

## “Blessing of the Animals” by Rev. Christine 10/1/06

Opening Spirit Chant:

I am spirit, I am holy, I am sacred, I am love  
You are spirit, you are holy, you are sacred, you are love  
All is spirit, all is holy, all is sacred, all is love

Good Morning, and welcome to our first Blessing of the Animals service. This is a special service, which was inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the ecology, who truly loved all God’s creations. Oct 4, is the actual celebrated Feast day of St. Francis, who lived in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Many churches around the world are following the tradition of St. Francis, in blessing of animals, our wonderful pets.

Sing: “Surely the Presence” in the front of your song book.

Let us take a moment to connect with each one here today. Take a deep breath, acknowledging every breath the life and breath of God, and feel this all loving presence fill your entire beingness; mind, body, and soul. Feel every cell being filled, alive with light. Now bring your attention to your heart, and feel the light pour forth, connecting heart to heart with each one here today – even all the critters. Let us now connect heart to heart with everyone around the world and beyond. For we truly are one in Spirit, One in God. Bring your attention back to this room.

Sing: 18, “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Read together the Prayer of St. Francis, you’ll find it on sheet in your program.

Truly this prayer represents the teachings of St. Francis who dedicated his life to following the words of Jesus the Christ. St. Francis lived a humbled life, turning his back on all wealth and comfort to serve mankind and all God’s creatures.

The following is a pray by St. Francis, known as “The Canticle of Brother Sun” or “The Praises of the Creatures.”

“Most High, Omnipotent, Good Lord, Thine be the praises, the glory, and the honor and every blessing. To Thee alone, Most High, do they belong and no man is worthy to mention Thee. May Thou be praised, my Lord, with all Thy creatures, especially mister brother sun, of whom is the day, and Thou enlightens us through him. And he is beautiful and radiant with a great splendor, of Thee, Most High, does he convey the meaning.

May Thou be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars, in heaven Thou has made them clear and precious and beautiful

May Thou be praised, my Lord, for brother wind, and for the air and the cloudy and the clear weather and every weather, through which to all Thy creatures Thou gives sustenance

May Thou be praised, my Lord, for sister water, who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste

May Thou be praised, my lord, for brother fire, through whom Thou illumines the night,  
and he is handsome and jocund and robust and strong

May Thou be praised, my Lord, for our sister, mother earth, who sustains us and  
governs, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and green plants

May Thou be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive for the sake of Thy love and  
endure infirmity and tribulation

Blessed those who endure them in peace, because by Thee, Most High, will they be  
crowned

May Thou be praised, my Lord, for our sister, bodily death, whom no man living can  
escape

Who to those, who die in mortal sin: blessed those whom she will find in Thy most holy  
desires, because the second death will do them no evil

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great Humility!"

Let us sing: "God in Everything" You'll find it in your program.  
Meditation.

Sing: 14 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

You'll find the Prayer to Animals in your program, and let us read it together.  
It is time to bring your pets forward for the individual blessings.

Closing Prayer: "Mother-Father-God, the bond we have with our friends of other species  
is a wonderful special gift from You. Our souls and theirs are on this earth together to  
share friendship, affection, and caring. Let us take a moment to also include our past  
pets - knowing in love they are always with us.

Each and everyone a Divine creation; an extension of your life and loving nature. We  
trust in the Divine principle of Love, to bless and heal, to restore all to its true natural  
state of Wholeness of Life. Give us, their human friends, new understanding of our  
responsibilities to these creatures of Yours, and to our Mother Earth, the home we all  
share.

Your goodness is turned upon every living thing: Your grace flows to all Your creatures;  
Your Light expresses as love through each and everyone. And for all creatures, the  
promise of Eternal Life, where we may be joined again. With a full heart we say Thank  
You God! Amen."

Sing: "He's Got the Whole World In His Hand"

Love Offering:

Announcements:

Closing Song: "Earth-Spirit Anthem"