

Messy Church @ Home No 8



“Take care of his animals” second session

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Proverbs 12 verse 10 ICB

“A good man takes care of his animals.
But even the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.”

Job 12 verses 7 – 10 NIVUK

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
⁸ or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.
⁹ Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.

This is the second session on Take Care of Animals and how St Francis of Assisi has inspired people all through the centuries.

We learnt last week that St Francis built a church with his own hands, turned his back on his father’s money and became poor. He talked to birds and this inspired us to spot as many birds as we could from our homes in this lockdown time.

This week we are going to learn the second half of the story and look at what this means to us today.

1. To get us started let us sing and dance along to: (remember St Francis liked to dance)

- **Let’s Get a Little Crazy** /Kingdom Rocks VBS Music Video / Group publishing [Lifetree Kids](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnMo6OE1s5o> Copy and paste into a search engine.

2. Prayer that you can say now (*please continue to send in your pictures of your pets to your local co-ordinator.*)

*Dear Jesus you gave us St. Francis, who loved all of God’s creatures.
To him they were like brothers and sisters to whom he preached and talked with,
Help us to follow his example and treat every living thing with kindness.
Show us how to watch over our pets keeping them safe and healthy.*

*Please help us to remember to think about the animals throughout the world each and every time we go shopping and think about where things come from.
Bless all the workers and volunteers that work to save the animals and where they live from extinction. Amen.*

3. Story time (*these two YouTube stories tell the whole of St Francis’ Story in 2 parts both around 10 mins long. If you want to know the whole story these videos tell it simply.*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53EwseKjkh8> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUhZl9F1W-8> by Christian Kids TV

4. Crafts

- **Make a mask of an animal.**



How To. I have attached 4 masks on a pdf for you to download and print on card if possible. The templates provided are a cat, a dog, a rabbit and a wolf. In the photo it shows the wolf mask.

Take a mask and cut it out.

Now colour it the colours you want for your animal.

Use a hole punch to cut the holes in the side.

Thread some string or ribbon through the holes so you can tie the mask on lining up the eyes with your own eyes.

Why. You can use the mask of the wolf or the rabbit if you act out the story of St Francis which you watched on You Tube from Christian Kids TV.

There is a story of St Francis rescuing a Rabbit from a trap and then the Rabbit followed St Francis. He would not go away and wherever Francis went the Rabbit followed. Eventually Francis asked a friend to take the Rabbit back to a wood.

The Wolf mask can be used to tell the story of the Wolf who terrorised a village and ate some of the villagers. St Francis went into the woods and talked to the Wolf and created a truce and the Wolf was fed by the village and became tame.

The cat and the dog masks represent your pets and how St Francis values all creatures in God's world.

- **Make animals out of thumb and Fingerprints.** Idea seen on the Web by Doodlecraft by Natalie Shaw, <http://www.doodlecraftblog.com/2014/05/thumbbody-love-you-animal-buttons-kids.html>



Craft illustrated and photographed by Jane Billing

How to. Take some colours and put on plate and dip your finger into the paint. Then make some fingerprints' paint marks on the paper. You can make animals, insects, flowers, trees and much, much more. Let the fingerprints dry. Now take a pen and draw around the fingerprints and make a cat, a ladybird etc.



Why. We are celebrating the biodiversity of the world and all that lives with us in God's creation. St Francis reminds us we need to look, listen and be kind to other creatures and consciously help them. What are we doing today?

- **How does it feel to be blind?**

We can never know, if we are not blind. St Francis was blind at the end of his life. He taught us to be empathetic with the animals and the birds; let us try to imagine how it is to feel your way through life?



How. Take 10 or 12 objects including toys, food from the kitchen (with adult consent), hard and soft items and random things from around your home. Place them on a tray or a table. Place a large cloth over them. Then invite a family member to put a blindfold on and ask them to close their eyes so they can't see and allow themselves to imagine.

Take the cloth of the tray and ask them to feel the objects one by one and tell you what they are. You will need to write it down for them because they won't be able to write as they can't see.

Why. St Francis was blind in the last portion of his life. Try to be mindful of how that felt. He could still hear his precious songbirds and feel the wind on his face, but someone else would have needed to write his poems or songs down. He would have needed to ask for help instead of helping others. This was difficult for St Francis who had seen the world with his own eyes but imagine how it would feel to feel your way through life without ever having seen the miracle of God's creation.

