

THE BLESSING OF THE HOUNDS



LONG RUN WOODFORD HOUNDS



St. Andrew's
ANGLICAN CHURCH

THE REVEREND DEACON J. TODD RENNER
VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY

Minister: Grace be unto you, and peace, from ✠ God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. PHILIPPIANS 1:2

WELCOME

Minister: Since its institution in the 7th century by St. Hubert, the patron saint of hunters, it has been the custom of English and Irish fox hunting to bless the hounds. Please join me in reciting Psalm 19 which recognizes that all of creation reflects the glory of the LORD.

PSALM 19:1-6, 14

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

Their line is gone out through all the earth; and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.

Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof ...

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

INVOCATION

Minister: Let us pray.

People: *Almighty God, on this new day and in this new season, we gather to present unto thee ourselves, the Long Run Woodford Hounds, horses and ponies, hounds and puppies, parents and children, and loving supporters.*

Look kindly upon our earnest work, the labor of our hands, prompted by the honest concerns of our hearts. And as the note of the horn rises and falls across thy hills may it enter our hearts and echo each time as praise unto thee; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Minister: Our help ✠ is in the name of the Lord.
People: *Who hath made heaven and earth.*
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: *And with thy Spirit.*
Minister: Let us pray.

THE BLESSING

Minister: Almighty God, we know that thou dwellest not in temples nor buildings made by human hands, for even creation itself - the beautiful fields, hills, and valleys about us, cannot contain thy splendor, majesty, and glory.

O LORD bless these thy horses and riders who have gathered here this day and protect them from all danger to life and limb. May each finish this hunt with good health, a renewed appreciation for thy creation, and gratitude to thee for thy bounty and the sport they have enjoyed.

Bless those over whose land we ride and hunt, and may we cause them no hurt nor trouble by something we have said, done, or forgotten.

Bless these hounds that bring us much joy. They, too, are creatures of thy creation and thou hast entrusted them unto us for our use and pleasure. May their run be swift, their scent be keen, and may they bring glory unto thee.

Bless thy fox and coyote who giveth us sport. May they be swift and sly as thou hast created them, so that they may escape to run yet another day. Grant us knowledge of the worth of all thy creatures and thy glory shown in them.

Heavenly Father, may we be sanctified by thy Word that we have read and honored this day. May each one gathered here share in a spirit of sportsmanship, respect, and mutual care for thy creation. All this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*



ST. HUBERT

BENEDICTION

Minister: The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.
Amen. NUMBERS 6:24-26

Minister: Let us ✠ bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*



"TALLY HO" BY HEYWOOD HARDY



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