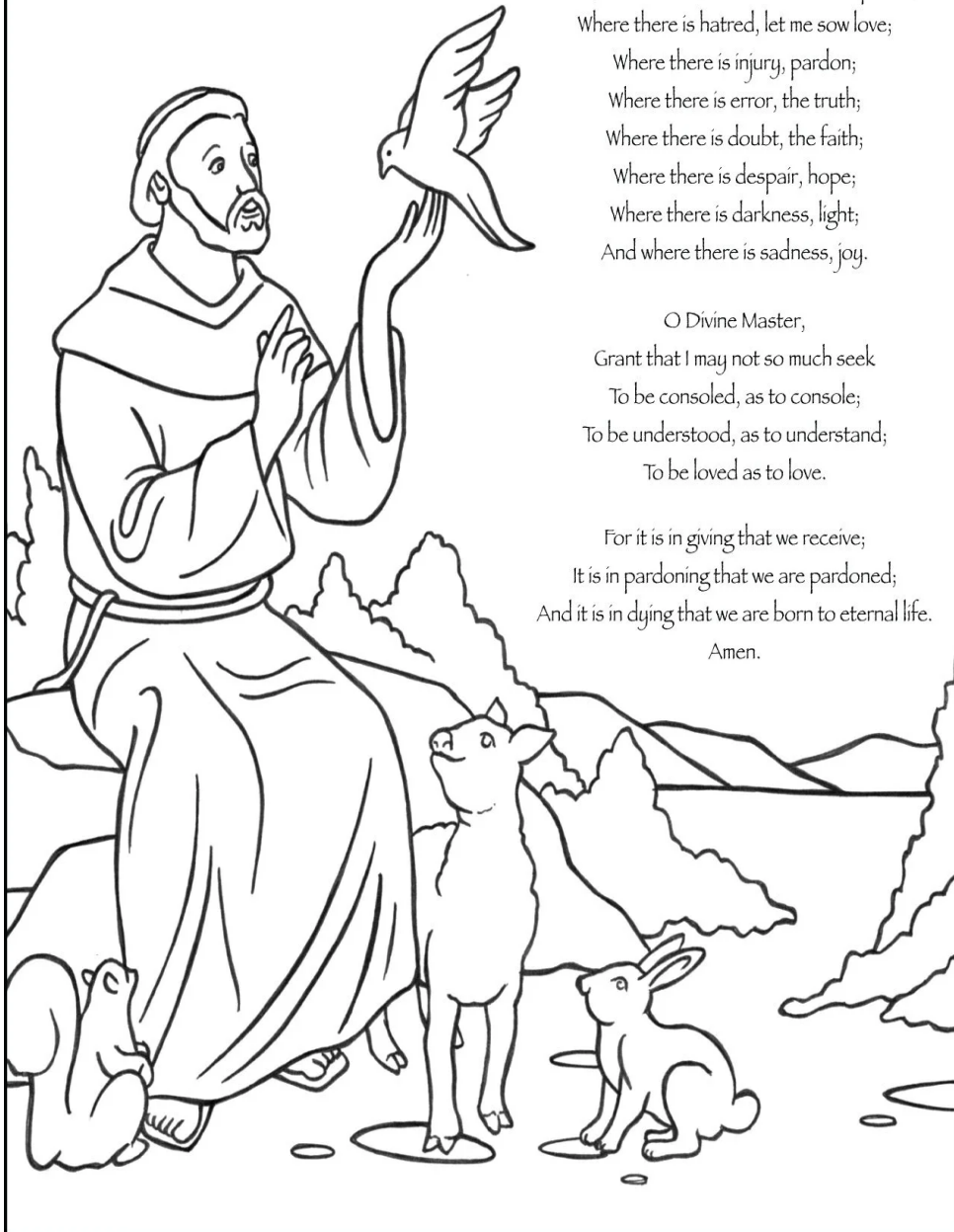


# Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, the truth;  
Where there is doubt, the faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.



## Blessing of the Animals Family Activities



**Play Animal Charades:** One person acts out an animal (without making any noise!) as everyone else guesses what creature is being portrayed.

**Outside Together:** Sit together outside your home and see how many animals you notice. Notice what the animals are doing. Are they searching for food? Are they playing together?

**Family Adventure:** Visit a petting zoo like the one at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve (<https://catoctinwildlifepreserve.com>) as a family for safe, direct interaction with animals that allows visitors to feed as well as touch the animals.

