

"Promises of the Heart"



Sunday, January 7, 10:50 AM, 2024
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 6 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Brief Invitations

Galen Workman, Board of Trustees

Greeting One Another

Unison Covenant

Richard Davis Lowell

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its prayer.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in freedom, and to help one another.

*Doxology

TALLIS' CANON

From all that dwell be - low the skies; let songs of hope and
De to - dos ba - jo el gran sol; sur - ja, es - pe - ran - za

5
faith a - rise; Let peace, good - will on earth be sung through
fé, a - mor; ver - dad, y be - lle - za can - tan - do, de

8
ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
ca - da tie - rra, ca - da voz. A - men.

Reflection

Richard Davis Lowell

Music Berceuse, op. 39

R. Gliere
Andrés Vera, cellist; Stephanie Bibbo, violinist

Time of Prayer/Meditation

Rev. Millie Phillips

Reflection

Andrés Vera

Offering

This morning's offering will benefit the work and ministries of the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest at Your Table Program**, the longest-running fundraising and educational program for congregations. Many members of our congregation and UU congregations across the country kept Guest at Your Table boxes on their dining tables or other family gathering spots from Thanksgiving to New Years. We "fed" these boxes with donations on a daily basis to support the work of UUSC, our UU human rights and social justice organization. Please visit <https://bit.ly/GUESTUUSC> or stop by the UUSC information table after the service to learn more about the UUSC's work. If you want to join our local UUSC activists, contact **Linda Harris** at uusf@uusf.org. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code below, please select the line for either Sunday Plate Offering or Special Sunday Offerings. The designation is important to ensure your gift gets applied correctly. If you are sending a check, please mark in the memo today's date, 01-07-24, "Sunday Plate"



Offertory

Andrés Vera, cellist; Stephanie Bibbo, violinist

Sermon "Promises of the Heart"

Rev. Millie Phillips

*Hymn 1028

The Fire of Commitment Mary Katherine Morn & Jason Shelton
Andrew Kessler, songleader; Jon Silk, drummer; Elliott Etkorn, pianist

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 7, 8 & 9 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

*Benediction

Rev. Millie Phillips

Postlude Salut d'Amour for Violin and Cello

E. Elgar
Andrés Vera, cellist; Stephanie Bibbo, violinist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Millie Phillips, Affiliated Community Minister

Richard Davis Lowell, Worship Associate

Galen Workman, Board of Trustees

Sunday Support

Shulee Ong, Camera; Eric Shackelford, Camera; Jackson Munn, Camera

Jonathan Silk, Communications Director

Thomas Brown, Jose Matias Pineda, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons

Athena Papodakos, Flowers

Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Andrés Vera, cellist

Stephanie Bibbo, violinist

Andrew Kessler, songleader

Elliott Etzkorn, pianist

ABOUT

Rev. Millie Phillips, one of our two community ministers, is a long-time member of our congregation, ordained by us four years ago. She serves as the Contra Costa County organizer for the Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy, a project of the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, a job which combines her lifelong calling to the labor movement and economic justice with her more recent calling to ministry.

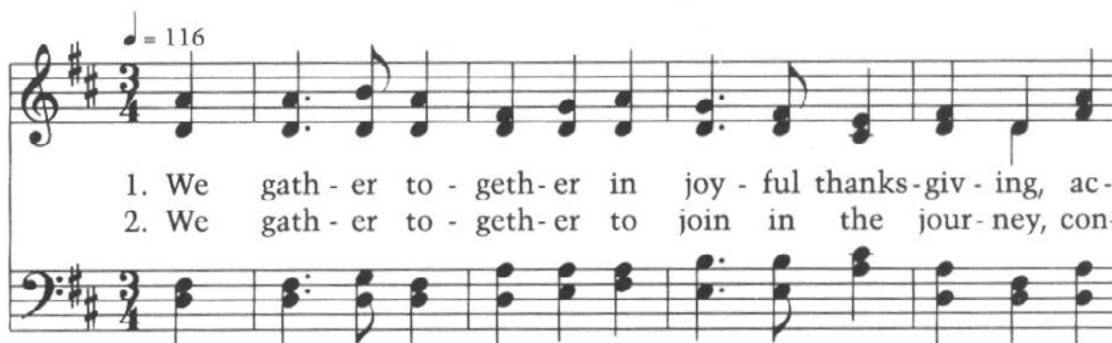
Cellist **Andrés Vera** is a San Francisco-based artist, musician, producer, and community building professional. He began his career with the Miami Symphony Orchestra and later earned a Master's Degree in Music Performance. He founded the Cello Street Quartet and later joined Quartet San Francisco. Andrés has also served as the Advancement Associate of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and an Administrative Assistant at the Wiki Education Foundation. He founded Least Common Productions in 2020 and maintains a private music lesson studio. Read more at <https://www.andresveracello.com/about>

