

Animal Blessing Ritual

Written and led by Rev. Dr. Roger Jones
Sunday Service via Zoom, October 4, 2020
Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

Introduction

If you are able to bring your animal to your computer, tablet or other device or bring your device to your animal, this is the time to do that, because it's time for the blessing ritual. If you have a picture of your animal, whether it is alive or it has passed away, you are welcome to hold that in front of you at this time, facing the camera if you've got video. If you would like yourself and your animal to be on camera, please click on "Start Video." Ivan will briefly spotlight some of you during the ritual.

Depending on whether your animal is with you in memory or in the flesh, and depending on whether it's a good idea to handle it at this time, you are invited now to hold it physically, or hold it in your mind. Please join me in trying out the refrain now. I speak first and then you and Rev. Lucy will respond together.

Roger: To them we say:
All: We bless you, and we thank you for blessing our lives.

Blessing

We give these animals a home, a safe place, food, warmth, and care.
They give us companionship, amusement, and a sense of purpose.
They provide a rhythm and structure to our days.
Some of our animals provide us with food, some give protection, some recreation, some transportation. Some of them provide practical assistance and emotional support to us. May all of them give us reasons for wonder and gratitude.

Roger: To them we say:
All: We bless you, and we thank you for blessing our lives.

By their diverse bodies, personalities, habits, and sounds, they intrigue us.
When they play they delight us; when they sleep, they evoke our sense of trust and innocence.
When they rest, they remind us to rest.
May they be well, may they be safe, may they be loved.

Roger: To them we say:
All: We bless you, and we thank you for blessing our lives.

By their similarities to the human species, and by their many differences, they inspire curiosity and humility. By their vulnerability, they inspire us to pay attention to them and care for them. As human beings, let us recognize their differences with empathy. May we try to appreciate their unique experiences of the world.

Roger: To them we say:

All: We bless you, and we thank you for blessing our lives.

And finally for this blessing day, may we honor all of the animals around us.

For those in agriculture, let us remember their need for care in how they are handled and compassion for how they live and die.

For animals in the wilderness, let us remember their need for habitat, safe water and food, and freedom from pollution.

For wild animals in our local neighborhoods, let us remember their need for safety, habitat, and for being left alone.

May we remember all other sentient beings on this earth. With humility, may we commit ourselves to the reduction of the harm and suffering of all beings.

Roger: To them we say:

All: We bless you, and we thank you for blessing our lives.