**Waterfront Picnic:** Pack a picnic basket and take a trip to a local pond or river. While there Talk about how wildlife is part of the environment that humans enjoy. Share your knowledge about how human actions affect wildlife, for example, share that feeding scraps of bread to waterfowl can actually harm them. Online, find information on encounters with animals in the wild, such as a Wildlife Safety section of the National Park Service website ([www.nps.gov/kefj/playourvisit/wildlife-safety.htm](http://www.nps.gov/kefj/playourvisit/wildlife-safety.htm)).

**Make Vegan Dog Treats:** Make vegan dog treats together as a family to give out as gifts or to treat your own furry companion. Consider donating some to the Zion Food Pantry and/or to a no-kill shelter, or for a fundraiser to benefit one (or both) of these places. In addition to the ingredients, you will need small resealable gift bags and stickers to list the ingredients and place any personalized message you desire. Don't forget to have fun decorating the bags together too! (*Recipe on next page*)

## Vegan Dog Treats

Prep: 15 mins | Cook: 20 mins | Total: 35 mins | Servings: 18

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups rice flour (avoid wheat flour as wheat can trigger allergies for some dogs)
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 cup unsalted natural peanut butter
- 1 cup skim milk

### Step 1:

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets. Stir together the flour and baking powder; set aside.

### Step 2:

In a medium bowl, mix together the peanut butter and milk. Stir in the flour mixture until well blended. Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness and cut into shapes using cookie cutters. Place 2 inches apart onto the prepared cookie sheets.

### Step 3:

Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until lightly brown. Remove from cookie sheets to cool on wire racks for 8 hours. In the meantime begin preparing your gift bags by decorating them and placing ingredient labels on them.

### Nutrition Facts:

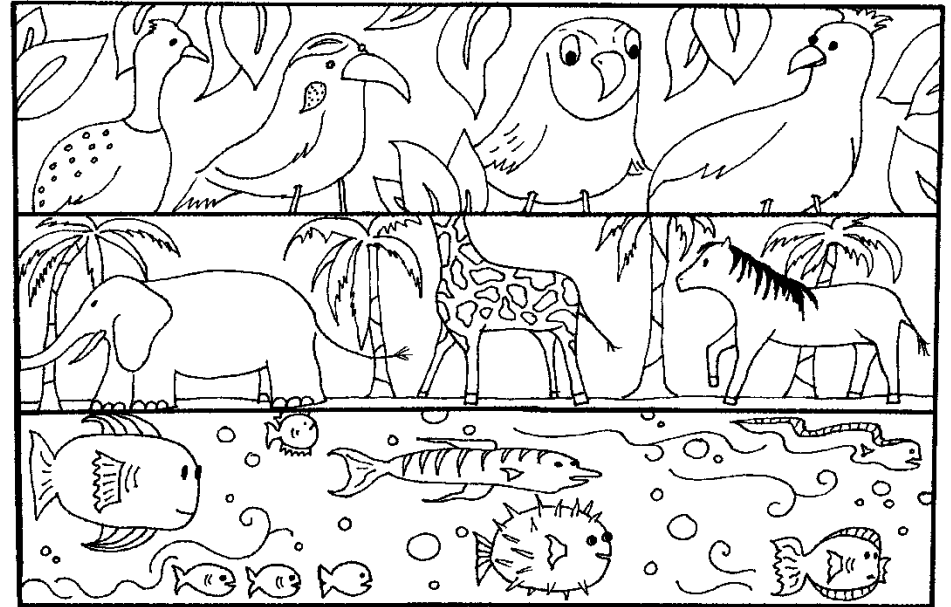
Per Serving: 138 calories; protein 5.9g; carbohydrates 13.7g; fat 7.8g; cholesterol 0.3mg; sodium 63.2mg.



Adapted from [www.allrecipes.com/recipe/27197/birthday-bones](http://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/27197/birthday-bones)

## Blessing of the Animals

Today at church we had a Blessing of the Animals service during worship where we came together to bless the animals. This tradition comes from our Catholic friends. A blessing shows how we appreciate the animals in our lives. These might be the pets in our families. It can also be animals we think are beautiful to look at or nice to pet on a farm, or animals that give us wool for clothes, pull plows on farms, and even give us their bodies for our food.



In the creation story (Genesis 1:1-31), God creates the entire world and everything in it, even the animals. It was then that God instructed us to care for all of creation.

*Do you have a pet?*

*Why is it important to take care of God's creation?*

*What do you think God meant by "rule" over the animals and all living things?*

Dear God, Thank you for everything you made for us, especially the animals. Help us to take good care of all of your gifts. Amen.

Image by 10 year-old Mandy Groce from [ministry-to-children.com](http://ministry-to-children.com), ©2010.

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