

## Bubbles of Blessing

Children of the RE Program

**Closing Words** by the Rev. Gary Kowalski (adapted) Misty-Dawn Shelly

Blessed are the playful, for they shall be surrounded by love and laughter.

Blessed are those without worry, for through them we shall know peace.

Blessed are those with no possessions, for they shall be rich in spiritual things.

Blessed are the innocent, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

Blessed are the animals, and blessed are we.

## Postlude Song

*Snuggle Puppy* by Sandra Boynton and Friends

1. Well, I have a thing to tell you,  
and it won't take long:  
The way I feel about you  
is a kind of a song.  
It starts with an OOO,  
and it ends with a kiss,  
and all along the middle,  
it goes something like this --

3. I say, OOO, Snuggle Puppy of mine  
Everything about you  
is especially fine.  
I love what you are.  
I love what you do.  
OOOOO! I love you. [kiss!]

2. It goes: OOO, Snuggle Puppy of mine!  
Everything about you  
is especially fine.  
I love what you are.  
I love what you do.  
Fuzzy little Snuggle Puppy,  
I love you.

4. Well, I wanted just to tell you,  
and it didn't take long:  
the way I feel about you  
is a kind of a song.  
I started with OOO,  
I gave you a kiss.  
I hope you liked the middle.  
Now we'll end like this; [big smooch]

repeat 2, 3

## Meet and Greet / Coffee Hour

*Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
what immortal hand or eye,  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?*

William Blake

## Animal Blessing Order of Service March 14, 2010 First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Northborough, Mass.

*The cat was created when the lion sneezed.*

*Arabian Proverb*

**Prelude** "Kitty Waltz" by Gabriel Faure Linda Clark & Donna Massey

**Welcome** Bruce Manning

**Bells Call the Directions** Children

**Plan of the Day** Margaret Tabor

## Chalice Lighting \*

*May the light we now kindle, inspire us to use our powers  
to heal and not to harm, to help and not to hinder  
to bless and not to curse to serve you, Spirit of Life.*

**Opening Words** Kim Crawford Harvey Misty-Dawn Shelley

Great Spirit of Life,  
We pray today for our animal friends,  
Grateful for their companionship and devotion.  
By our kindness to them,  
May we be worthy of their love.

We pray also for animals who are gone from us,  
But who brightened our days  
And comforted us by night.

And we pray for those unknown to us  
But who are suffering:  
For many that are hunted or deserted or tortured.  
We ask for them pity and mercy  
And, for those who handle them,  
We ask a heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kind words.

Help us to be true friends to the animals  
And love them and keep them and bless them  
All the days of our lives. Amen

**Opening Song\*** *The Earth Is Our Mother*

CD: *A Circle Is Cast* Libana

1. The Earth is our Mother; we must take care of Her. Chorus.
  2. Her sacred ground we walk upon with every step we take. Chorus.
  3. The Earth is our mother; She will take care of us. Chorus.
- repeat 1,2,3,1.

**Candles of Joys and Concerns**

Elaine Solomon

**Silent Meditation**

**Readings**

Margaret Tabor, Elaine Solomon

**Remembrance Service:** a ritual to give thanks for the lives of our companion animals and wild friends

**Readings**

Elaine Solomon

**Notes from the Field:** Thoughts about Cats Margaret Tabor

**Offertory**

Today's half plate offering goes to the Bunky Walton Fund, Inc. which is a local, small memorial fund whose proceeds are used to help pay a veterinarian's bill for pet owners in financial difficulty. Your private contributions in memory of departed companion animals may at any time be sent to 64 Oak Hill Rd., Westford, Mass. 01886. A note of condolence will be sent to the pet's family. Each year several thousand dollars is granted to pet owners in need. Your remembering this way helps both humans and pets.

**Offertory Music**

Anne Lenault

*The Mailman Cometh* by Ann Reed

*Place in the Choir* by Bill Staines

**Congregational Song\*** sung twice. doxology tune.

*For all the dwell below the skies  
Let songs of hope and faith arise.  
Let peace, goodwill on Earth be sung  
Or barked or howled by every tongue!*

**Poem for Two Voices:** Honeybees Marty Flint & Marty Morrison  
from *Joyful Noise* by Paul Fleischman

**Parade of Animals**

introductions by Human Friends

**Blessing of the Animals**

Congregation & Misty-Dawn Shelly

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

*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.*

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

*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.*

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

*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.*

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.

**All:** *We bless these animals we love. We pledge to care for them tenderly and faithfully, and to remember that we are not alone on the earth.*