Stephanie Bibbo, a violinist from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, has been performing in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2007. She earned her B.M. and M.M. from New England Conservatory and San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Bibbo has performed with orchestras and chamber music ensembles in Europe and the US, and has performed in various styles, including baroque, contemporary, rock, soul, and traditional Persian classical music. She has toured with Death Cab for Cutie and Mohammad Reza Shajarian. Read more at <https://www.ncco.org/stephanie-bibbo>

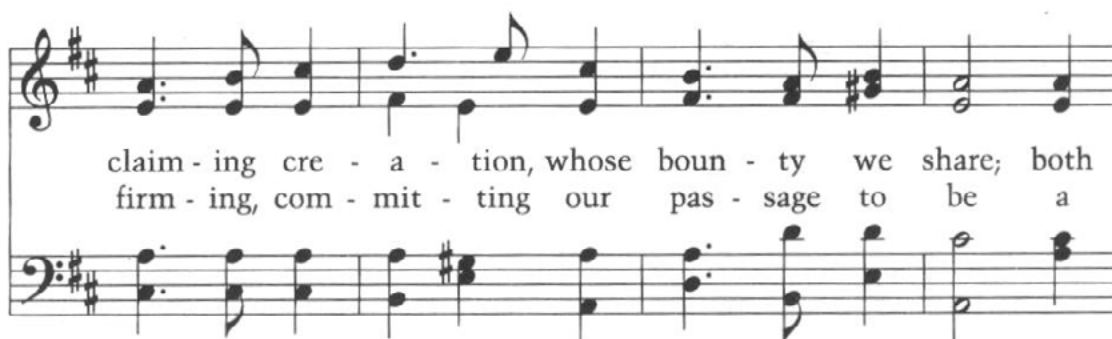
We Gather Together

349

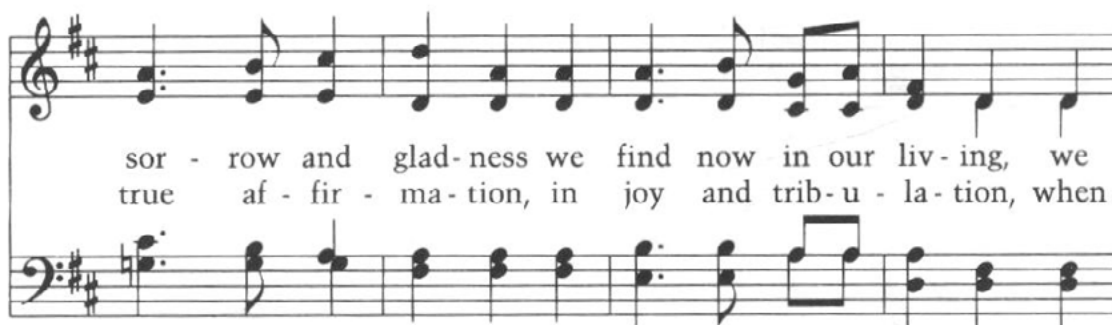
$\text{♩} = 116$



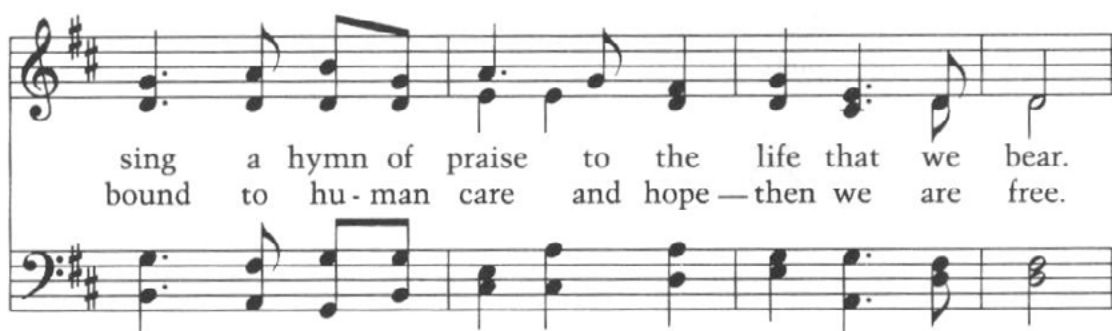
1. We gath - er to - geth - er in joy - ful thanks - giv - ing, ac -
2. We gath - er to - geth - er to join in the jour - ney, con -



claim - ing cre - a - tion, whose boun - ty we share; both
firm - ing, com - mit - ting our pas - sage to be a



sor - row and glad - ness we find now in our liv - ing, we
true af - fir - ma - tion, in joy and trib - u - la - tion, when



sing a hymn of praise to the life that we bear.
bound to hu - man care and hope — then we are free.

⊕ Words: Dorothy Caiger Senghas, 1930– , and
⊕ Robert E. Senghas, 1928– , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association
Music: Adrian Valerius's *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626,
arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838–1914

KREMSEK
12.11.13.12.

1028 The Fire of Commitment

With joy and energy ♩ = 150

Piano introduction in E-flat major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, while the left hand plays a simple bass line. Chords are indicated above the staff: E♭, B♭/D, Cm7, E♭/B♭, A♭, and B♭.

