

Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Since its founding in 1850 our congregation has been a beacon of religious liberalism in this city. During the Civil War, the Rev. Thomas Starr King was credited with keeping California in the Union. He also challenged racism, raised millions for humanitarian relief and inspired new efforts in education.

Unitarianism and Universalism in America both arose in New England during the American Revolution. Because the roots of both traditions are in the Judeo-Christian tradition, you will see on the walls of our sanctuary two inscriptions:

"What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (from the Hebrew prophet Micah) and "The Kingdom of God is within you." (from the Gospels)

Our religious forebears were far more interested in the teaching examples of Jesus than in beliefs about Jesus. Today we agree more about how we strive to treat others than we do about beliefs. Our backgrounds and spiritual orientations are diverse. Among us are people who consider themselves atheists, agnostics, humanists, Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, Pagans and people guided by other forms of spirituality and belief.

Belief is many things, and so is disbelief. But we are interested in what happens to us when we open our minds to wider truth, our hearts to compassion, and our souls to the call to work for justice and peace.

If you are interested in learning more, we invite you to a Newcomers Orientation usually held on the first Sunday of each month following the service. At the Welcome Table you will find pamphlets and other information. For more about our congregation, please visit our website at www.uusf.org.

"White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo Classes led by Rev. Vanessa Southern

Minister's Book Group will meet on Wednesday, March 25 from 6:30-8PM and Thursday, March 26 from 12-1:30 PM. We will offer another chance for folks to read and discuss **White Fragility** by Educator Dr. Robin DiAngelo. This 150-page book is packed with information and frame-shifting invitations (and shoves) for white folks about issues of race and how to talk about and think about it. The book group will be divided into white caucusing groups and a group for people of color, each with its own facilitator.

The book is a must-read, I think, for all of us, but especially for white folks. Last year people got a lot out of reading it, but especially got a lot out of the discussions so please join!

Letting us know you are coming, however, is required, as is reading the book! Folks who came before are welcome to come again for a second pass at the material. Each read opens up insight. I look forward to seeing you all.

It is vital that you RSVP because we might need to meet online using Zoom. Stay tuned for any updates!

RSVP HERE: www.bit.ly/marchmbc

Join Members and Friends for a Virtual Coffee Hour
hosted by Alex Darr following today's Service.

Got to <http://bit.ly/coffee3-15>

Here Are Some Links and Emails To Keep Handy.

To **Livestream Worship**: www.uusf.org/livestream

Pastoral Care Issues? Reach out to **Sharon Weld**, Ministerial Intern, who is fielding these calls: SWeld@uusf.org. Or reach to the lay caregivers and chaplains directly at chaplains@uusf.org

If you have **information on COVID-19** you want to share, email Health@uusf.org

Cancelations of meetings: Please let BOTH **Susana Bernahola**, our Reservations Manager, and **Jonathan Silk** know so we can reflect that in our internal and external communications. Susana's email is: reservations@uusf.org;

Ideas for new ministries and ways to connect during this time, email **Vanessa Southern, Senior Minister**, at VRSouthern@uusf.org;

Questions about our children's or adult religious growth programming, contact **Associate Minister, Alyson Jacks** at AJacks@UUSF.org;

If you have questions about accessing the **livestream** or other technology, you can reach out to **Jonathan Silk** (JSilk@uusf.org) and during the week (not last minute on the weekend!) Jonathan or one of his lay volunteers can offer you some remote support

The **online pledge form** is here: www.uusf.org/pledge
Thank you, in advance for your financial pledge that makes our life together possible

And remember to **check the website for updates** during this health emergency through our Covid-19 link: www.uusf.org/staying-healthy

Pi(e) Day



"Gifts that we cannot or do not
hand on to one another die.
Hand on the gift.
Don't let your love die."

“The ground’s generosity takes in our
compost and then grows beauty.
Try to be more like the ground.”

