

# "Hanging of the Greens"

Sunday, December 17, 10:50 AM, 2023

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco







**Order of Service**  
**Sunday December 17, 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 Worship!**

UUSF no longer requires 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.

There is a designated mask-only area on the far right side of the Sanctuary.

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Prelude	<i>Greensleeves</i>	R. Vaughan Williams
	<i>Forest Green</i>	Richard Purvis
	<i>There's a Song in the Air</i>	Wilbur Held
		Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Opening Words and Welcome Rev. Vanessa Southern, Rev. Laura Shennum & Christine Patch-Lindsay

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.

\*Hymn 51

*Lady of the Seasons' laughter*

JULION

([CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 6 & 7 TO VIEW HYMN](#))

Responsive Reading No. 532 *The Music of the Spheres* by Ernesto Cardenal Christine Patch-Lindsay

([CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 8 TO VIEW READING](#))

## Offering

The offering this morning will support the work and ministries of the **Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth (UUFME)**. Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is a seedbed for spiritual grounding and education that inspires deep practices of Earth care, justice and flourishing for all. Their vision is a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for each other and for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people. Learn more about the UUFME at <https://www.uumfe.org/about/>. To make a donation on Vanco ([bit.ly/uusfpayments](https://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, 12-17-23, "Sunday Plate"



Offertory     *Walking in the Air*

Howard Blake

Nancy Munn, Akane Ota, singers; Mark Sumner, pianist

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 . . .

Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la . . .

Hail the new year, lads and lasses, fa la la la la . . .

Sing we joyous, all together, fa la la la la . . .

Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la . . .

Reading "The Craft of Winter Solstice" by Daniel Gregoire

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Unison Song *Solstice Song*

Randall Thompson

Words by Robert Lee Wolff, adapted by Alicia Cover

Soloist: This is the time when the days have shortened and the nights grow steadily more important,  
And in mid-afternoon, across the park, the towers start to twinkle in the thickening dark.

**All:** It's the solstice, the solstice, the time when the sun stands still,  
Outside you, and inside you, you feel a bitter chill.  
It's the solstice, the solstice, when the cold north wind could kill;  
But soon you'll be with your loved ones! Peace and joy, on this night instill.

Soloist: And you look out at the glitter and the sidewalk and the stars,  
And the friendly people hurrying past neon lighted bars,  
And you're glad to have a neighbor who can set you on the track,  
And to dine a deux with loved ones near for the sun is coming back.

**All:** It's the solstice, the solstice, the time when the sun stands still,  
Outside you, and inside you, you feel a bitter chill.  
It's the solstice, the solstice, when the cold north wind could kill;  
But soon you'll be with your loved ones! Peace and joy, on this night instill.

Soloist: Deep in the darkest winter night, my candle burning  
Warmth of the light, now that the year is turning.  
What is in store? Where has our journey brought us?  
From what's gone before, what has experience taught us?

**All:** It's the solstice, the solstice, the time when the sun stands still,  
Outside you, and inside you, you feel a bitter chill.  
It's the solstice, the solstice, when the cold north wind could kill;  
But soon you'll be with your loved ones! Peace and joy...Peace and joy, on this night instill.

Closing Words "Born in Mystery"  
From Huston's Smith The World's Religions

Rev. Laura Shennum

\*Benediction

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Postlude *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*

Sharon Elery Rogers  
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

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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  
Christine Patch-Lindsay, Pagan Interest Circle

## **Sunday Support**

Shulee Ong, Camera; Eric Shackelford, Camera; Jackson Munn, Camera  
Emanuel Class, Chat Moderator  
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director  
Jose Matias Pineda, Thomas Brown, Sextons  
Amy Kelly, Flowers  
Linda Messner, Head Usher

## **Musicians**

Reiko Oda Lane, organist  
UUSF Choir  
Mark Sumner, Music Director  
Nancy Munn, Akane Ota, Singers  
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*





## THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES

The music of the spheres.

*A harmonious universe—  
like a harp.*

Its rhythms are the equal,  
repeated seasons.

The beating of the heart.

*Day/night. The going and  
returning of migratory birds.*

The cycles of stars and corn.

*The mimosa that unfolds by  
day and folds up again by  
night.*

Rhythms of moon and tide. One  
single rhythm in planets, atoms,  
sea,

*And apples that ripen and fall,  
and in the mind of Newton.*

Melody, accord, arpeggios  
The harp of the universe.  
Unity behind apparent  
multiplicity.

*That is the music.*

ERNESTO CARDENAL



## TODAY!

### Fall Church Directory is Available!

On Sunday, stop by the church office to pick up a paper copy of the 2023 fall directory.

### New Art Works by Joy-Lilyin Now Showing in the 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. There will be an artist reception where you can meet Joy-Lily in person on Sunday, January 7, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm in the King Rooms.

