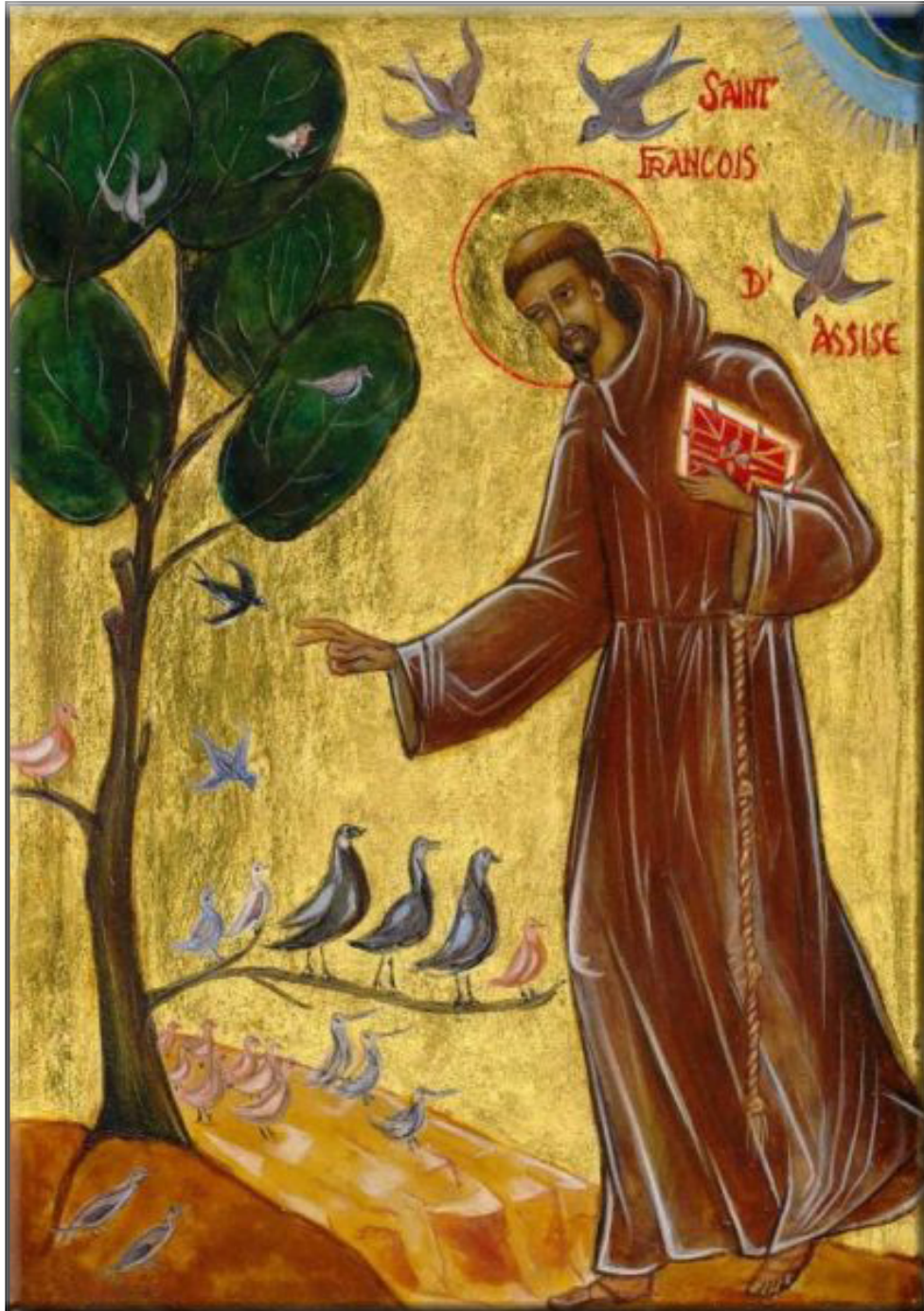


A Service of Worship

The Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 9, 2022
1:00 PM



First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

The First Unitarian Universalist Church
of San Francisco, California



We need, in a special way, to work twice as hard to help people understand that the animals are fellow creatures, that we must protect them and love them as we love ourselves.

– Cesar Chavez (1927–1993)

Gathering Music

Le Dromadaire from *Le Bestiaire*

Francis Poulenc

Richard Fey, baritone; Mark Sumner, pianist

Chalice Lighting

Words of Welcome

Rev. John Buehrens

HymnAll Things Bright and Beautiful*Words: Cecil Alexander
Music: Arr, Martin F. Shaw

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
 All creatures great and small,
 All things wise and wonderful:
 The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
 Each little bird that sings,
 Was made with glowing colors,
 And made with tiny wings.

(refrain)

The purple headed mountains,
 The river running by,
 The sunset and the morning
 That brightens up the sky.

(refrain)

The cold wind in the winter,
 The pleasant summer sun,
 The ripe fruits in the garden,
 God made them every one.