- 5 **Sing along to the following Song** (*remember St Francis wrote The famous peace prayer*)
I've Got Peace like a river Kids Charge Song

6 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2R4D6qhaD8> by Ed Gardner

6 **Prayer based on the *Canticle of the sun* By St Francis of Assisi. by JSA 2020**

*All the world shouts for joy,
Come and dance in the woods and the fields.
Thank you for the rain that waters our fields.
Thank you for the sun's rays that brings the day;
For the moon and the stars that light our way.
Thank God that Spring is here as the flowers open,
the trees burst into leaf and the crops wake up.
Thank you for the wind that blows through the trees,
For the seas' mighty storms and the gentlest of breezes.*

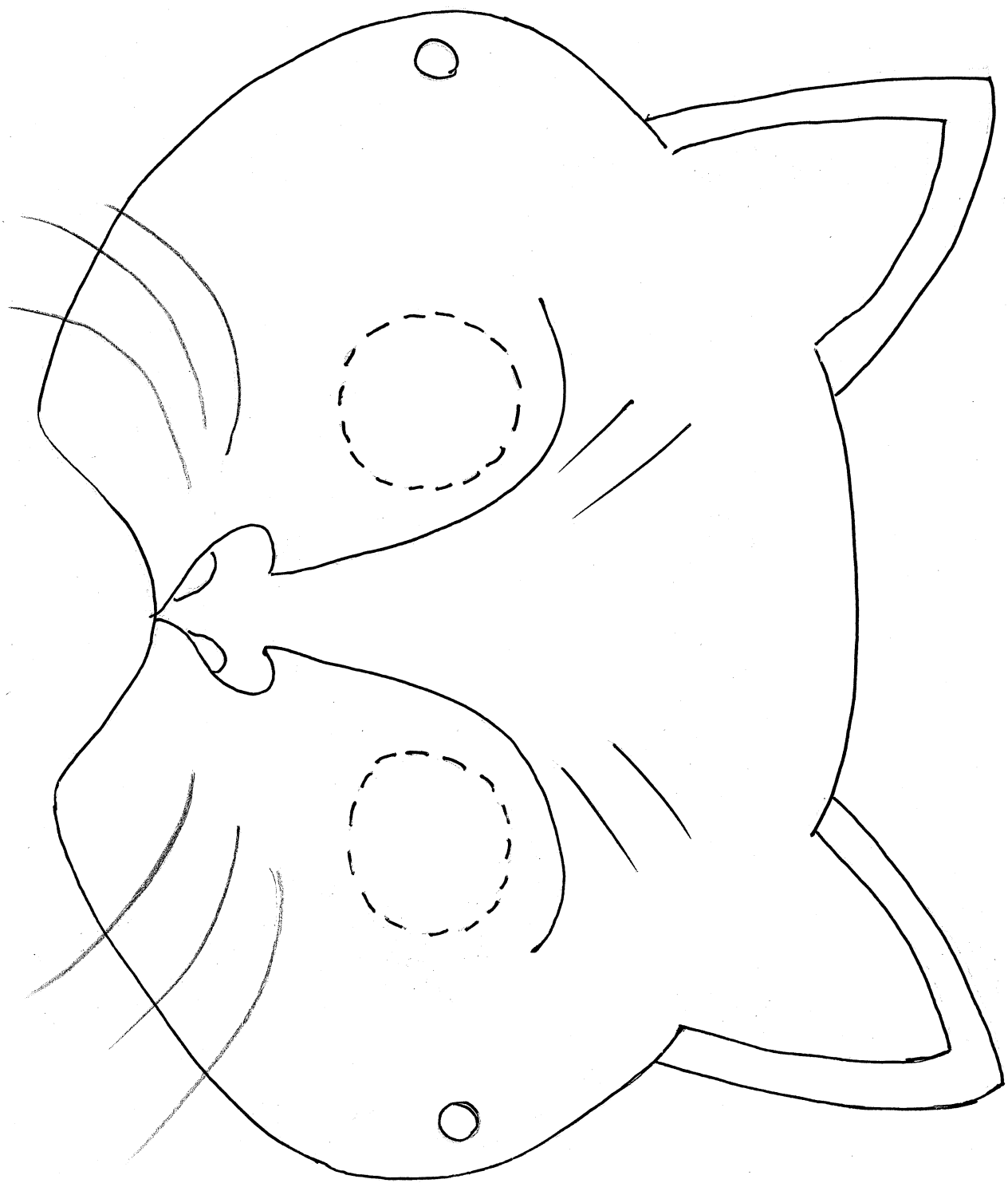
All these show us God's Heart of Love. Amen



Challenge. Now say your own prayers you have composed about saving animals, listening to the birds, treating all of God's creatures with respect. All values of St Francis of Assisi the first true Conservationist.