## HAPPENINGS

### UU Ministry for Earth Solstice Celebration

UU Ministry for Earth is hosting its third annual Winter Solstice Celebration on Wednesday, December 20 at 4 PM Pacific time. It will be focused on energy democracy and making clean energy a right. UUMFE provides spiritual care for climate justice activists and advocates. Details about the service can be found at <https://bit.ly/uufmelight23>

### The Pagan Interest Circle (PICT) - Light the Yule Log and Let's Be Jolly! - December 30!

FULL MOON RITUAL Saturday, December 30 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Gather 'Round in the Darkness of the Night. The Wheel of the Year has turned again. In San Francisco, the Full Moon falls on December 27, during the Winter Yuletide. PICT invites you to join our monthly Moon ritual on the Saturday evening closest to the Full moon. We'll draw together and tend our fires. We'll observe the traditions of storytelling and candle sharing. Food and non-alcoholic drinks to share in the community are most welcome!

Questions? Contact Christine Patch-Lindsay at a New Email Address: [cpatchlindsay@gmail.com](mailto:cpatchlindsay@gmail.com)

### Christmas Eve 2023 Poinsettia Dedications

Deadline: Tuesday, December 19

Please consider honoring a loved one by dedicating a poinsettia to our holiday display. Suggested donation of \$40, which will support flowers in the sanctuary all year. Dedications will appear in the order of service on Christmas Eve.

You may pay by check, and if there is a dedication, write it on the memo line. Alternatively, you may pay via the [uusf.org](http://uusf.org) payment donate button or go to ([bit.ly/uusfpayments](http://bit.ly/uusfpayments)), and select the Sunday Flowers/Poinsettias line. You input the dedication online, but it is suggested that you also email it to Jonathan Silk at [jsilk@uusf.org](mailto:jsilk@uusf.org) by Tuesday, December 19.

On December 31, you are welcome to pick up your poinsettias following the service.



# UPCOMING SERVICES [www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia](http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia)

## "What's Up With That: Interactive Christmas Pageant" - Sunday, December 24, 10:50 am

We will gather as a full community to build connection through the ritual of creating the greens for our sanctuary. In honor of the sacredness of each person born, we will create stars that highlight each of us that are present. Join us for a lovely tradition of joy and merriment.

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## "Christmas Eve Night" - Sunday, December 24, 4:45 pm

Come let us join in community to celebrate the Christmas story in song, stories, and candles.

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## "Let Go of the Old & Ring in the New: Fire Communion" - Sunday, December 31, 10:50 am

We will gather to reflect on our past year, then set intentions for the upcoming year. This will be ritualized through a Fire Communion.

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

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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.

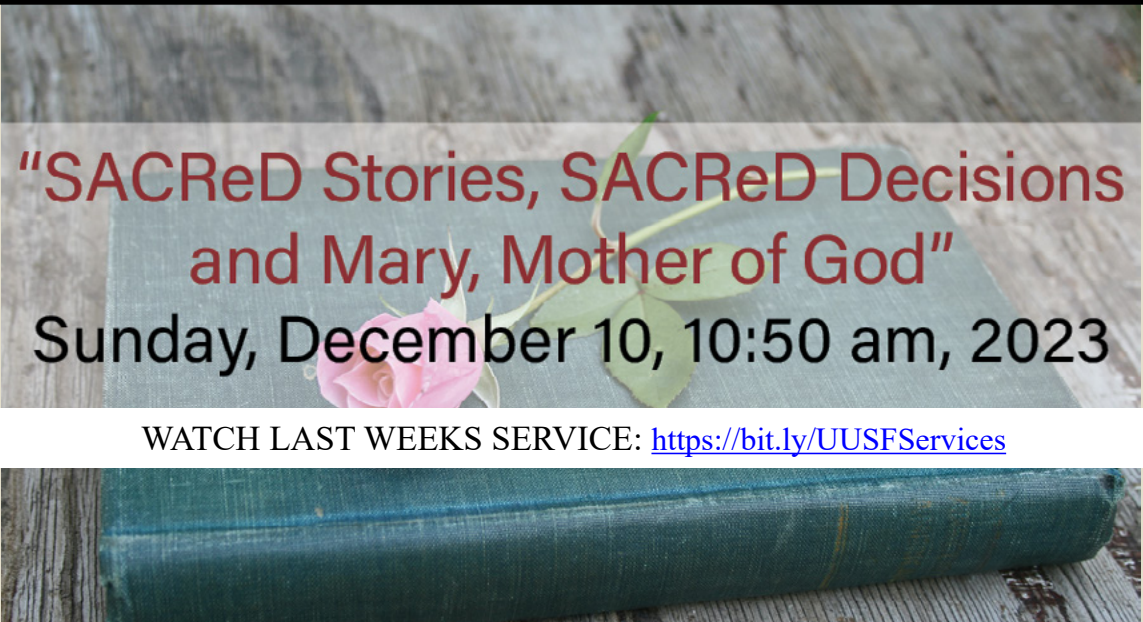
## UUSF MEDIA

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/>



"SACReD Stories, SACReD Decisions  
and Mary, Mother of God"

Sunday, December 10, 10:50 am, 2023

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