

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost, deserted, frightened, or hungry; and for all that will be put to death. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity; and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

Albert Schweitzer

Worship Leaders:
The Rev. Dr. Gregory Knox Jones, Head of Staff
The Rev. Sudie Niesen Thompson, Associate Pastor
Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Director of Music/Organist



Blessing of the Animals

November 14, 2021

OPENING WORDS

Powerful Presence above us, below us,
within us and around us,
**touch us with a sense of wonder
and a reverence for your good creation.**

PRAYER (Unison)

**Source and sustainer of life,
we cherish the myriad works of your hands.
Water, earth, and sky are yours,
as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame.
We thank you for creatures that
nourish us,
serve us,
befriend us,
enrich us,
entertain us,
and protect us.
May we, who are made in your image, care for them well.
And may we care for your wondrous creation
so that it will continue to thrive for all who come after us.
In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

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,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 8:3-9

The Psalmist writes:
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
**what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the
earth!**

BLESSING for the ANIMALS

Creator of all things and giver of all life,
let your blessing be upon all these animals.

**May our relationships with them mirror your love
and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy.
Grant the animals health and peace.
Strengthen us to love and care for them
as we strive to imitate Jesus and your servant Francis. Amen.**

EACH ANIMAL IS BLESSED

BENEDICTION

God calls on us to preserve and enhance life on earth.

**We will care for God's creation
and live in peace with God's creatures. Amen!**