

# "The Problem with God"



Sunday, April 23, 10:50 AM, 2023

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



**Order of Service**  
**Sunday April 23, 2023**  
**10:50 AM - 12:15 PM**

Livestreamed at [bit.ly/uusfmedia](https://bit.ly/uusfmedia)

New to UUSF? Complete Our Connections form at <https://bit.ly/uuconnections2023>

**Welcome to the Worship!**

UUSF will no longer require masks indoors on our premises,  
following the lead of the San Francisco Department of Health.

We do, however, encourage people to wear masks  
or do anything else that protects and respects their own health and comfort,  
and there is a designated mask-only area on the far right side of the Sanctuary.

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Prelude      *Pavane pour une enfante défunte*

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)  
Jennifer Peringer, piano

Opening Words and Welcome

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

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.

Rheiner Award Presentation

**Committee Members**

Dolores Perez Heilbron, Chair

Bob Bacon

Rochelle Fortier Nwadibia

David Jones

Mary Jane Mikuriya

Jan & Howard Oringer

Julia Wald

Greeting One Another

Unison 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.

Reflection

Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

Music      *Lejano Azul*

Luis A. Calvo (1882-1945)  
Jennifer Peringer, piano

Times of Spoken and Silent Meditation

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Offering

This morning's offering will benefit the work and ministries of The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco (UUSF). To make a donation on Vanco ([bit.ly/uusfpayments](https://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" 04-23-23.

[DONATE](#)

Offertory Music      *Intermezzo no. 1*

Manuel M. Ponce (1882-1948)  
Jennifer Peringer, piano

Sermon      "The Problem with God"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

\*Hymn 23

*Bring Many Names*

WEST CHASE

Mark Sumner, piano; Ben Rudiak-Gould, songleader

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

\*Benediction

Postlude      *Scherzino Mexicano*

Manuel M. Ponce  
Jennifer Peringer, piano

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\*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  
Dolores Perez Heilbron, Rheinber Award Committee Chair

## **Sunday Support**

Shulee Ong; Eric Shackelford; Jackson Munn, Livestream Cameras  
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director  
Asani Seawell, Chat Moderator  
Athena Papadakos, Flowers  
Linda Messner, Head Usher

## **Musicians**

Jennifer Peringer, Pianist  
Mark Sumner, Pianist  
Ben Rudiak-Gould, Songleader

# ABOUT

**Jennifer Peringer** is a pianist and arranger who plays chamber music with The Bernal Hill Players, piano duets with the Magnolia Duo, and solo performances at venues throughout the Bay Area and beyond. She teaches piano and accordion at the Community Music Center of San Francisco, and is always happy to play for services at this church, where she and her son were active members in the 1990's.

## **Rheiner Award For Community Service Presentation & Reception**

As Unitarian Universalists, our religion is about deeds, not creeds. Each year, this congregation honors one of our own with the Rheiner Award for Community Service, recognizing their activities in the larger community outside the church walls that reflect their commitment to Unitarian Universalist values. This year's award will be presented during today's worship service, followed by a complimentary lunch and reception in the TSK Room, where you can congratulate the recipient and learn more about the people and organizations that benefit because the award recipient lives Unitarian Universalism in their daily lives.

# Spirit of Life

123

$\text{♩} = 56$  *Unison*

Spir - it of Life, come un-to me. Sing in my

heart all the stir - rings of com - pas - sion. Blow in the

wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giv-ing

life the shape of jus-tice. Roots hold me close; wings set me

free; Spir - it of Life, come to me, come to me.

⊕ Words & music: Carolyn McDade, 1935- , © 1981 Carolyn McDade,  
 ⊕ harmony by Grace Lewis-McLaren, 1939- , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist  
 Association

SPirit of LIfe  
 8.12.8.12.8.10.

## Bring Many Names

$\text{♩} = 80$  Unison

1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good;  
 2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,  
 3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - 'ry child,  
 4. Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care,

cel - e - brate in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in  
 plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e -  
 feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for -  
 calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of new sur -

glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God: hail and ho -  
 qua - tion, ge - ni - us at play: hail and ho -  
 giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled: hail and ho -  
 pris - es, wis - er than des - pair: hail and ho -

Words: Brian Wren, 1936- , © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.  
 Music: Carlton R. Young, 1926- , © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

WESTCHASE  
 9.10.6.5.5.4.