Vocal entry and piano accompaniment for the first line of lyrics. The vocal line starts with a whole note rest followed by a half note. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Chords are indicated above the staff: E♭, A♭/B♭, E♭, B♭/D, Cm7, and B♭.

1. From the light of days re - mem - bered burns a
 (2. From the) stor - ies of our liv - ing rings a
 (3. From the) dreams of youth - ful vis - ion comes a

Vocal entry and piano accompaniment for the second line of lyrics. The vocal line continues with a half note and a quarter note. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Chords are indicated above the staff: A♭, E♭/G, Fm7, B♭, E♭, and B♭/D.

bea - con bright and clear Guid - ing hands and hearts and
 song both brave and free Call - ing pil - grims still to
 new, pro - phet - ic voice Which de - mands a deep - er

Note: The use of percussion is highly recommended.

⊕ Words: Mary Katherine Morn, 1961 - and Jason Shelton, 1972 -
 ⊕ Music: Jason Shelton, 1972 - , © 2001 Jason Shelton
 FIRE OF COMMITMENT, 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Cm7 Eb/Bb D^b A^b B^b_{sus} B^b A^b B^b

spir - its In - to faith set free from fear.
 wit - ness to the life of lib - er - ty When the
 jus - tice built by our cour - a - geous choice

Cm B^b A^b Eb/G Fm7 Eb/G

fire of com - mit - ment sets our mind and soul a -

A^b B^b_{sus} B^b Cm Eb/G A^b Eb

blaze When our hun - ger and our pas - sion meet to

D^b A^b B^b_{sus} B^b B^b7 Cm B^b

call us on our way When we live with deep as -

$A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ $Fm7$ $E\flat/G$ $A\flat$ $B\flat_{sus}$ $B\flat$

sur - ance of the flame that burns with - in Then our

Cm $E\flat/G$ $A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ $Fm7$ $B\flat$ $B\flat_{sus}$

pro - mise finds ful - fill - ment and our fu - ture can be -

$E\flat$ $B\flat/D$ $Cm7$ $E\flat/B\flat$ $A\flat$ $B\flat$

gin.