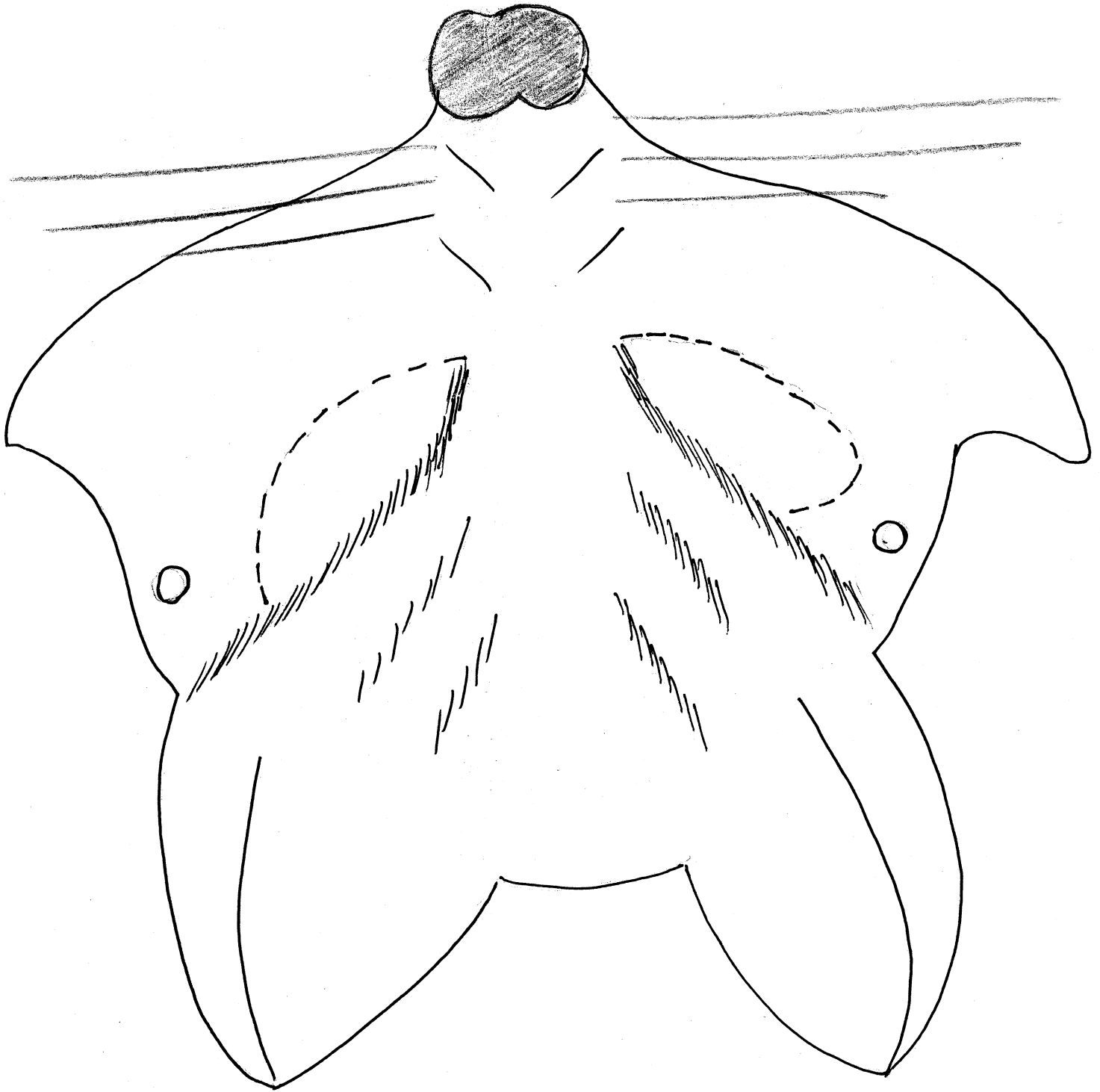
I hope you will have time to have a meal together after this Messy Church @ Home session.

