



## Animal Blessing Service September 21, 2025

This is a service for all ages – and all beings. Everyone is encouraged to stay in The Commons for the service. We have fidget toys and art materials for all. The nursery is open to care for our youngest children if that is the best fit for them.

### Gathering of Community

Music for Gathering

Opening Words

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Words of Welcome

Donna McClurkan

Announcements

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Introit

'Morning Has Broken' (#38)

Jennifer Drake & Savannah Ramsey

Chalice Lighting

Donna McClurkan

*If you are lighting a chalice on Zoom, you are encouraged to type in the chat box 'A chalice is lit in (your neighborhood/city/street).'*

Words: 'All Animal Chalice' by Mark Causey

### Affirming our Connections

Story for All

*Daddy Lion's Tea Party* by Mark Sperring

Joe Tourtois

Offering

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

*Support the good and important work of People's Church:*

[www.tinyurl.com/givingtopeoples](http://www.tinyurl.com/givingtopeoples)

Offertory

'All God's Critters' (Staines) People's Singers



Giving Thanks for All That Sustains Us

Donna McClurkan

*From the countless gifts we each have been given,  
gifts of life and love and sustenance,  
we bring these small portions to share in the works of love  
which none of us can accomplish alone.*

### Blessing the Animals

Readings

'God went to India' by Cynthia Rylant

from *Queer Ducks (and Other Animals)* by Eliot Schrefer

from *Gilead* by Marilyn Robinson

Animal Blessing Ritual

*You are invited to bring your animals forward along the side aisles  
for a blessing.*

A Time for Mourning and Grief

Diane Melvin,

Director of Religious Education

Candles of Grief

*You are invited to light a candle in honor of a beloved animal that  
has died or animals that are suffering or type a candle request in the  
Zoom chat.*

Music

Jennifer Drake

Responsive Reading

'We Bless These Animals We Love'

By Christine Robinson, adapted

Congregational Response: **'We Offer Our Blessing'**

### Cultivating Community

Song

'The Lone, Wild Bird' (#15)

Joys and Sorrows

### Returning to the World

Closing song

'What Does the Fox Say?' by Ylvis

Closing words

Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Postlude



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