

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 4:45 PM, 2020

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



Order of Service
Thursday, December 24, 2020
4:45 PM

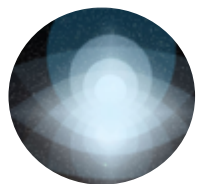
YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

New to UUSF? [Complete our Connections Form Here](#)

Prelude Reiko Oda Lane, organist; Tom Dambly, trumpeter
Suite in D Major for Trumpet and Organ Georg F. Handel
I. Overture
II. Air (Menuetto)
III. March (Bouree)

Welcome and Opening Words Meg McGuire, Ministerial Intern

Introit Harold Darke
In The Bleak Midwinter
Morgen Warner, soprano; David Jones, tenor; UUSF chorus and invited singers;
Mark Sumner, conductor; Derek Silbermann, engineer



The Story of Christmas

Storytellers: Alyson Jacks, Richard Davis-Lowell,
Meg McGuire, & Vanessa Rush Southern

Introduction

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Reading *The Gospel of Luke 1:26-33 & 2:1-7*

Alyson Jacks and Richard Davis-Lowell

Congregational Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Leandra Ramm, Brielle Marina Neilson, Ben Rudiak-Gould, Asher Davison, songleaders;
Reiko Oda Lane, organist; Mark Sumner, conductor

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

[Chorus:] Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo. Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

(Chorus)

See him in a manger laid
Who the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.

(Chorus)

Reading *The Gospel of Luke 2:8-20*

Vanessa Rush Southern and Meg McGuire

Congregational Carol

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

Leandra Ramm, Brielle Marina Neilson, Ben Rudiak-Gould, Asher Davison, songleaders;
Reiko Oda Lane, organist; Mark Sumner, conductor

The First Nowell the angel did say was to
Certain poor shepherds, in fields as they lay, in
Fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a
Cold winter's night that was so deep.

[Chorus:]

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining
In the east beyond them far, and
To the earth it gave great light, and
So it continued both day and night.

(Chorus)

And by the light of that same star, three
Magi came from country far; to
Seek a king was their intent, and to
Follow the star wherever it went.

(Chorus)

Reading *Matthew 2: 1-12*

Richard Davis-Lowell and Meg McGuire

Canticle

Cantique de Noël

VanNessa Hulme Silbermann, soprano; Derek Silbermann, organ
Adolphe Adam

Christmas Homily

Guest Preacher

The offering this Christmas Eve will benefit “Up on Top” an afterschool and summer program that serves children in the Tenderloin.



Handbell Choir

Pat-a-Pan

Burgundian Carol arr. Barbara B. Kinyou
Reiko Oda Lane, Handbell Choir Director

Prayer and Meditation

Rev. Alyson Jacks, Associate Minister

Candlelighting

Richard Davis-Lowell

Carol

Silent Night

Franz Gruber, arranged by Pentatonix, adapted by Jennifer Liu
UCAC, UC Chorale & UUSF choristers; directed by Mark Sumner; Jennifer Liu, engineer

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright.
'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Oh sleep, sleep, sleep.
Silent night, holy night...

Taking the Light with Us

Rev. Alyson Jacks



Congregational Carol

Joy to the World!

Leandra Ramm, Brielle Marina Neilson, Ben Rudiak-Gould, Asher Davison, songleaders;
Reiko Oda Lane, organist; Mark Sumner, conductor

Joy to the world! The child is come: let earth with praises ring.
Let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns: let hearts their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
Let righteousness, its glories show, as far as love is found,
As far as love is found, as far, as far as love is found.

Benediction

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Zoom Carol Sing

**Join us immediately following the
Christmas Eve service for a Zoom Carol Sing.
Bring your hot chocolate and don your coziest holiday garb.
Music Director Mark Sumner and others will be leading
this rousing sing-along of favorite holiday carols.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/725737157>

Meeting ID: 725 737 157

Dial by Phone: +1-669-900-6833 (San Jose)

SERVICE NOTES

Liturgists

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Rev. Alyson Jacks, Associate Minister
Meg McGuire, Ministerial Intern
Richard Davis-Lowell, Worship Associate

Technology

Eric Shackelford, camera
Shulee Ong, camera
Jonathan Silk, engineer/oos
Joe Chapot, social media
Thomas Brown, sexton

