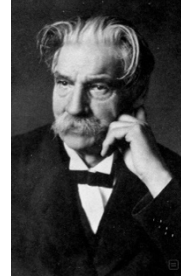




2023–2024 Albert Schweitzer Sermon Contest: Rules and Submission Guidelines



The Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry is proud to reinstate its Albert Schweitzer sermon contest for 2023–2024. A \$1,000 prize will be awarded in 2024 to the person who has delivered the best sermon on the topic of our responsibilities to nonhuman animals. Please let your minister and lay speakers know!

Sermon Eligibility

The contest is open to all. The sermon must have been presented by the entrant during a worship service at a Unitarian, Universalist, or Unitarian Universalist community or congregation between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 in order to be eligible.

All submissions must include a complete transcript of the sermon furnished in two Word, text or PDF documents: 1) a cover sheet and 2) a sermon body text. Presentations that have been recorded, videoed or are in another format (such as PPT) are welcomed, but a written transcript is still required. Ideally a copy of the order of service or similar document should be included for context.

By entering the contest, you grant UUAM permission to use all or excerpts of your submission (with attribution) to create a new worship resource.

Submission Format

The sermon title, author's name, contact information (please include both an email and phone number), date presented, location of the presentation to include the congregation or community, city, state/province/territory and country, should be listed on the **first document**, the cover sheet (see example below). The **second document** should only include the sermon title, (optional) readings text, sermon text, and page numbers. The separate documents are requested to avoid any unintentional bias if a judge is familiar with the author.

People of Color, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, people from frontline/impacted communities, and people who identify as women are especially encouraged to apply. We welcome submissions from people of any race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, family or parental status, veteran or disability status.

Sermons in a language other than English must be accompanied by an English translation.

Judging Criteria

There are seven criteria that will be used for judging.

- **Clarity:** the sermon is well-written and well-structured with a beginning, main points, and closure and includes citations and attributes where appropriate.
- **Engaging:** The sermon engages the audience, captivates, retains attention. Illustrations, slides, music, etc., make for a more interesting presentation.
- **Empathic:** The sermon topic meets the audience where they are regarding our relationship to nonhuman animals.
- **Transformational:** The sermon introduces and/or challenges the audience to a new way of perceiving themselves, the community, the world, and/or divinity, as regards our relationship to nonhuman animals.
- **Ethical:** The sermon invites and motivates the audience into more just, merciful, and/or compassionate action for nonhuman animals.
- **Spiritual:** The sermon is not a lecture but makes room for a variety of theological perspectives and beliefs.
- **Unitarian Universalist:** The sermon explicitly embeds one or more aspects of Unitarian, Universalist, or Unitarian Universalist history, theology, community, or core documents (such as Article II Principles or Value and Covenant statements), or otherwise enhances the audience's understanding of Unitarian Universalism.

Submission Deadline

All entries must be received by UUAM no later than July 31, 2023. It is preferred entries be in the form of an email attachment along with links, if any, to online material that was used in connection with your sermon. Send sermon entries to info@UUAM.org indicating "Sermon Entry" in the subject line, or use the online form available at <https://www.uuam.org/sermon-contest>. Any questions about sermon criteria or the contest can be addressed to info@UUAM.org.

Sermon Title

The Best UUAM Albert Schweitzer Sermon Ever

Author

By Jane Doe

Email Address

J.Doe2020@sermon.com

Phone Number

1-782-689-4421

Date Presented

Presented August 9, 2023

Presented To

UU Congregation of the Greater Good

Location

Clear Skies, Montana, USA

Document One:
Sermon Contest Entry Cover Sheet

Document Two:
Sermon Contest Entry Readings/Sermon Text