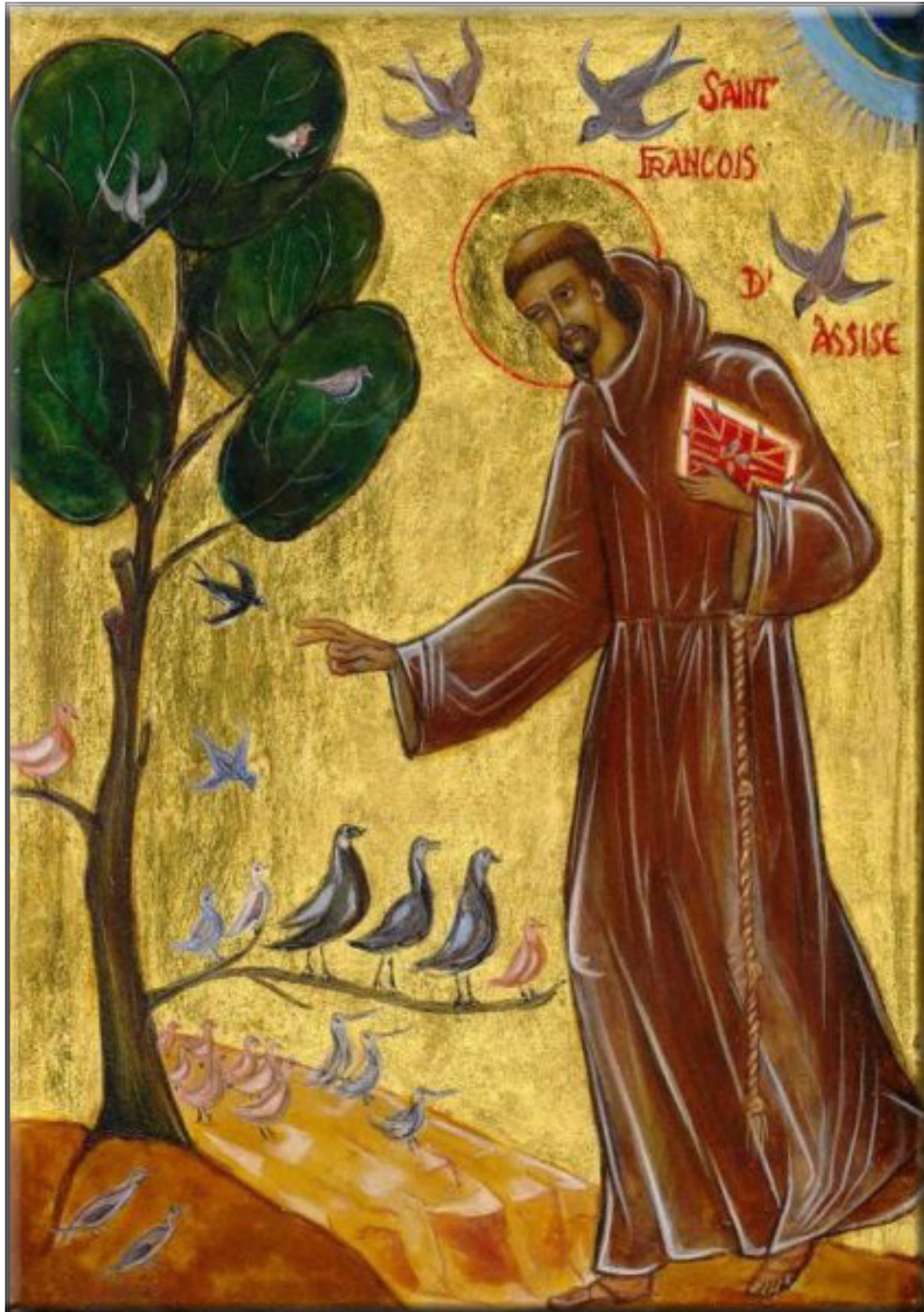


A Service of Worship

# **The Blessing of the Animals**

Sunday, October 12, 2025

1:00 PM



First Unitarian Universalist Society

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)