(refrain)

The tall trees in the greenwood,
 The meadows where we play,
 The rushes by the water,
 To gather every day.

(refrain)

We need our eyes to see them,
 And lips that we might tell
 The beauty in Creation
 And the things we love well.

(refrain)

Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry

Dolores Perez Heilbron, Chair

Music*The Monk and His Cat*Samuel Barber
Nancy Munn, soprano; Mark Sumner, pianist**Homily***All Sentient Beings*

Rev. John Buehrens

Music*Slow March*Charles Ives
Richard Fey, baritone, Mark Sumner, pianist**Remembrances**

We remember our animals who have died and whom we hold in our hearts. Speak out their names.

Blessing of the Animals

Animals (or their pictures) are brought forward to receive a blessing.



All creatures of the earth and sky, come, kindred, lift your voices high,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beam, soft shining moon with silver gleam:
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong, white clouds that sail in heav'n along,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

Fair rising morn in praise rejoice, high stars of evening find a voice:
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Cool flowing water, pure and clear, make music for all life to hear,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright, and bless us with your warmth and light:
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Embracing earth, you day by day, bring forth your blessings on our way,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

All herbs and fruits that richly grow, let them the glory also show:
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

All you of understanding heart, forgiving others, take your part,
 Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things now the Holy bless, and worship God in humbleness:
 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

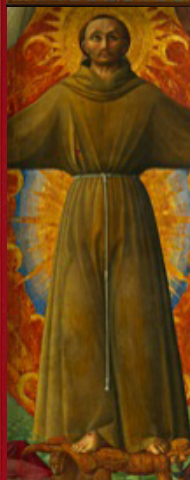
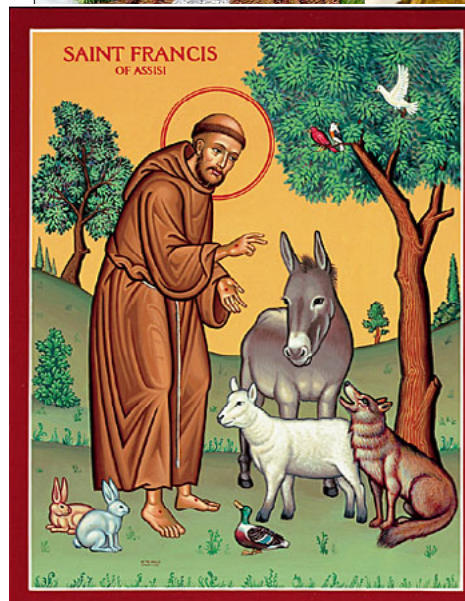
Benediction

**The Mission Statement of
 Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry:**

The mission of Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry (UUAM) is to raise awareness of our UU Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part," through educational, advocacy efforts and celebrations.

*Please rise in body or spirit





Today's Participants

Rev. John Buehrens

Dolores Perez Heilbron, Chair, UUAM

Mark Sumner, Pianist

Nancy Munn, Soprano

Richard Fey, Baritone

About UUAM

UUAM is a group of concerned Unitarian Universalists and UU friends who believe that the movement to end animal abuse presents us with one of the most pressing moral issues of our time. Human beings are in danger of losing our connection to the natural world. We live in cities that insulate us from the rhythms of creation. The misuse of science and technology has led us to believe that we are exempt from the laws of nature. And a human-centered religious tradition has fostered the notion that the earth and her creatures have no function other than to serve human wishes.

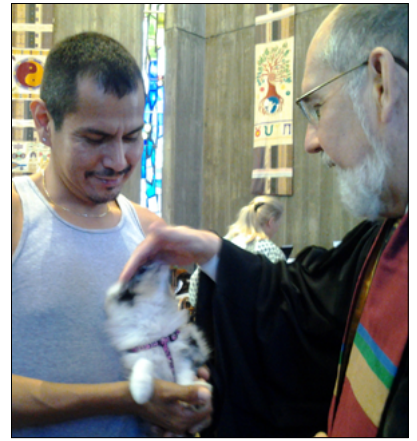
These are dangerous beliefs—beliefs which not only justify cruelty toward other sentient beings, but which have also brought about the destruction of the environment and ultimately imperil our own survival. Because the fate of non-human animals is tied to our own, we have little to lose and everything to gain from our activism in response to the current ecological crisis.

As people of faith, we cannot stand idly by or look away as, every day, animals by the billions are imprisoned, hunted, trapped, clubbed, harpooned, poisoned, mutilated, shocked, burned, irradiated, subjected to unspeakable pain and torture, and even pushed to the edge of extinction in the name of science, commerce, entertainment or sport—often for no other reason than to satisfy human vanity.

Drawing on our UU principles and upon rich religious and philosophical traditions, we aim to deepen our awareness of this moral issue, reaching out to other religious and ethical individuals to shape a vision of liberation that will include all creation.

To learn more about UU Animal Ministry go to <https://www.uusf.org/animalministry>.







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