1, 2 $E\flat$ $A\flat/B\flat$ 3 $E\flat(add9)$

2. From the
 3. From the

TODAY!

Newcomer Orientation - Sunday, January 7 at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room

Do you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Join us in the Fireside Room after the service to meet some of our members and learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism in the community.

Joy-Lily Art Reception - Sunday, January 7, 12:30 pm, King Rooms

Joy-Lily finds quilting to be a satisfying blend of her training as a graphic artist and her love of sewing. Since her first quilt, she has created bold original designs, and since then, she has never made a quilt from anybody else's pattern. Her book, *Carefree Quilts*, encourages creativity by rearranging her original block patterns. Since starting to quilt in 1986, she has been teaching quilting and has exhibited her quilts in many quilt shows and art exhibits.

Visit the book corner after worship today!

On the first Sunday of each month, the Book Corner will be open following the service, pending any unforeseen events. The initial launch took place at the December Holiday Fair. This Sunday, January 7, we're going to open the Book Corner during our featured artist Joy-Lily's reception following church. Joy-Lily's book, "*Carefree Quilts*," will be for sale on that day. Also, we'll make an effort to stock a few copies of the books written by our Ministers. Please stop by this Sunday if you would want to provide a hand.

Christmas Poinsettias on Sale Today After Church

The magnificent poinsettias that adorned the chancel this season are now available for purchase for a \$5 donation! These lovely plants are looking for new homes and will brighten your holiday mood for a little longer! Stop by the gallery table today to purchase one or more of these classic winter symbols.

HAPPENINGS

Forum, Jan. 21 at 9 am (breakfast). 9:30 am (event) : Humanizing Immigration with Bill Hing - www.uusf.org/forum

After 50 years of practicing and teaching immigration law, Professor Hing advocates for the dismantling of the US immigration law and enforcement system. Relying on personal experiences and other reported examples, he will recount his experience interviewing children in border patrol detention, representing asylum seekers within a biased system, advocating against the deportation of longtime residents—some with a criminal history deserving of a second chance—and dealing with immigration judges who believe attempted rape is not persecution or threats to sick a dog on noisy children in the courtroom. He applauds those who are engaged in the disruption of the current system.

January is Covenant Month at UUSF!

January at UUSF is Covenant Month, focusing on the importance of covenant in fostering community cohesion and growth. The worship theme, "Promises of the Heart," will lead to sermons on the power of covenant within the congregation and national association. The month culminates with a gathering on January 27th to create a new congregational covenant. The current covenant is shared among many congregations, but a new one is needed for the entire congregation, outlining expectations for communication and responsibilities. More details will be provided soon.

New UU: A Welcome Home - Sunday, February 4, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Chapel (<https://bit.ly/newuu-2-4-24>)

Come to our New UU class with Rev. Laura Shennum! This participatory workshop, held at UUSF, will introduce you to Unitarian Universalism and our community. Please register by going to <https://bit.ly/newuu-2-4-24>. Questions? Laura can be reached at lshennum@uusf.org or 509-881-9658.

UPCOMING SERVICES

www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia

“Belonging” - Sunday, January 14, 2024, 10:50 am

Belonging It is said that religions include belief, behavior and belonging. Unitarian Universalism gave Rev. Sonya an immediate sense of belonging over 25 years ago when she first attended a service in her hometown in New Mexico. Unitarians employ reason in our beliefs, and a sense of freedom concerning religious behaviors, so naming what creates our sense of belonging this month is our work and our play. She will explore what belonging means today as UUSF prepares to explore the promises we make together with a covenant later this month.

“Covenant: Laying the Foundation” - Sunday, January 21, 2024, 10:50 am

As we prepare to engage in creating a congregational covenant for UUSF, we will start to lay the foundation of why it is important work for us to do. We will look at the preparation work we have already done and how covenant already exists in our congregational work.

