



“Annual Hanging of the Greens Service”

Sunday, December 18, 10:50 AM, 2022
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



Order of Service
Sunday, December 18, 2022
10:50 AM - 12:15 PM
Livestreamed at bit.ly/uusfmedia

New to UUSF? Complete Our Connections form at bit.ly/uusfconnections2022

Welcome back to those returning to onsite Worship Service!
Please stay masked during the Worship Service and maintain social distance.
After service we invite you to convene for coffee hour in the Courtyard
or online on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month (<https://bit.ly/coffeeuu>)
Please be mindful of social distance and wear your mask when you are not eating or drinking.

Prelude *Greensleeves* Ralph Vaughan Williams
 How Brightly Shines the Morning Star J S Bach / Van Hulse
 Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Opening and Welcome Revs Vanessa Rush Southern and Laura Shennum

Unison Chalice Lighting Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

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.

*Hymn 51

Lady of the Seasons' Laughter
([CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 8 & 9 TO VIEW HYMN](#))

JULION

(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 10 TO VIEW READING)

Offering

Our offering this morning will go to support the work of **Save the Redwoods League**. Save the Redwoods League is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and restore California redwoods and connect people to the peace and beauty of redwood forests. The League protects redwoods by purchasing redwood forests and the surrounding land needed to nurture them. Learn more at <https://www.savetheredwoods.org/>. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments) or using the Donate Button (below) & on our website, please select the “Offering” choice to make your gift. If you are sending a check, please mark in the memo today’s date and “special offering” 12-18-22.



Offertory Music *Choose Something Like a Star* from *Frostantina* Randall Thompson
UUSF choir; Wm. Garcia Ganz, pianist; Mark Sumner, Director

Reading “Green, Green, Green” by Thomas Ahlburn Rev. Laura Shennum

Introduction to Merry-Making Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Geary Side of Sanctuary: Go to TSK for Greens & Ornament → Sanctuary for Music → Stay in Sanctuary

Courtyard Side/Pulpit Side: Stay in Sanctuary for Music —> Go to TSK for Greens & Ornament —> Wait until “Deck the Halls” begins bringing in the greens and ornaments

Bringing in the Greens *Deck the Hall With Boughs of Holly* John Ceiriog Hughes

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la la la . . .
 'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la . . .
 Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la la la . . .
 Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la la . . .
 See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la la la . . .
 Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la la la . . .
 Follow me in merry measure, fa la la la la . . .
 While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la la la . . .

Reading Excerpted from “Love and Death” by Forrest Church Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Unison Song 1051 *We Are* Ysaye Maria Barnwell
UUSF choir; Wm. Garcia Ganz, pianist; Jon Silk, drums; Mark Sumner, Director

For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe
who we are.

For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe
who we are.

We are our grandmothers' prayers
and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
we are the breath of our ancestors,
we are the spirit of God.

We are mothers of courage and fathers of time,
we are daughters of dust and the sons of great visions,
we're sisters of mercy and brothers of love,
we are lovers of life and the builders of nations,
we're seekers of truth and keepers of faith,
we are makers of peace and the wisdom of ages.

We are our grandmothers' prayers
and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
we are the breath of our ancestors,
we are the spirit of God.

For each child that's born,
a morning star rises and
sings to the universe
who we are.

Closing Words “Born in Mystery” From Huston Smith's The World's Religions Rev. Laura Shennum

*Benediction Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Closing Song *When You Wish Upon a Star* Ned Washington; Leigh Harline

When you wish upon a star
Makes no difference who you are
Anything your heart desires
Will come to you

If your heart is in your dream
No request is too extreme
When you wish upon a star
As dreamers do

*Fate is kind
She brings to those who love
The sweet fulfillment of
Their secret longing*

Like a bolt out of the blue
Fate steps in and sees you through
When you wish upon a star
Your dreams come true
Your dreams come true

*Please rise in body or spirit.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

Sunday Support

Shulee Ong; Eric Shackelford;
Jackson Munn, Cameras
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director
Joe Chapot, Live Chat Moderator
Thomas Brown, Sexton
DeAndre Smith, Sexton
Flowers by the Flower Committee
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, Organist
UUSF Choir
Mark Sumner, Music Director
Jon Silk, Drummer
Wm. García Ganz, Pianist



Thank you to Thomas Bier for the beautiful Moravian Stars he created and assisted us in hanging this week. Thomas learned how to make them while in boarding school in Europe right before he had to leave school because of World War II. Some beauty endured through all of that!