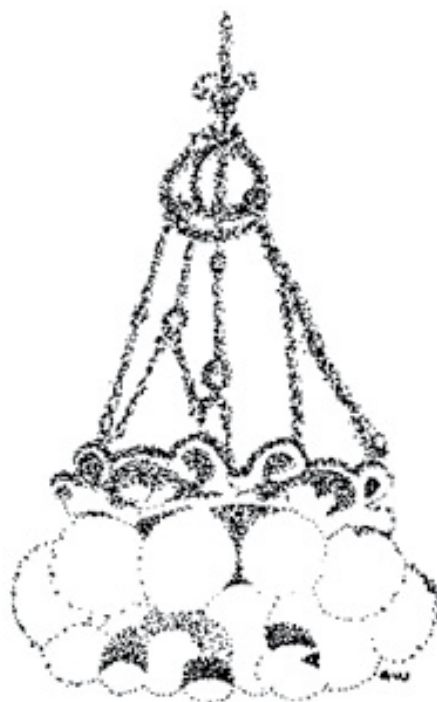


1.-5. 6.

- san - na, bring man - y names.  
 - san - na, strong moth - er God!  
 - san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
 - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

great, liv - ing God!

5. Young, growing God, eager still to know,  
 willing to be changed by what you've started,  
 quick to be delighted, singing as you go:  
 hail and hosanna, young, growing God!
6. Great, living God, never fully known,  
 joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
 closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
 hail and hosanna, great, living God!







## UUSF ANNUAL CANVASS 2023-24

We have raised over \$500,000 of the \$750,000 of our goal from over 100 pledges. If you haven't pledged please do so. You can send us an email with your pledge (send it to [Stewardship@uusf.org](mailto:Stewardship@uusf.org)) or you can fill out a pledge form online at <https://bit.ly/pledgeuusf2023> or we will have some paper versions to hand out today. Thank you so much for your commitment of time, of talent and of your financial resources to make UUSF strong and enduring as a place for hope and community, transformation and justice-seeking in the world.

# Events, Meetings & Volunteer Opportunities ([www.uusf.org/news](http://www.uusf.org/news))

## TODAY

### **Forum - Sunday, April 23, 9:00 am TSK Room/Zoom** (<https://bit.ly/forum-4-23-23>)

Understanding the national movement to ban library books that challenge rightwing perspectives, and how communities can organize to stop book bans with **Deborah Doyle**. Deborah has been an active library advocate at local, state and national levels for 25 years.

## UPCOMING

### **Silly Fun for a Serious Cause - Friday, April 28 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in TSK Room**

Party games. Games for all ages and inter-generational games. Food, refreshments and fun for all. This is a **Small Group Ministry** service project to benefit Hamilton Families in their work to prevent, mitigate and end family homelessness in the SF Bay Area. Suggested donation is \$10-20/Adults, \$20-30/Families or pay-what-you-can. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/UUSFGameParty> or find us at a table today in the Gallery.

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### **Forum - Sunday, April 30, 9:00 am TSK Room/Zoom** (<https://bit.ly/forum-4-30-23>)

Update on Our City: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly with **Tim Redmond**! Currently, San Franciscans are becoming more and more skeptical of the way this City is being managed, the growing number of people living and dying on our streets, many from the effects of the fentanyl epidemic. Who is responsible, and can this City overcome these failures, which are growing with no end in sight?

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### **New Show! "The Family of Man" by Leslie Goldberg**

You are invited to see the Family of Man, the newest art show held in the **TSK Room** and the **MLK Room**. The presentation is a celebration through art and writing of the diversity and commonality of people by artist and writer Leslie Goldberg. The fictional characters shown are folks we all know: the next door neighbor, the bar owner, the coach, the race car driver, the manicurist, the artist, the college professor and more. An art reception will be held **April 30** after the service.

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### **Are You Intimidated By Using Google Docs? We're here to help! April 30 and May 7 after church.**

**Gino Fortunato** will lead two identical trainings following Sunday services in the Stebbins Room on April 30 and May 7, from 12:30-1:30 pm. Please bring your lunch as well as any questions you might have! Please email **Erica Murray** in advance with any inquiries at [ericaelizabeth@hotmail.com](mailto:ericaelizabeth@hotmail.com). It would be preferable if you could also bring your laptop computer or tablet, but this is not obligatory.