Flowers

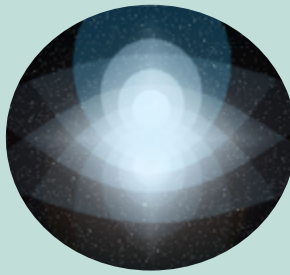
Betsy Darr
Amy Kelly
Judy Payne
Carrie Steere-Salazar

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist/handbell choir director
Mark Sumner, conductor
Tom Dambly, trumpeter
Leandra Ramm, soprano
Brielle Marina Neilson, alto
Ben Rudiak-Gould, tenor
Asher Davison, bass
VanNessa Hulme Silbermann, soprano
Derek Silbermann, keyboard
UCAC, UC Chorale & UUSF choristers
UUSF Handbell Choir

Engineers/VCP support

Derek Silbermann
Jennifer Liu
Tha Htet
Ruth Chang



UUSF CHOIR ROSTER

Director

Sumner, Mark

Accompanist

Ganz, Bill

Soprano 1

Bray, Jeanine
Hardies, Nancy
Hulme, VanNessa
Kelly, Amy
Morrow, Judith
Moulton, Paula
Payne, Judy
Phillips, Millie
Warner, Morgan
Warto, Shannon

Soprano 2

Castiglia, Mary
Darr, Betsy
Moseley, Carol
Murray, Kelli
Robertshaw, Linda
Shibue, Tina
Strachan, Judy
Yew, Jiun-Chyi

Alto 1

Davison, Carol
Ellerman, Sarah
Enger, Linda
Lehmer, Megan
Leong, Jennifer
Nelson, Brielle
Scott, Janet
Steele, Anne
Steere-Salazar, Carrie
Stoddard, Judith

Alto 2

Cornet, Bari
Delaney, Barbara
Fortier, Ardeth
Garside, Michele
Lionel, Trudi
Saylor, Diana
Smith, Sharon

Tenor 1

King, David
McDougal, Logan

Tenor 2

Arnold, Ted
Beighley, John
Jones, David
Rudiak-Gould, Ben

Bass 1

Anderson, Matt
Gross, Peter
James, Les
Klingelhoffer, Bill
Smith, Kevin

Bass 2

Bier, Tom
Darr, Jack
Davison, Asher
Hirsch, Barry
Shackelford, Eric

OFFERTORY

Since its founding by First Unitarian Universalist Society members in 2001, UP ON TOP has provided after-school and summer academic, enrichment and recreational activities to San Francisco children from under-served, low-income families.

This year, UP ON TOP was selected to serve as a City Anchor Agency to safely provide full-day, in-person care for K-5th grade students while San Francisco public schools are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UUSF has been our anchor for the past 20 years, and we are grateful for the continued support and generosity of Reverend Vanessa Rush Southern, Society leadership and all Society members. UP ON TOP offers our sincere thanks for your continued kindness that allows us to do the extra work that we have been asked to do this year in our immediate Western Addition & Tenderloin neighborhoods. www.UPONTOP.org





POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Michele Garside: In memory of my husband, Dr. Bob McCarthy

Marieka Thomas: In loving memory of my dad, James Michael Thomas

In memory of Gloria Kulik

In memory of Barbara Workman

Rev. Millie Phillips: In memory of Leslie Reif

In memory of Gloria, David and Katherine Allen from Diane Allen and Kathleen Quenneville

In memory of Marion Romer from Deborah Romer and William (Bill Tucker)

Mary Castiglia: In memory of my lovely daughter Diana Castiglia

Gayle Reynolds: In memory of Joan Reynolds

Mary Jane Mikuriya: In memory of my brother Tod H. Mikuriya MD

Irene Westler: In loving memory of my late husband Dudley

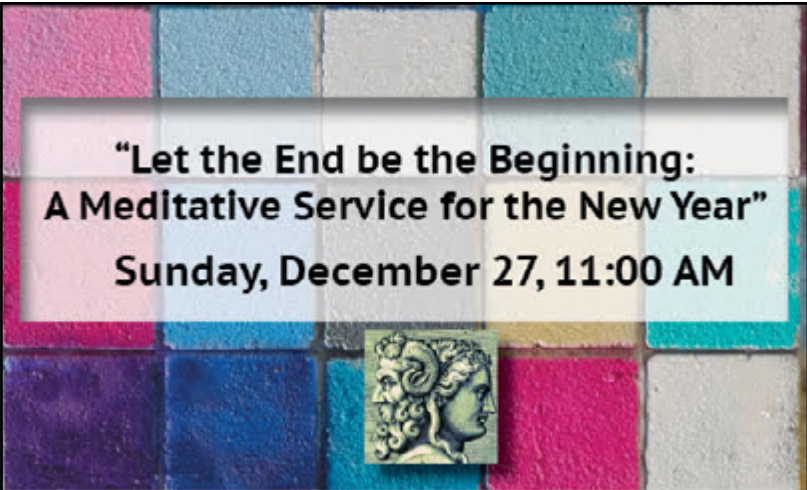
Mark Sumner: Matthew Spencer Hunter, August 24, 1954-December 1, 2020