51 Lady of the Seasons' Laughter

$\text{♩} = 88$

1. La - dy
2. Sis - ter
3. Moth - er
4. God - dess

of the sea - sons' laugh - ter, in the sum - mer's warmth be
of the eve - ning star - light, in the fall - ing shad - ows
of the gen - er - a - tions, in whose love all life is
of all times' pro - gres - sion, stand with us when we en -

near, when the win - ter fol - lows af - ter, teach our
stay here a - mong us till the far light of to -
worth ev - er - last - ing cel - e - bra - tions, bring our
gage hands and hearts to end op - pres - sion, writ - ing

⊕ Words: Kendyl L. R. Gibbons, 1955- , © 1990 Unitarian Universalist Association
Music: David Hurd, 1950- , © 1983 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

JULION
8.7.8.7.8.7.

THE SEASONS

spir - its not to fear. Hold us in your stead - y
 - mor - row's dawn - ing ray. Hold us in your stead - y
 la - bors safe to birth. Hold us in your stead - y
 his - tory's fair - er page. Hold us in your stead - y

mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing year.
 mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing day.
 mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing earth.
 mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing age.

Last time



OUT OF THE STARS

Out of the stars in their flight, out
 of the dust of eternity, here
 have we come,
 Stardust and sunlight, mingling
 through time and through space.

*Out of the stars have we come,
 up from time;*

Out of the stars have we come.

Time out of time before time in
 the vastness of space, earth
 spun to orbit the sun,
 Earth with the thunder of
 mountains newborn, the boiling
 of seas.

*Earth warmed by sun, lit by
 sunlight:*

*This is our home;
 Out of the stars have we come.*

Mystery hidden in mystery, back
 through all time;
 Mystery rising from rocks in the
 storm and the sea.

*Out of the stars, rising from
 rocks and the sea,
 kindled by sunlight on earth,
 arose life.*

Ponder this thing in your heart,
 life up from sea:
 Eyes to behold, throats to sing,
 mates to love.

*Life from the sea, warmed by
 sun, washed by rain,
 life from within, giving birth,
 rose to love.*

This is the wonder of time; this is
 the marvel of space, out of the

stars swung the earth; life upon
 earth rose to love.

*This is the marvel of life, rising
 to see and to know;
 Out of your heart, cry wonder:
 sing that we live.*

⊕ ROBERT T. WESTON

Events, Meetings & Volunteer Opportunities (www.uusf.org/news)

Today

Virtual Coffee Hour is now 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month! - Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/coffeeuu>

Following the service, we invite you to join us for virtual coffee hour.

Visit Our Covid Care & Concern Table After Church in the Gallery

Please visit our Covid Care & Concern Table where people can get information about the latest boosters (#3 and #4 shots). We want to make sure we have data so we can create Christmas Services with care and concern for our community. For that reason, we will informally gather booster information. Please respond to this Survey at <https://bit.ly/covidsurveyuusf> about your booster status - it will be kept confidential. Or write your booster status on an index card at the Care & Concern table and place it in the box. Proof of COVID vaccines is no longer required. Reminder: If you feel sick, stay home. Masks are still required while indoors and during Worship on Sundays.

Check These Out!