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### **Black, Indigenous, & People of Color Gathering - May 7 from 9:30 am to 10:50 am, Stebbins Room**

This 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](mailto:bipoc@uusf.org). Please come join this space for joy, renewal, care and inspiration.

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### **Newcomer Orientation - Sunday, May 7 at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room**

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

# UPCOMING

## The UUSF Board Of Trustees Encourages You To Put These Dates On Your Calendar, As A Voting Member Of Our Congregation:

1. Tues 4/25 Budget Q & A #1 Zoom 6pm - Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3GU5BDw>
2. Fri 5/12 Budget Q & A #2 Zoom 6pm - Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3KFdRrW>
3. Sun 5/14 Budget Amendments are due to [Secretary@uusf.org](mailto:Secretary@uusf.org)
4. Sun 5/21 Budget Vote Meeting 12:15pm - 2:15pm Zoom and in person in TSK Room - Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/41oLW6I>
5. Sun 6/4 Annual Meeting 12:30pm - 2:30pm Zoom and in person in TSK Room - Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3mS9Wjs>

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## UUSF Election Slate 2023-24

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of nominees for the 2023-2024 Board of Trustees and the next Nominating Committee. In accordance with the UUSF by-laws, the slate will be voted on at the annual meeting of the membership on June 4, 2023. Please go to <https://www.uusf.org/nominatingcommittee> to read the biographies on the Nominees.

**Board of Trustees:** The Board consists of nine members, five of whom are elected in "odd" years (2023) and four of whom are elected in "even" years. Board members are elected to two-year terms and may not serve more than six consecutive years. The nominees for this year are **Lori Lai** (incumbent); **Linda Enger** (incumbent); **Megan Lehmer** (incumbent); **Sam King**; and **Galen Workman**.

**Nominating Committee:** This Committee consists of seven members, four of whom are elected in "odd" years (2023) and three of whom are elected in "even" years. Nominating Committee members are elected to two-year terms and may not serve more than four consecutive years. The nominees for this year are **Erica Murray** (incumbent); **Teresa Goebel** (incumbent); **Hanna Hart**; and **Robert Packenham**.

**On behalf of the 2022-23 Nominating Committee, Judith Ottoson, chair** [jottoson@comcast.net](mailto:jottoson@comcast.net) 415-839-6360

## 2023 All Church Retreat - Sat, May 27th - Mon, May 29, Occidental, CA - Registration deadline is May 15!

It's time to retreat to the Redwoods! We are ready to return to Sonoma Country to enjoy time with friends and family. We'll spend our first evening at the campfire making s'mores, singing campfire songs, and staring up at the star-filled night sky. There will be time to enjoy a walk in the woods, read a book or play games. We'll have fun workshops and fun worship. We'll dance the Happy Dance at the Talent Show. Come and rejuvenate the spirit. You'll be glad you did. This is a family-friendly event! The CYO Retreat Center has comfortable dormitory cabins, showers and bathrooms, swimming pool, a pond for canoeing, archery, tennis and basketball courts, and beautiful trails. CYO is up the road from Wild Oat Bakery, famous for their sticky buns; local wineries, the town of Occidental, and close by to the Russian River. Retreaters bring their own bedding, towels and toiletries.

**Adults: \$205; Children (4-18): \$150; Children (0-3): Free!** Register at <https://bit.ly/3nvoSnD>

Scholarships are available by going to <https://bit.ly/436QT5q>. Website: <https://www.uusf.org/retreat>

## Adult Spiritual Growth Classes ([www.uusf.org/are](http://www.uusf.org/are))

### April Minister's Book Poetry Group - A Celebration of Poetry: What's Fresh?!

Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister - Register at <https://bit.ly/MBG2023>

In April we will have two sessions in which we gather to celebrate poetry. Vanessa encourages you to find and bring a poem you love by a poet whose voice you think feels fresh and new. You can look online to the poetry foundation, see who is a poet laureate in our nation (or another) or of our state (or another), or head to your local bookstore for a recommendation. Bring one to share. Feel free to come both days for this month's book group!

**Wednesday, April 26, 6:30-8 pm or Thursday, April 27, noon-1:30 pm**

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### Morning Meditation & Equanimity Practice

**Morning 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. **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.

Both on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3A8ZI73>

# Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109  
415-776-4580 / [info@uusf.org](mailto: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/>

# "Heartbeats"

Sunday, April 16, 10:50 am

WATCH LAST WEEKS SERVICE: <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