In loving memory of those family members no longer with us. From the Payne Family

John Buehrens: To celebrate a new grandchild

Marguerite Johnson Blumenthal: In loving memory of my parents, Fannie and Arthur Johnson

Nan McGuire: In memory of Doris and Paul McGuire



**"Let the End be the Beginning:
A Meditative Service for the New Year"
Sunday, December 27, 11:00 AM**

"Let the End be the Beginning: A Meditative Service for the New Year"
Sunday, December 27, 10:50 AM, Worship Service

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister, preaching

This service will be a time structured for meditative reflection on the year past and the year to come. Be prepared to sit with your own thoughts, take notes. It's a time to take stock, stand like Janus, the ancient god of transitions, a face pointed in each of two directions, forward and backward, before stepping into the new year.

Link: https://youtu.be/jQAFm_6WWBc



Sunday Virtual Coffee Hour
12:15 PM on Sundays

Anyone is welcome to join our community for our Virtual Coffee Hour, immediately following the Sunday Worship Service. Coffee not required.

Join via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/725737157>

Meeting ID: 725 737 157

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,725737157# US (San Jose)



Special BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Gathering

1st Sunday of the Month from 9:30 AM to 10:50 AM

An invitation for those who would like to join our monthly BIPOC gatherings. The sacred space is open to our members and friends who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color, takes place by Zoom (for now) on the first Sunday of every month often from 9:30-11am. If you are interested in attending or finding out more, please email bipoc@uusf.org.

Please come join this space for joy, renewal, care and inspiration.



New UU: A 2-Session series for Visitors and Newcomers

Tuesday, February 2 and 9. From 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Led by Rev. Alyson Jacks and Rev. Vanessa Southern

[REGISTER HERE](#) - Questions? Email Rev. Jacks - ajacks@uusf.org

Join Revs. Jacks and Southern, and special guests, for a two session New UU class. This interactive class will introduce you to Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. If you don't have Zoom capability, there is a simple way to call in to participate.

Session 1: A quick journey from Past to Present, Unitarian Universalist history and theology.

To understand where we are now culturally as a movement, in our philosophies and practices, and our place in the larger landscape of religious history, we'd like to give you an overview of some of the big sweeps of time and where Unitarian Universalism's roots began and where we find ourselves today. We will cover history, theology and a bit of what we call "polity" -- how we run ourselves and why we do it like that.

Session 2: First UU Society Past to Present

Along the same lines we'd like you to see the history of this particular congregation, it's place in the life and history of San Francisco and California. What has been part of this life, and right now how does this congregation understand the work of spiritual growth, the call to social action, what are our worship traditions (and why are they the way they are), how do we connect and take care of each other, and what is entailed in being called "a member."

Online Silent Auction January 29, 2021 - February 4, 2021

Online Live Auction Friday, February 5, 2021

The soft breezes and the inclusive culture of Hawaii—the most diverse state in the union—are calling all UUSF members and friends to participate in the fabulous **Aloha AUUction 2021!** This major UUSF fundraiser and fun-raiser will be held from the comfort of our homes, and all of us can participate to help our UUSF community thrive in the new year. We'll need donations in every category: Experiences, Services, Collector's Items. All of us can do something.



HERE ARE JUST A FEW IDEAS:

- Weekend or week-long getaways
 - Cooking class
 - Zoom scavenger hunt
 - Storytelling, Homemade soup
 - Dinner preparation and delivery
 - Wine, beer, sake or kombucha tasting
 - Live online concert
 - Baking/cooking projects with ingredients brought to your door
 - Kids' art materials kit delivered to your door
 - Planter filled with plants/flowers of your choice
 - Earrings made to order, 2 hours of garden care
 - Driveway car wash
 - 2 hours of shopping or other errands
- To make a donation of any experience, service, or item [click here](#)
- To get more information, please email **Sue Anthony**
at susan.j.anthony@comcast.net.