CHECK THIS OUT!

www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia

A Guide for Newcomers! - What to Expect During Worship (read at <https://bit.ly/newcomersguide-uusf>)

Here are a few topics we touch on in this concise overview. The Sunday services at UUSF run from 11 am to 12:15 pm, and thereafter there is time for coffee, tea, and conversation. Accessibility, wheelchair access, and hearing-assist equipment are available at the church, which is situated at 1187 Franklin St. (cross street is Geary) San Francisco, CA. 94109. During the service, there will be music, readings, sermons, candlelight, storytelling, quiet reflection, and chances to participate. Questions? Email us at info@uusf.org.

Adult Spiritual Growth Classes (www.uusf.org/are)

Minister's Book Group, led by special guest host Asani Seawell

Asani Seawell, a member of the UUSF, is going to lead the book group during the months of January and February while Rev. Vanessa is on sabbatical. Asani has picked *Tomorrow and Tomorrow: A Novel* by Gabrielle Zevin for January 2024 and *How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir* by Saeed Jones for February. Asani Seawell (she/her/hers) lives in Portland, OR, and has been a member of UUSF since January 2023. A lifelong lover of books, she spent her high school and college years as a library assistant and almost chose a career in library sciences before pursuing her degrees in psychology.

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern returns in March to lead the book group for *Starry Messenger: Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* by Neil deGrasse Tyson on March 20, 2024.

All sessions will be on Zoom only, and more information can be found below and to register go to <https://bit.ly/mbg1232024>

Questions? Email Alicia Cover at acover@uusf.org.

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow: A novel by Gabrielle Zevin - Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 pm, Zoom

This book is a multi-layered narrative that spans across three decades and follows the lives of Sam Masur and Sadie Green, two individuals who first bond over video games in a children's hospital. They cross paths again in college and develop a successful video game. Their complex and enduring relationship explores themes of identity politics and privilege as they navigate the ups and downs of friendship, creative partnership, and their professional journey in the gaming industry. Zevin uses the video game industry as a backdrop to explore broader themes such as sexism, disability, pain, loss, grief, and the human desire for second chances and reinvention (from sparknotesai.com).

How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir by Saeed Jones - Wednesday, February 28, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Haunted and haunting, *How We Fight for Our Lives* is a stunning coming-of-age memoir. Jones tells the story of a young, black, gay man from the South as he fights to carve out a place for himself within his family, within his country, and within his own hopes, desires, and fears. Through a series of vignettes that chart a course across the American landscape, Jones draws readers into his boyhood and adolescence—into tumultuous relationships with his family and into passing flings with lovers, friends, and strangers. Each piece builds into a larger examination of race and queerness, power and vulnerability, love and grief: a portrait of what we all do for one another—and to one another—as we fight to become ourselves.

Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
415-776-4580 / info@uusf.org

OUR SOCIETY'S VISION

We, The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, delight in our authentic, inclusive congregation that reaches across generations, ethnicities, and differences. We take care of one another, building spiritual community, knowing that we are stronger and accomplish more together. Guided by our responsibility to future generations, we take leadership in shaping a compassionate, sustainable world. Inspired by our courageous heritage and compelled by conscience, we hold one another accountable to work for racial, environmental, and economic justice and the dignity and rights of all.

OUR SOCIETY'S MISSION

As a vibrant, joyous, caring, inclusive community of diverse people, we create a nurturing space for spiritual growth and learning. Based on our shared values, we work together courageously and publicly for human rights, economic justice, and environmental salvation.

UUSF MEDIA

You can listen to our sermon-only podcasts at <https://bit.ly/SermonsUUSF>

Visit <https://bit.ly/ServicesUUSF> to listen to our complete service podcasts

Watch our videos at <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

Go to our website at <https://www.uusf.org/>



"Let Go of the Old & Ring in the
New: Fire Communion"

WATCH LAST WEEKS SERVICE: <https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>

Sunday, December 01, 10:00 AM, 2020