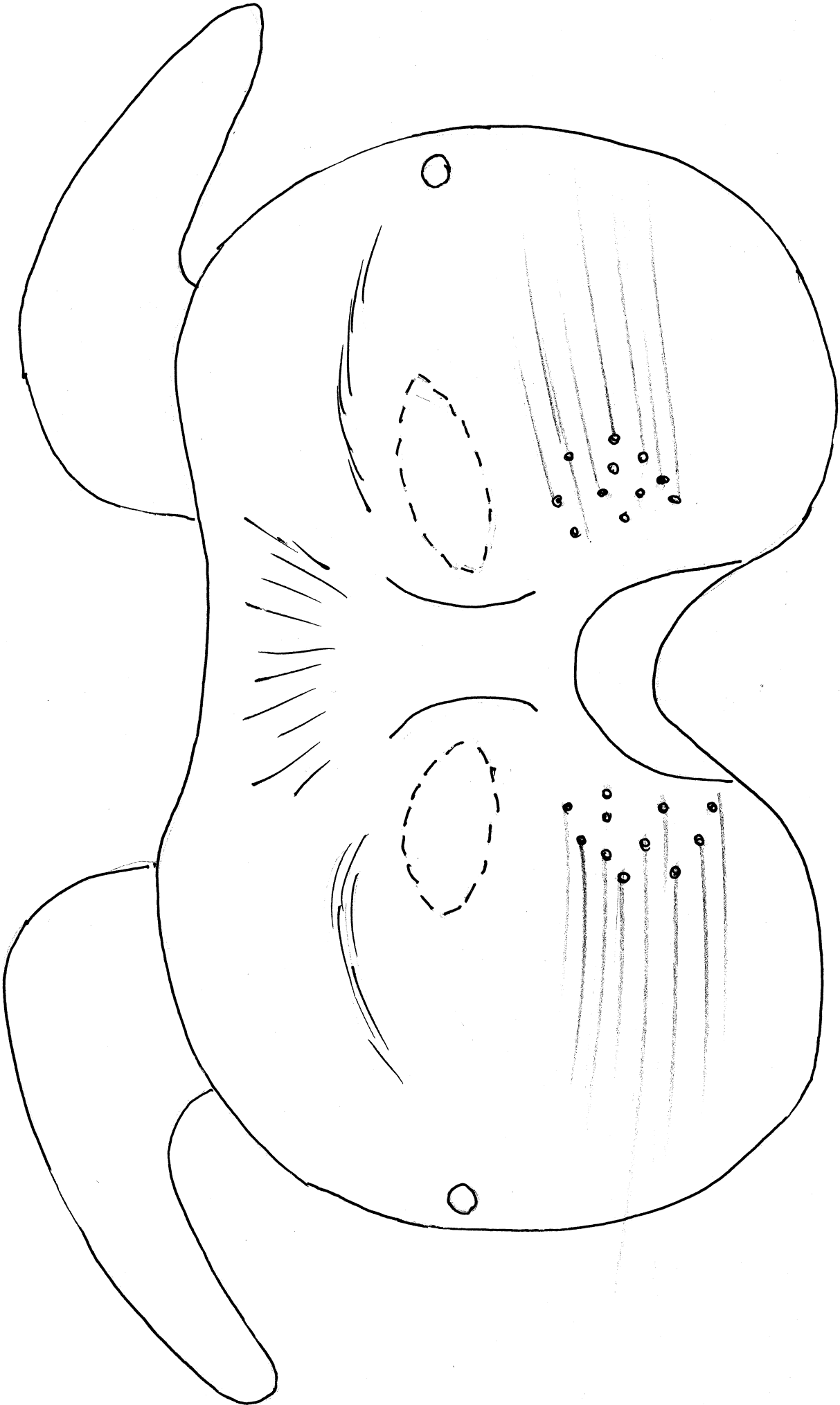
Messy Grace May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if expecting a present) And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart) And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands) be with us evermore. (Hands up in the air) Amen.



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