

# “Christmas Eve”

Sunday, December 24, 4:45 PM, 2023

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





## Order of Service

### Sunday, December 24, 4:45 PM, 2023

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

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

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      *Suite for Christmas*, Opus 6 No. 8      Arcangelo Corelli /arr Sue Mitchell-Wallace  
Vivace - Pastorale - Allegro  
William Harvey, trumpeter; Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Welcome and Lighting of the Chalice      Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

\*Carol      *O come, all ye faithful*      Words from Hymns of the Spirit, Universalist Hymnal, 1937

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: venite, adoremus, venite, adoremus, venite adoremus Dominum

Lo, humble shepherds, hastening to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.  
We too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps.

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain

# The Story of Christmas

**Storytellers:** Rev. Laura Shennum, Bree Shennum, Claire Cover, Michael Bossier, Tad Hopp

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Our Story Begins		Rev. Laura Shennum
Vignette	<i>Elizabeth</i>	Bree Shennum
Music	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Adolphe Adam Nancy Munn, soprano; Mark Sumner, pianist
Reading	The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 1:18-25	Mari Magaloni Ramos
Vignette	<i>Mary's Mother</i>	Claire Cover
*Carol	<i>The First Nowell</i>	

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.

Nowell, No-well, 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.

Nowell, No-well, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

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.

Nowell, No-well, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

Our Story Continues		Rev. Laura Shennum
Vignette	<i>King Herod</i>	Michael Bossier
Music	<i>Alleluia</i>	Wolfgang A. Mozart Kate Offer, soprano; Wm. García Ganz, pianist



Reading      The Gospel of Luke Chapter 2: 1-20

Rev. Laura Shennum

Vignette      *Stable Hand*

Tad Hopp

\*Carol      *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a Holy light

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born  
That Jesus Christ is born

Homily

Rev. Laura Shennum

Bell Carol      *Joy to the World!*

G. F. Handel arr. Martha Thompson  
UUSF Bell Choir; Reiko Oda Lane, director

Offering

The offering this evening 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. Read more about Up on Top on page 9 or go to their website at <https://www.upontop.org/>. 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, 12-24-23, "Sunday Plate".



Offertory      *Silent Night, O Holy Night*

arranged by Sue Mitchell-Wallace  
William Harvey, trumpeter; Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Prayer and Meditation

Rev. Laura Shennum

Music      *Gesu Bambino*

Pietro Yon  
Kate Offer, Nancy Munn, soloists; Mark Sumner, pianist

Candlelighting

Bree Shennum, Claire Cover

Music      *Once in Royal David's City*

Henry Gauntlett  
Morgen Warner, soloist; UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director

\*Carol      *Silent Night*

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.

Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Child of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Taking the Light with Us

Mari Magaloni Ramos

\*Carol      *Joy to the World*

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. Laura Shennum

Postlude     *And the Glory of the Lord*, from *Messiah*     George F. Handel  
UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Please be seated for the postlude and allow clergy to recess before you leave.  
Ushers will be collecting candles as you leave.

\*Recessional Congregational Carols     *Deck the Hall / We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

Deck the hall with boughs of holly  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
'Tis the season to be jolly  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la  
Don we now our gay apparel  
Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la.  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

See the blazing Yule before us. Fa-la-la  
Strike the harp and join the. Fa-la-la  
Follow me in merry measure. Fa-la-la  
While I tell of Yuletide treasure. Fa-la-la

Fast away the old year passes. Fa-la-la  
Hail the new year, lads and lasses Fa-la-la  
Sing we joyous, all together. Fa-la-la  
Heedless of the wind and weather. Fa-la-la

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year.  
Good tidings to you wherever you are,  
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.

# SERVICE NOTES

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

Mari Magaloni Ramos, Worship Associate

Bree Shennum; Tad Hopp; Michael Bossier; Claire Cover; Tad Hopp, Worship Participants

## Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, Organist & Bell Choir Director