UUSF MEDITATION MINISTRY

[Adult Religious Education Classes](#)

Meditation is a practice where an individual uses a technique – such as mindfulness, or focusing the mind on a particular object, thought, or activity – to train attention and awareness, and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state.

UUSF has the great fortune to offer two meditation programs you can participate in at any time. They are lead by **Elena Hanyo Perez**, a member of UUSF, licensed acupuncturist, and lay minister with Bright Dawn Center for Oneness Buddhism.

ZOOM LINK

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75735734442#success>

PASSWORD: metta

Morning Metta Meditation

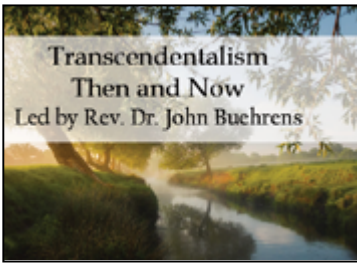
Tuesdays & Thursday, 8-8:30 AM

A simple, centering loving kindness meditation practice which is appropriate for all religious backgrounds and levels of meditation experience

Equanimity Practice

Fridays, 8-8:30 AM

A meditation practice on cultivating equanimity- that is accepting the reality of life's highs and lows, and developing an attitude of peaceful calm abiding throughout the inevitable changes.



Transcendentalism Then and Now

Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2021 7:30 - 9PM

Led by Rev. Dr. John Buehrens and hosted by UU Church of Palo Alto

Registration: Advance registration is required. Please email **Marilyn Austin** at areclasses@uucpa.org to sign up for the class. The link will be provided to registered participants.

Rev John Buehrens is the retired senior minister of the UU church in San Francisco. After the last time he gave a guest sermon at UUCPA, numerous members of our congregation asked the ARE Committee to arrange for him to teach a class for us. We have finally accomplished that! On the four Wednesday evenings in January, from 7:30 to 9:00, Rev. Buehrens will teach a class via zoom entitled Transcendentalism: Then and Now. He will identify contemporary issues as well as explore the pioneering efforts of our spiritual forbears in spiritual practice, women's rights, anti-racism, and ecotheology. All four sessions will include both lecture and discussion. Those wishing to attend should email areclasses@uucpa.org in order to receive the zoom link.



Minister's Book Group: January

Wed, Jan. 27, 7:30-8 pm OR Thurs, Jan. 28, noon-1:30

Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Join the Minister's Book Group in January when we read and discuss Michael Pollan's "How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence."

The book is a journey through the renewed fascination with what psychedelics are teaching the medical and therapeutic world about how our mind functions and what relief it may offer to some of the most painful realities of life -- depression and the painful work of facing death. Since the work touches on so much that is often thought part of the religious realm I am particularly interested in discussing it with our book group.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

During these uncertain times the UUSF Art Committee invites everyone to join the artists, friends, family to view our Virtual Group Art Show.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)



Valley
Alife Jang...



Peace Bird Throw
Barbara F Meyers...



In Memoriam
Barbara Grob...



Homage: Leonard Breger/ Bernal Hill Boogie



Morning Glory
Elaine Pratt...



Bird Dog
Jane Way...



Out of the Swamp
JF Ellman...



Autumn
Julia Wald...



Evening Owl
Kristen Stephens...





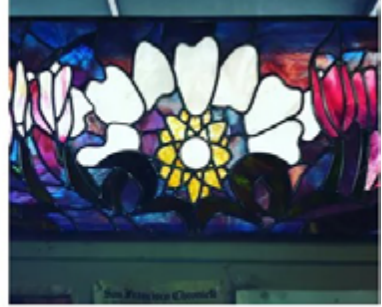
untitled no. 10

Lily Wu...



Spanish Bird

Lisa G Garrigues...



Universal Light

Louise Diskerud...



Stir Crazy Shelter in Place

Nancy Buffum...



Bring It On

Nic Griffin...



Columns Triptych (Phenomenal Growth)



Love will cure the Virus and the World



Red Malee Burl Chalice

Richard E. Davis...



My Beautiful Magical and Strange

Robert Witherington...



Red Roadway

Sofia Carmi...



Lines & Arcs

Winston Denmark...



Wednesday Morning Vigils!

Wednesdays from 7:30-9AM at UUSF

As a consequential election approaches, With the overt threat to subvert its outcome; With the prospect of a shift in the Supreme Court that could threaten long held basic rights; Our choices and our voices on the ballots and in the public square are critical.

