

Ethical Eating Session

by Sam Trumbore 10/05/2009

Opening Reading (can be sung)

By Bill Staines

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws
Or anything they got.

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do
The old cow just goes MOOOOO

The dog and the cat pick up the middle
While the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And the old coyote howls

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws
Or anything they got.

Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melody with the high note ringing
The hoot owl hollars over everything
And the jaybird disagrees

Singin' in the night-time, singin' in the day
Little duck quacks, and he's on his way
The possum ain't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws
Or anything they got.

It's a simple song of livin' sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
Grumpy alligator and the hawks above
Sly raccoon and the turtle dove.

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws
Or anything they got.

Check-In (no more than 20 minutes)

Readings

The living world is dying in our time ... When our forebears commenced their exploitation of this continent they believed the animate resources of the New World were infinite and inexhaustible. The vulnerability of that living fabric—the intricacy and fragility of its all-too-finite parts—was beyond their comprehension. It can be said in their defense that they were mostly ignorant of the inevitable consequences of their dreadful depredations. We who are alive today can claim no such exculpation for our biocidal actions and their dire consequences. --Farley Mowat, *Sea of Slaughter*

Every day forty thousand children die in the world for lack of food. We who overheat in the West, who are feeding grains to animals to make meat, are eating the flesh of these children –Thich Nhat Hanh

I am increasingly convinced that one of humankind's most grievous sins is our anthropocentrism. By cutting ourselves off from the rest of creation, we are left bereft of awe and wonder and therefore of reverence and gratitude. We violate our very beings, and we have nothing but trivia to teach our young. --Matthew Fox

Discussion of Exercise

1. First spend some time giving each person a chance to share their feelings about this topic honoring each one as a human response to the issues that come up around ethical eating. Give permission for people to be silent or opt out of the conversation if they don't feel safe or willing to talk about this issue.
2. For those who are willing and have done one of the exercises, ask them what they have learned about themselves through the exercise.

Discussion of Readings / Sermon Questions

1. Encourage people to discuss their ethics around eating last month.
2. How have the readings and/or exercises affected your attitude about eating?
3. What desires and aversions stand in the way of making a change in your eating ethics?
4. Even though following through might be hard, what changes are you pulled toward and seem right?
5. Are there food production changes that you advocate? Condemn?
6. Are there ways you'd like to see FUUSA be involved in this issue?

Check-Out

Closing Reading

My aim is not modest. I see that nothing short of the transformation of humanity is necessary at this point in time. --Jill Purce

The earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not enough to satisfy every man's greed. - Gandhi

There is no religion without love, and people may talk as much as they like about their religion, but if it does not teach them to be good and kind to beasts as well as man it is all a sham. – Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty*

quotes are from *The World Peace Diet: Eating for Spiritual Health and Social Harmony* by Will Tuttle