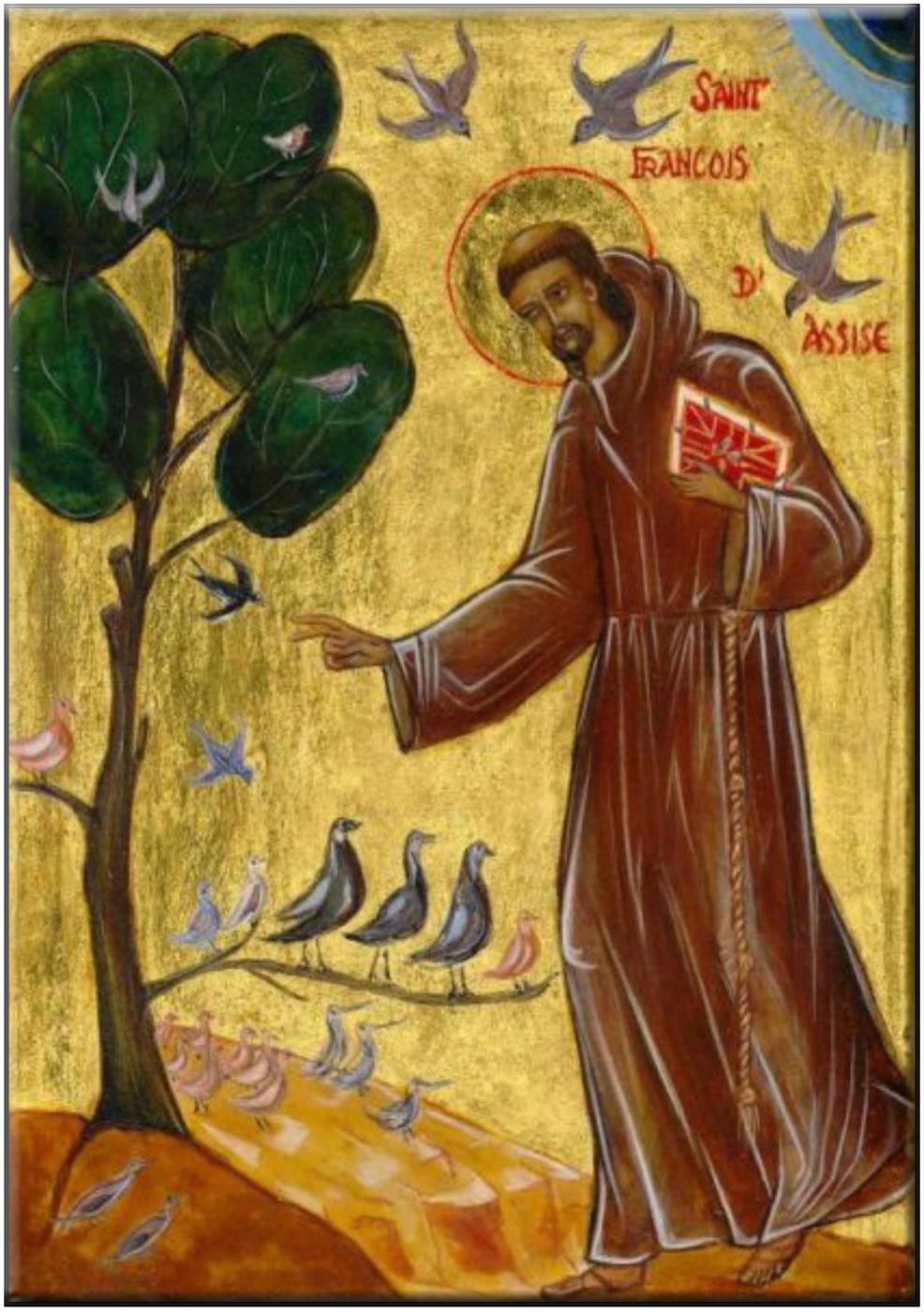
A Service of Worship

The Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 18, 2026

1:00 PM



First Unitarian Universalist Society

The First Unitarian Universalist Church
of San Francisco, California



"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." (Mahatma Gandhi, 1868-1948)

Gathering Music Make Us Channels of Thy Peace — Donald Walters
Ram and Chandra, vocals and violin

Chalice Lighting & Words of Welcome — Rev. Millie Phillips, Affiliated Community Minister

*Hymn *All 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.

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

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

Music *The Birds of the Air* Words by Joseph Cornell and Music by Michael Starner-Simpson
Ram and Chandra, vocals and piano

The birds of the air are my brothers,
All flowers my sisters,
The trees are my friends.
All living creatures,
Mountains and streams,
I take unto my care.

For this green earth is our mother,
hidden in the sky is the spirit above.
I share one life with all who are here;
to everyone I give my love

Homily "Blessing the Web of Life" Rev. Millie Phillips

Music *I Wander with Thee* Donald Walters
Ram and Chandra, vocals and piano

Father, now that I wander with Thee,
Flowers and fields are alive with Thy joy!
All that I owned to Thee I've given,
Now I sing: In Thy love I am free!

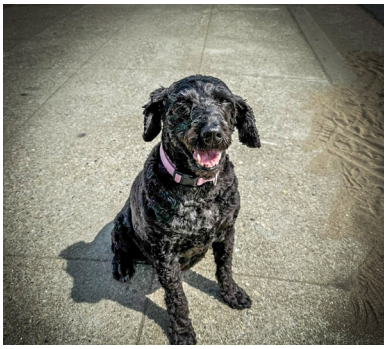
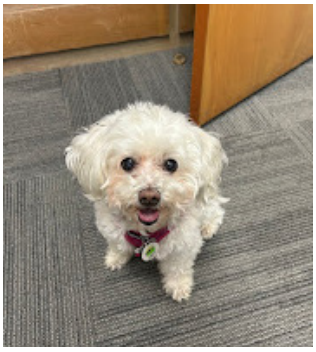
Father now that I dance in Thy name,
Birds and animals share in my song!
All my sorrows, all my merriment,
Join in music to set hearts aflame!

Remembrances Rev. Millie Phillips

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
Chandra, 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 Rev. Millie Phillips

Music *All the World is My Friend* Donald Walters
Ram and Chandra, vocals and piano

All the world is my friend,
When I learn how
To share my love.
When I stretch
Out my hand and smile,
When I live from above.

Socializing and Exit

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. Millie Phillips, Affiliated Community Minister

Dolores Perez Heilbron, Chair, UUAM

Ram Robert Smith and Chandra Denise Ruelas, vocalists and pianist



About UUAM

UUAM is a group of concerned Unitarian Universalists and UU friends who believe that the 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.

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.
To write to the UU Animal Ministry, email uuanimalministry@uusf.org.

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