Small Group Ministry is back and ready for sign-ups - Register at <https://bit.ly/sgm2023>

This program meets twice a month in small groups either online or in person at UUSF. Groups take time to check in, then reflect on a theme. The groups are facilitated by trained facilitators. To learn more and sign up, please follow the registration link below. If you have questions about the program, then please contact Rev. Laura at lsHENNUM@uusf.org

Seasons Greetings from the UUSF Finance Team! - Donate by Dec. 19! Go to <https://www.uusf.org/donate>

It is that time of the year and amidst the hectic days of gift buying, getting ready for family gatherings and other celebrations, please mark your calendar. The deadline to send donations to UUSF to be counted in 2022 is Monday, December 19th! If your plan is to have a pledge payment or other contribution count in 2022, please mail your check not later than that date. Or to donate online, by December 19th. Questions? Email lludwig@uusf.org

New UU! Next Sessions TBA, 2023 - Reminder Form <https://bit.ly/newuu2023>

Join our new Minister for Congregational Life, Rev. Laura Shennum, for our New UU class! Held in-person and online at UUSF after worship, this interactive class will introduce you to Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. Registration will open in 2023; complete our New UU Reminder form to get updates and access to an exclusive

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

Morning Meditation

Tuesdays & Thursday, 8-8:30 am (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75735734442#success>)

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

Equanimity Practice

Fridays, 8-8:30 am (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75735734442#success>)

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.

Upcoming Services and Events

"Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" (online and in-person)

Saturday, December 24, 4:45 pm, Christmas Eve Worship Service Livestream

Please join us for carols and candlelight and an invitation for the spirit of the season to take hold of us on **Saturday, December 24 at 4:45 pm** in the Sanctuary or online. For those joining us on livestream here is the link: <https://bit.ly/uusfdec242022>

Poinsettia Dedications: Each year we thrill to an abundance of red poinsettias dedicated in honor or in memory of special loved ones. Please begin making your \$25 Poinsettia donations for 2022. You may pay by check, and if there is a dedication name note it on the memo line. Alternatively, you may pay via uusf.org payment donate button (bit.ly/uusfpayments), but select Sunday Flowers/ Poinsettias line. You input the dedication online, but it is suggested you also email it to jsilk@uusf.org by **Next Tuesday, December 20!**

"Grateful & Going Forward Joyfully" Christmas Day Virtual Service

Sunday, December 25, 11:00 am (ONLINE-ONLY)

Christmas Day will be a day for gratitude and joy as six Bay Area UU churches come together to create a **virtual** service. You can snuggle up in your favorite PJs and a warm beverage to reflect on blessings from this year and how they will carry you forward into the new year joyfully. Senior Minister Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern will host a **virtual** coffee hour after the service.

Tenderloin Tessie will be feeding the hungry on Christmas Day, so the UUSF office and church will be closed to the public on the 25th. Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners, an all-volunteer organization, has fed the San Francisco community on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas for over 40 years. They work hard to provide a plentiful meal, a smile, and a gift to all of their customers in a friendly environment. Every holiday, they serve a thousand people.

Next week, a link to this online-only service will be available on our website and Flame!

"Letting Go & Beginning Anew" (online and in-person)

Sunday, January 1, 2023, 10:50 am, Worship Service Livestream

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life, preaching

We will gather to reflect on our past year, then set intentions for the upcoming year. This will be ritualized through a Fire Communion. For those joining us on livestream here is the link: <https://bit.ly/uusf012023>

Black, Indigenous, & People of Color Gathering - January 1 from 9:30 am to 10:50 am, Stebbins Room

The sacred space is open to our members and friends who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color. The meeting takes place by Zoom and in-person in the Stebbins Room on the first Sunday of every month often from 9:30-10:50am. 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.

Newcomer Orientation - Sunday, January 8 at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room

Interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism? Join us on January 8 after the service in the Fireside Room to meet some of our members and learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism in the community.

Questions? Email info@uusf.org

Weekly Flame Submissions Scheduling Alert!

All submissions for our December 28 weekly Flame must be received by Wednesday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Please email them to flame@uusf.org.

“What I want for Christmas?”

Sunday, December 11, 10:50 AM,

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW LAST WEEKS WORSHIP SERVICE](#)

UUSF MEDIA

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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.

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.

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

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