Rūmī



Order of Service Sunday, March 15, 2020 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM

Prelude *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (Op. 122) Johannes Brahms
Reiko Oda Lane, organ

Opening and Welcome
Rev. Dr. John Buehrens and Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

***Hymn 331** *Life Is the Greatest Gift of All* BROTHER JAMES' AIR

Unison Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice for the light of truth,
the warmth of love,
and the fire of commitment.
We light this symbol of our faith
as we gather together.

Brief Invitations Lori Lai, Board Treasurer

Greeting One Another

Bell Anthem *We Would Be One - Finlandia*
(Jean Sibelius arr. F A Merrett)

*Covenant

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.

Ritual of Remembrance and Commitment Rev. Buehrens

Spoken and Silent Meditation

Anthem *The Gift of Love* Hal Hopson
Wm. García Ganz, piano

Reflection Richard Davis, Worship Associate

Anthem *Part of the Gift* Dan Lauria
The hand we lend, the help we send, our aid for foe and friend
The pain we bear, the loss we share, our bond through word and prayer
The hope we sow, the dreams we grow, our world and all we know
Part of the gift, part of the gift.

Reading *i am a little church (no great cathedral)* e e cummings

***Hymn 288** *All Are Architects of Fate* WOODLAND
(words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; tune by Thomas Benjamin)

Sermon *GIFTS FROM THE PAST* Rev. Buehrens
(AND OUR DUTY IN THE PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE)

Offertory Music *The Church in the Wildwood* Joyce Jones
(To Give Please Go to www.bit.ly/uusfpayments)

***Hymn 403** *Spirit of truth, of life, of power* WESTWOOD/MASON
Spirit of truth, of truth, of life, of power,
We bring ourselves as gifts to thee:
O, bind our hearts this sacred hour
In faith and hope and charity. Amen.

*Benediction

(Please be seated until after the Postlude)

Postlude *Grand Jeu (Premier Livre d'Orgue)* Pierre du Mage

* Please rise as you are able.

Dear Members and Friends,

In the fast-changing world of this pandemic and our response to it, the Board and senior staff made some changes in our policies for the next few weeks. As many of you know, this week the SFUSD closed all its schools, many private high schools and universities in the Bay Area went to a remote-learning model, the NBA canceled its season, travel between the US and Continental Europe is temporarily halted for 30 days, and gatherings of over 250 persons are now prohibited in California.

All of this speaks to a growing focus on a policy of mitigating the spread of the illness to attempt to allow our health care system can handle the extreme cases of the virus while handling its normal load of every day human health crises. In light of all this, and despite the power and joy we get in being together as a community, and its importance to our emotional, spiritual, and physical health, we will be suspending all Sunday morning programming through the end of March. At that point the Board and staff will review where we find ourselves as a city and congregation.

In the meantime, worship will be live-streamed with a bare-bones set of participants. This week some members of the choir and bell choir will be present. However, in the weeks ahead they too will join in the virtual congregation. Our Pi(e) Day Celebration, which was scheduled for this Sunday after church, will be postponed until a future day of celebration (and eating)!

We thank you all for sending in your ideas and updates these past weeks. Please continue to do so. We thank you all for sending in your pledges too for the year ahead that we hope will be one in which we are all back together again, though no doubt this time of challenge will have changed us. If you haven't, please email us your pledge (info@uusf.org) or go to our website (www.uuef.org) and pledge via the big green button on our homepage. We will need everyone's participation to meet our goals.

As we move forward in these weeks and months ahead, we are brainstorming ways to innovate how to stay connected — whether that is through more phone conversations, exploring the world of Zoom and other ways the internet allows us to connect almost face-to-face. I am even considering sending out spiritual resources under the heading: Modern Monasticism, a spiritual journey for unusual quarantined times!

We know it will take a few weeks before we figure out how to do church together under these circumstances. Please have patience. Right now ideas and imagined challenges outweigh our ability to solve them. And we are trying to pace the workload so staff also can be healthy for the long haul. Meanwhile, on the otherside of this Order of Service there are some ways listed you can reach out to find what you need or who you need!

Know you are loved.

In the journey together,
Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister