"What's Up With That: Interactive Christmas Pageant"

Sunday, December 24, 10:50 AM, 2023
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Order of Service
Sunday December 24, 2023
10:50 AM - 12:15 PM
Livestreamed at bit.ly/uusfmedia

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.

Prelude Prelude [Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007] Johann Sebastian Bach
Yuki Ota, cellist

Allemande [Suite No. 3 in C Major, BWV1009] Johann Sebastian Bach
Haruka Ota, cellist

Opening Words and Welcome Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

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.
Greeting One Another

Scene One  \textit{What's Up With That?}
Interactive Christmas Pageant by Norman Allen, Adapted for UUSF

*Hymn 246  \textit{O Little Town of Bethlehem}  \textsc{ST LOUIS}

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

Unison Covenant  \textsc{Dennis Adams}

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  \textsc{TALLIS CANON}

\begin{align*}
\text{From all that dwell below the skies; let songs of hope and faith arise;} & \\
\text{Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung through every land, by every tongue.} & \\
\end{align*}

Scene Two  \textit{You Try It!}

Music  The Swan from \textit{The Carnival of the Animals}  \textsc{Camille Saint-Saens}

Yuki Ota, cellist; Mark Sumner, accompanist
Scene Three  

What’s That Noise?

Offering

The offering this morning will benefit “Up on Top” an afterschool and summer program that serves children in the Tenderloin. Up on Top was founded by members of the Unitarian Universalist Society in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood in 2001 with a mission to provide free childcare and support services to neighborhood families. More info at https://www.upontop.org/. To make a donation on Vanco (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, 12-24-23, "Sunday Plate"

Offertory  Fantasia on Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Haruka Ota, cellist; Mark Sumner, pianist

Scene Four  Talking with Angels

*Hymn 231  

Angels We Have Heard on High

(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 8 & 9 TO VIEW HYMN)

Scene Five  Hearts Full of Love

*Hymn 245  

Joy to the World

(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 10 & 11 TO VIEW HYMN)

*Benediction

Rev. Laura Shennum

Postlude  Jingle Bells

*Please rise in body or spirit.
PARTICIPANTS

**Worship Leaders**
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Dennis Adams, Worship Associate
Liz Strand, Board Secretary
Orianna Jooss Moren; Robert Jumonville; Callum Sanchez;
Dahlia Tarou; Bree Shennum, Worship Participants

**Sunday Support**
Shulee Ong, Camera; Eric Shackelford, Camera; Jackson Munn, Camera
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director
Thomas Brown, Jose Matias Pineda, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons
Amy Kelly, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

**Musicians**
Akane Ota, mezzo-soprano
Mark Sumner, pianist
Haruka and Yuki Ota, cellists

**ABOUT**

Haruka Ota, a 14-year-old cellist and 8th grader at Burlingame Intermediate School, is making waves in the classical music scene. A member of the San Francisco Conservatory Pre-College program, Haruka’s exceptional talent recently earned her spots at the Junior Bach Festival in 2022 and 2023. Winner of the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra Concert Opportunity in 2021 and the 1st Prize at the San Francisco Innovative International Music Competition in October 2023, Haruka’s performances showcase a rare blend of interpretative finesse and technical brilliance.

Yuki Ota, an 11-year-old cellist and 6th grader at Burlingame Intermediate School, is actively involved in music. She is a member of the Golden Gate State Youth Orchestra and the Galbraith Honor Strings program, and she participates in the advanced-level chamber orchestra at BIS. While Yuki has enjoyed being a head chorister at St. Paul Episcopal Church in recent years, her current focus is on swimming with the BAC swim team and attending Japanese school. Nevertheless, she continues to create cello music with her sister Haruka and receives guidance from Mr. Eric Sung.
246  O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how
   still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and
   dreamless sleep the silent stars go
   by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and
   gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the
   angels keep their watch of wondering
   love. O morning stars, together pro-

3. How silently, how silently the
   wonder is made known, when God imparts to
   human hearts the gift that is our
   own. No ear may hear that coming, but

Another tune, 247
Words: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, alt
Music: Lewis H Redner, 1834-1908

ST. LOUIS
C.M.D.

CHRISTMAS
everlasting light; the hopes and fears of
claim the holy birth. Let praises ring: from
in this worldly din, when souls are truly

all the years are met in thee tonight.
God they bring goodwill to all on earth.
humble, then the dear babe rests within.
231  Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee! Why these songs of
3. See him in a manger laid whom the angels

o'er the plains and the mountains in reply
happy cheer? What great brightness did you see?
praise above, Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,

echoing their joyous strains.
What glad tidings did you hear? Gloria
while we raise our hearts in love.

Words: Earl Marlatt, 1892–1940
Music: French carol, 1855

Gloria
7.7.7.7. with refrain

Christmas
in excelsis Deo. Deo.
245 Joy to the World!

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

2. Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns: let hearts their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding glories show as far as love is.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns its fest the ground. Let righteousness its 1. and
2. re
3. as
sing, and heaven and nature sing, and
joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the
found, as far as love is found, as far as

heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding
far as love is found, as far as love is

heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
peat, repeat the sounding joy.
far, as far, as love is found.

sing, joy, found,
TODAY!

Coffee Hour After Church!
Please come and join us in the gallery for coffee hour. Take a look at the new artwork that has been displayed in the King rooms.

HAPPENINGS

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

Join us for a free screening of the documentary “Israelism” on Sunday, December 31, at 12:30 pm in the TSK Room.

Join us for a showing of the documentary Israelism, hosted by the UUSF Human Rights Working Group and the UU Justice in the Middle East committee. About the film: When two young American Jews raised to unconditionally love Israel witness the brutal way Israel treats Palestinians, their lives take sharp left turns. They join a movement of young American Jews battling the old guard to redefine Judaism’s relationship with Israel, revealing a deepening generational divide over modern Jewish identity. Food will be available. A discussion will follow the screening. If you have any questions about this event or the committee please email humanrights@uusf.org

Sign Up to Volunteer for the Interfaith Food Pantry - Saturday, January 6, 2024
Join fellow UUSF members and other community volunteers to help distribute groceries to 325+ households. This is a great opportunity for individuals and families to pitch in and help feed our community. Food prices are high and we are needed now as much as ever! We lead the crew Saturday, January 6, 2024, and would love to have you join. Volunteer shifts start at 8:15 (or 7:30 if you can help unload the truck). Sign-up and more info can be found on our website (www.uusf.org/foodpantry) or go to bit.ly/foodpantryuusf. If you have any questions, please contact Hanna Hart hanna@harts.net or Ben Bear welcome.corporate.overlords@gmail.com

Newcomer Orientation - Sunday, January 7 at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room
Do you want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Join us in the Fireside Room after the service to meet some of our members and learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism in the community.

Joy-Lilyin Art Reception - Sunday, January 7, 12:30 pm, King Rooms
Since Joy-Lily’s first quilt, she has created bold original designs, and since then, she has never made a quilt from anybody else’s pattern. 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.

Forum, Jan. 21 9 am (Breakfast). 9:30 am (event) : Humanizing Immigration with Bill Hing - www.uusf.org/forum
After 50 years of practicing and teaching immigration law, Professor Hing advocates for the dismantling of the US immigration law and enforcement system. Relying on personal experiences and other reported examples, he will recount his experience interviewing children in border patrol detention, representing asylum seekers within a biased system, advocating against the deportation of longtime residents—some with a criminal history deserving of a second chance.
UPCOMING SERVICES  www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia

"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.

"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.

"Promises of the Heart"- Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10:50 am
Join us in 2024 as we celebrate a service focused on our hearts and the promises we make to one another. Music will be by cellists Andrés David Vera and Matthew Linaman and singer Adam Ward.

Adult Spiritual Growth Classes (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.


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.

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).

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.

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
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/

“Hanging of the Greens”
Sunday, December 17, 10:50 am, 2023