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Gathering Music   Piano Selections

Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Chalice Lighting

Mari Magaloni Ramos, Worship Associate

Words of Welcome

Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern

**\*Hymn**      *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Words: Cecil Alexander; Music: Arr, Martin F. Shaw  
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Refrain:

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

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

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

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

Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry

Dolores Perez Heilbron, Chair

Muttville Senior Dog Rescue

Kati Schmidt

Music      *My Favorite Things*

words and music: Rodgers & Hammerstein  
Lila Bailey, soloist; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Homily      “Recognizing the Worth of All Sentient Beings”

Mark Caswell

**\*Hymn**      *All God's critters got a place in the Choir*

words and music: Bill Steines  
Lila Bailey, songleader, Mark Sumner, pianist

(Refrain) All God's critters got a place in the choir  
Some sing low, some sing higher  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires  
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got  
now (repeat)

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom  
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus  
Moans and groans with a big t'do  
And the old cow just goes moo

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle  
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles  
The donkey brays and the pony neighs  
And the old coyote howls

(Refrain)

Listen to the top where the little birds sing  
On the melodies with the high notes ringing  
The hoot owl hollers over everything  
And the jaybird disagrees

Singin' in the night time, singing in the day  
The little duck quacks, then he's on his way  
The 'possum ain't got much to say  
And the porcupine talks to himself

(Refrain)



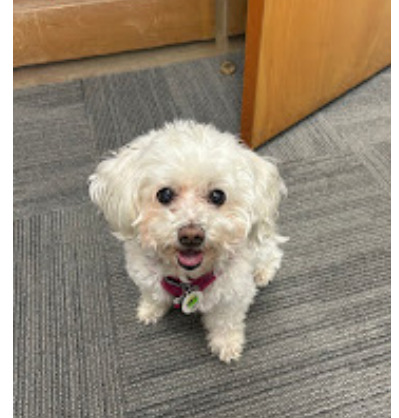
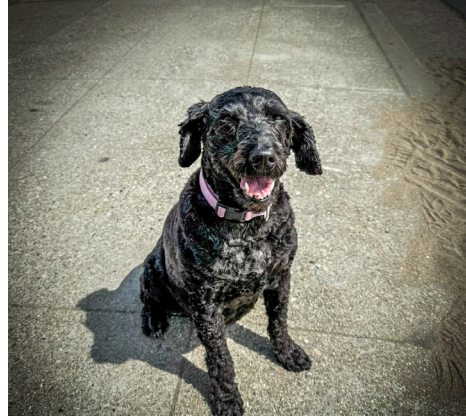
## Remembrances

Mark Caswell

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.



\*Hymn

*All Creatures of the Earth and Sky*

Lasst Uns Erfreuen  
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

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!

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!

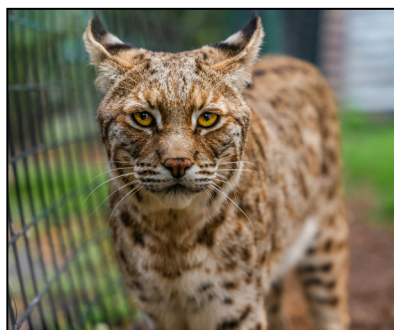
Embracing earth, you day by day, bring forth your blessings on our way,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Benediction and Go in Peace

