

**Temple Grandin & Animal Blessing
October 15th 2023**

PRELUDE:

**WELCOME &
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Worship Assistant

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:
GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR** Worship Assistant

OPENING WORDS: Listening to Animals
CHALICE LIGHTING: Today is Ours

**OPENING HYMN: #361 Enter Rejoice and Come In
STORY FOR ALL AGES:** The Comfort of Pressure

**THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:
RESPONSIVE READING:** Rev. Christine Robinson

PARTING SONG/ SINGING OUT THE CHILDREN
*“Go Now in Peace, Go Now in Peace, Let the Spirit of Love
Surround you, Everywhere, Everywhere, You May Go.”*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:
*Love is the doctrine of this church. The quest for truth its
sacrament, and service is its prayer. To dwell together in
peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve humanity in
fellowship, to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony
with the Divine: thus do we covenant with each other and with
God.*

CENTERING HYMN: #318 We Would Be One

**PRAYER
MOMENT OF SILENCE:
CANDLES OF JOY AND CONCERN:**

SERMON: A Temple for Animals

OFFERTORY WORDS: A rebuilding effort
CHORAL RESPONSE/MUSICAL OFFERTORY:

DOXOLOGY*
From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of love and faith arise
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue. Amen

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE* Elizabeth Selle Jones
We extinguish this flame / but not the light of truth
the warmth of community / or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts / until we are together again.

CLOSING HYMN: #118 This Little Light of Mine
*(the hymn is sung facing the world we are about to enter)

BENEDICTION: An Irish Blessing
POSTLUDE:

*Please stand in body or spirit.

*Please join us for refreshments downstairs immediately after the service

Responsive Reading: Blessing of the Animals
Written by Christine C. Robinson

Minister: Surrounded by the animals we love, we remember with gratitude the pets, protectors, and companions who have blessed our lives.

People: We give thanks for our childhood pets, who taught us to love and to cry. We give thanks for our children's pets, who help us to teach them responsibility and relationship, and we give thanks for the pets who brighten our days and comfort our nights.

Minister: Surrounded by beloved pets, we remember that many animals suffer.

People: We remember that some animals are hunted or deserted or tortured or hungry. We remember that nature can be cruel and that people can be mean. We remember and want to help.

Minister: Surrounded by the animals we love, we know that many animals contribute to our lives.

People: We give thanks for all those animals who help us: worker animals who guard us and find our lost and guide the blind, the animals who provide us food and clothing, who tote our burdens and entertain us with their antics, and for animals who give their lives to help us learn.

Minister: Spirit of life, help us to remember that we live and work and love among the animals. Help us to be their friends, to love them and care for them and protect them from harm, to thank them when we use their lives for ours. Especially this morning, spirit of life, bless these animals who are the companions of our lives. Hear our outpouring of love and gratitude for them and help us translate that into love and gratitude for all your creatures.

The First Parish Church *The Unitarian Universalist Church*

On the Common, Billerica Massachusetts

Animal Blessing & Temple Grandin



“One does not meet oneself until one catches the reflection from an eye other than human.”

-Loren Eiseley

October 15th, 2023

“Is it likely that God takes no delight whatever in the more than a million other living forms on this planet, yet does delight in, the one human species lately emergent on the planet? If such an idea is not sheer anthropomorphic bias, what would be such bias?”

-Charles Hartshorne 20th Century Process Theologian