Mark Sumner, Music Director

Wm. García Ganz, Pianist

William Harvey, Trumpeter

Nancy Munn, Soprano

Kate Offer, Soprano

Morgen Warner, Soprano

## Choir

### Pianist:

Wm. García Ganz

### Soprano:

Lila Bailey

Nancy Hardies

Amy Kelly

Lisa Lim

Maggie McGrann

Judith Morrow

Nancy Munn

Judy Payne

Millie Phillips

Morgen Warner

Kathé Cairns

Mary Castiglia

Betsy Darr

Vicki Lang

Kelli Murray

Amy Puliafito

Tina Shibue

Judy Strachan

Millie Phillips

Olivia Puerta

Leandra Ramm

Tina Shibue

Laurel Sprigg

Judy Strachan

Morgen Warner

Shannon Warto

### Alto:

Carol Davison

Linda Enger

Megan Lehmer

Kristen Nickell

Brielle Nelson

Janet Scott

Joan Snyder

Anne Steele

Carrie Steere-Salazar

Judith Stoddard

Bari Cornet

Barbara Delaney

Akane Ota

Sharon Smith

### Tenor:

David King

Logan McDougal

Gordon Murray

Brett Allen

Ted Arnold

David Jones

Ben Rudiak-Gould

Dean Wyrzykowski

### Bass:

Allen Howard

Bill Klingelhoffer

Edward Whitmore

Tom Bier

Jack Darr

Richard Fey

Andrew Kessler

Eric Shackelford

Owen Whitmore

### Drummer:

Jon Silk

## Bell Choir

Diane Allen

Theda Burke

Cheryl Deaner

Barbara Delaney

Davia Ferree

Madalyn Fernandez

Maddy Gerlach

David Jones

Amy Kelly

Maric Munn

Judy Nichols

Kathleen Quenneville

Janet Scott

Harold Stoddard

Chris Valentine

## Support Team

Eric Shackelford, Camera

Shulee Ong, Camera

Jackson Munn, Camera

Jonathan Silk, Director of Communications

Dan Barnard, Facilities Manager

Thomas Brown, Sexton

Jose Matias Pineda, Sexton

Francisco Castellanos, Sexton

Linda Messner, Head Usher

## Flowers

Judy Payne, Amy Kelly, Carrie Steere-Salazar, Athena Papadakos

# Poinsettia Dedications 2023



In memory of Tad Hopp's mother, Carol Tanner.

In loving memory of Lonette Diana Steed McCauley.

In loving memory of Edie Arizona Steed.

In loving memory of Ruth Bowles Eckstine.

In loving memory of Marie Henderson Jarriel.

From the Hamner Family.

In memory of Gloria Kulik.

In memory of Barbara Workman.

In memory of Marie and Art Pesch. With much love, Liz and Josh.

"Le donne Italiane," who nurtured me in my youth, from Gino Fortunato.

In beloved memory of my brother, John Greene, and my parents, Alma and Paul Greene,  
from Meg Whitaker-Green.

For Bart and Nancy McDougal from Logan McDougal.

In memory of Cathy Lyon, from the UUSF Chaplains.

In loving memory of Duane, Dad, and Grampa Raeburn from Nikki, Josh, and Grammy.

In loving memory of Tod Mikuriya MD from Maryjane Mikuriya.

In memory of my lovely daughter Diana Castiglia from Mary Castiglia.

In remembrance of my Mom, Nellie from Natalie Shuttleworth.

Dedicated to the innocent victims of the war in Gaza.

In loving memory of Mike Thomas.





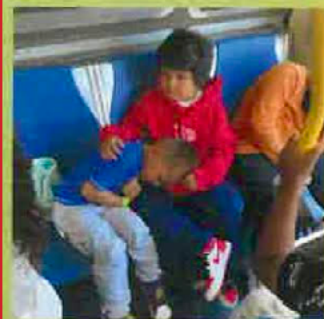
UP ON TOP was founded by members of the Unitarian Universalist Society in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood in 2001 with a mission to provide free childcare and support services to neighborhood families.

Today, 22 years later, our mission is to provide YEAR-ROUND, TUITION-FREE after-school and summer programs, consisting of academic assistance, enrichment opportunities, recreational activities, neighborhood exploration, community service and family support services to K-5th grade students and their families.

Open to all, UP ON TOP proudly provides services in San Francisco's Tenderloin & Western Addition neighborhoods in an INCLUSIVE, CULTURALLY-DIVERSE, and RESPECTFUL manner to participants, families, staff and partners.

Further, UP ON TOP provides employment and professional training opportunities to ALL STUDENTS who complete our program. It is a core tenant of our program that our staff will not only reflect our community but will set an example for its diversity, inclusion and professional development opportunities.

Learn More at <https://www.upontop.org/>



# 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](mailto:cpatchlindsay@gmail.com)

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## **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](mailto: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](http://www.uusf.org/foodpantry)) or go to [bit.ly/foodpantryuusf](http://bit.ly/foodpantryuusf). If you have any questions, please contact Hanna Hart [hanna@harts.net](mailto:hanna@harts.net) or Ben Bear [welcome.corporate.overlords@gmail.com](mailto:welcome.corporate.overlords@gmail.com)

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## **Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Gathering: January 7 from 9:30 am, On Zoom**

This sacred space is open to our members and friends who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color. The meeting takes place by Zoom on the first Sunday of every month 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, 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.

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## **Joy-Lilyin Art Reception - Sunday, January 7, 12:30 pm, 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, 12:30 to 2:30 pm in the King Rooms.

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## **Forum, Jan. 21 9 am (Breakfast). 9:30 am (event) : Humanizing Immigration with Bill Hing - [www.uusf.org/forum](http://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—and dealing with immigration judges who believe attempted rape is not persecution or threats to sick a dog on noisy children in the courtroom. He applauds those who are engaged in the disruption of the current system.



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

## "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.

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## "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.

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## "Belonging" - Sunday, January 14, 2024, 10:50 am

Alexis de Tocqueville, a French political philosopher, visited the United States in the early 1830s and was impressed by the ways Americans associated with one another. Even 200 years ago, this visitor was impressed by all the ways Americans found to belong – to faith, clubs, civic endeavors, family, and land. Unitarian Universalism gave Rev. Sonya an immediate sense of belonging over 25 years ago when she first attended a service in her hometown in New Mexico. She will explore what belonging means today as UUSF prepares to explore the promises we make together with a covenant later this month.

## 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/>



Members hang the greens that were decorated during the service on the chancel on Sunday, December 17, 2023.