We cannot afford to be silent. We invite you to join fellow UUs and other people of conscience as we gather with signs and banners in front of our church.

We have banners and signs but feel free to make and bring your own addressing those concerns you find most critical to raise.

We want to do this in a way that is safe for everyone so please bring and wear your masks, use hand sanitizer, and socially distance.

The garage and interior of the church will not be available so please find street parking if you drive.

Let us know what you think at neveragain@uusf.org



Council of Committee Chairs Meeting Sunday, January 10, 12:15 PM (on zoom)

The Council of Committee Chairs (COCC) will hold a ZOOM meeting on Sunday, January 10, following services that day. Invitations with call-in instructions will be sent to current committee chairs, but others are invited to attend.

The COCC meeting will cover topics including the on-going work on our Journey to Wholeness, Center Updates, the Annual Operating Fund and updates from members regarding plans for the rest of the church year.

Anyone with questions or who would like to suggest other agenda items can contact Board members [Rochelle Fortier](#) or [Carrie Steere-Salazar](#).



FORUM

Climate Crossroads: On the Path Towards a Just Transition and Clean Economy

Sunday, January 3 at 1PM (on zoom)

How can we be part of the urgent need to transform our energy system? This is an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the climate crisis and discuss available global and local solutions. We'll offer an update on what's happening in San Francisco

and California and discuss what we all can do to help eliminate the problem of greenhouse gas emissions. Our guest speakers are Helena Birecki and Paul Wermer.

Forum UU is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://zoom.us/j/93231236053?pwd=d0hQYVgvcE5lUWNPNnFiVUdtSjhjQT09>

Meeting ID: 932 3123 6053

Passcode: 827932

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aedC27FjUo>



Because of you, life doesn't stop

#VitalToLife

Blood Drive

First Unitarian Church

Tuesday, January 19, 2021
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: TSK Room
1187 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

To make an appointment, visit vitalant.org and click donate. Use your unique sponsor code: **First Unitarian**

- ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS** are encouraged to help maintain social distancing.
- All donors must bring and wear a **MASK** or **CLOTH-BASED FACE COVERING**.
- DONATIONS TESTED FOR COVID ANTIBODIES** to help identify potential convalescent plasma donors.

DONATE BLOOD
vitalant.org 877-25-VITAL

vitalant.
Formerly Blood Centers of the Pacific



Humanists & Non-Theists: **EcoHumanism**

January 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Millie is a humanist concerned with addressing social justice critiques of humanism. In this presentation, she will be discussing ecohumanism, which counters the claim that humanism's focus on people is incompatible with respect for other species and the environment, and is overly optimistic about technological progress as a means to mitigate climate change and other ecological problems.

Rev. Millie Phillips, a member of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Society of San Francisco, was ordained by our congregation a year ago. Until recently she was serving the UU Community of Lake County.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us at the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87328963448?pwd=ZU9MRHdJMjFhRi5cTV6V00yb1FyUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 2896 3448

Passcode: 757637

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)



Humanists & Non-Theists Present

The US Immigration System

January 16, 2021 at 3:00 PM

This event is co-sponsored by the Bay Area Humanists

The presentation by Rochelle A. Fortier Nwadibia will give you a better understanding of the evolution of the immigration system that we have today. Learn the agencies, courts, and practices that make up the regime that determines who is able to enter, who is removed and who may be barred entry. Special emphasis will be placed on the

During this presentation, you are invited to ask yourself the following: Who gets to be a US citizen? What are the origins of the exercise of this authority? What are the assumptions around what it means to be an American? When did it become OK to demonize non Americans? Is this system functioning in a way that reflects our values?? Are there legitimate moral questions plaguing the immigration system?

Ms. Nwadibia is a renowned international attorney in the field of migration and human rights representing asylum seekers and immigrants in US federal courts and administrative agencies. Ms. Nwadibia has over 20 years of experience as a human rights litigator, advisor and adjudicator. She is the former acting Chair and Commissioner of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Her work, including the leading case in the United States on female genital mutilation, has been recognized by the Congressional Research Service and Washington University School of Law. Ms. Nwadibia works in San Francisco representing clients on issues of human rights, asylum and migration. She has a Juris Doctor from Washington University School of Law, and a Master of International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in the City of New York.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us at the Zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83468629410?pwd=QjYvRXliQkMvSGZkQjFiajRkdUI5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 834 6862 9410

Passcode: 858751

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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.

For more about our congregation,
please visit our website at www.uusf.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
415-776-4580 / info@uusf.org