

# Blessing of the Animals

with

Reverend Janet Newton



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“Love all creation, the whole universe and each grain of sand. Love every leaflet, every ray of light. Love the beasts, love the plants, love every creature. When you love every creature, you will begin to understand the mystery that lives in all things.”

— Adapted from Fyodr Dostoevsky

**Welcome and Announcements**

Liz Loucks

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Janet

**Prelude**

Jeremy Berlin

**Chalice Lighting**

**\*Opening Hymn** tune, Finlandia, found as 159 or 318 — 2 verses

*This Is My Dog* Words by Liz and Barbara Weber

This is my dog, the one that makes my heart sing  
This is my cat, the one whose purr I love  
These are my pets, who bring joy to my living  
They are the ones I’m always thinking of.  
But other friends have good dogs, too, and good cats  
And birds are everywhere as true and fine.  
Oh hear my song, thou god of all the creatures,  
A song of hope for their lives and for mine.

These are our pets that give us understanding  
Of other creatures under heaven’s sky.  
Dogs, cats, and gerbils, fishes, snakes, and hamsters:  
They help us know of things that swim and fly.  
Porpoises and rhinoceros and condors:  
They need our care, much more than we can tell.  
So may we live in ways that bless all creatures  
Both near and far, we pledge to treat them well.

**Story** *The Bless You Bunnies*

**Animal Blessing Ritual, Part One: In Memoriam**

Rev. Newton

**Hymn Response** *The Lone, Wild Bird*

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**Pastoral Prayer**

**Reading** From *Gilead*, by Marianne Robinson

Liz Loucks

**Offering**

**Offertory**

Jeremy Berlin

**Reading** *To Learn From Animal Being*, by John O'Donohue

Rev. Janet

**Interactive Video**

**Animal Blessing Ritual Part Two: Blessing Those Present**

**Invocation** (Adaptation by Thomas Rhodes and Elizabeth Mount)

**Congregational response: "Thank you for the gifts you share."**

**Bestowing Blessings**

**Song Response** *A Place in the Choir* by Bill Staines (video)

Chorus: All God's creatures/critters got a place in the choir

Some sing low and some sing higher,

Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,

Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now

**Collective Benediction**

adapted from *Earth Day*, an Alphabet Book by Gary Kowalski

**Postlude**

Jeremy Berlin

\* You are invited to stand

Thank you to Jenifer Parkinson, Jack Street, Mary Yancey, Will Devanski and Christine Ferrone for volunteering to be our set up, welcome, refreshment, greeter, counter and visual arts volunteers.

### **Need Someone to Listen?**

In addition to pastoral care being available from Rev. Janet, your Lay Ministers (Bill Bridwell, Jan Casey, Kevin Longval, Donna McElroy) are available to lend support to anyone in our UUSMV community in their time of need by being available to listen and offer comfort. You can find their contact information in the member's section of the website: [www.uusmv.org/community/members/](http://www.uusmv.org/community/members/), or reach out to [uu.society.mv@gmail.com](mailto:uu.society.mv@gmail.com) for a direct contact (available to members and non-members).

### **Coming Events**

**Saturday, May 20, 3:00 - 5:00 pm: Musical Fundraiser with Jeremy Berlin & Delanie Pickering** at UUSMV

Come listen to the musical genius of Jeremy Berlin and Delanie Pickering  
\$20 donation at the door - Refreshments provided - Tell all your friends!

**Friday, June 9 - Sunday, June 18: UUSMV Auction**

Let's have some fun while having a successful fundraiser!

