

Litany of Blessing

Amy: We now ask for blessing for all the animals who are with us, all the animals who we once loved who are gone, and all the animals of the world. If you have an animal companion with you today, will you come forward and stand behind me here?

Please remain here through our litany.

The words of response are, "May they be blessed, as they have blessed us."

Spirit of Life, for all the beautiful, loving, loved animals we see before us, we ask,

ALL: *May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.*

Bill: For all the animals who bring loveliness and happiness into our lives, though they are not here today—for their long lives and good health, we ask,

ALL: *May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.*

Amy: We lift up the names of animals we have loved and lost: (Amy and Bill read names)

Of their memories, we ask,

ALL: *May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.*

Bill: For all the animals who live in fields and on farms, in the seas and on the desert, who depend on human kindness for their well-being and on our foresight for their habitats and homes—for all the species we have yet to discover, in the amazing diversity of life with which they grace our world,

ALL: *May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.*

Amy: For animals large and small, beautiful to our eyes and unbeautiful, cuddly and creepy, we ask,

ALL: *May they be blessed, as they have blessed us.*

Bill: And we ask this blessing for ourselves as well, in the words attributed to Albert Schweitzer: "Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals, and so to share the blessings of the merciful."

Amy: Amen, and blessed be.