*Prayer of St. Francis*

Mark Caswell



\*Please rise in body or spirit



# Today's Participants

Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern

Dolores Perez Heilbron, Chair, UUAM

Mari Magaloni Ramos, Worship Associate

Kati Schmidt, Muttville Senior Dog Rescue

Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Lila Bailey, soloist

Jonathan Silk, Audio and Video



# 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 that 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.

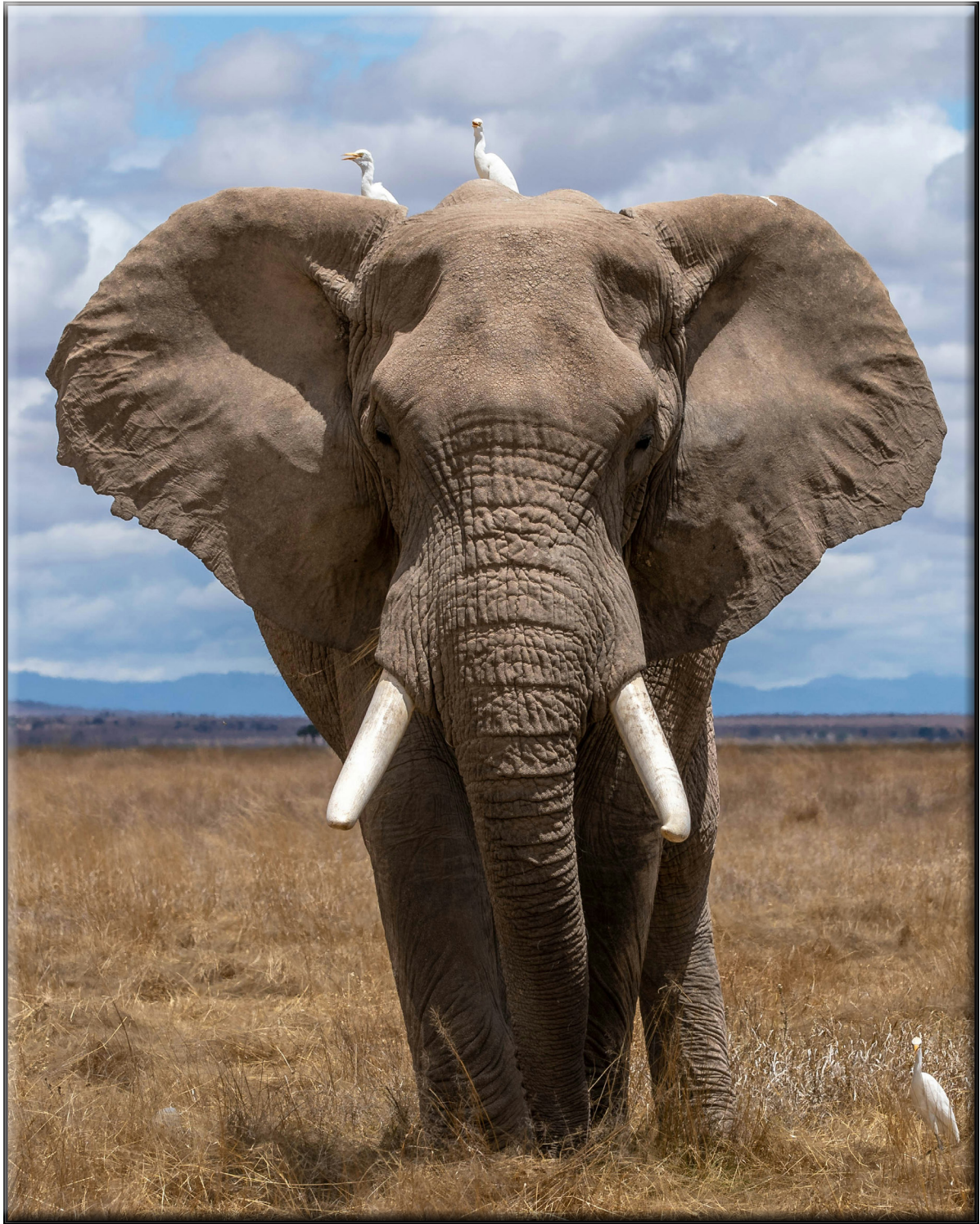
As people of faith, we cannot stand idly by or look away as, every day, animals by the billions are imprisoned, hunted, trapped, clubbed, harpooned, poisoned, mutilated, shocked, burned, irradiated, subjected to unspeakable pain and torture, and even pushed to the edge of extinction in the name of science,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

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>.











Jackie and Shadow, Eagles at Big Bear Lake, CA

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