“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

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     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

Our Story Begins

Rev. Laura Shennum

Vignette  Elizabeth
          Bree Shennum

Music  O Holy Night
       Adolphe Adam
       Nancy Munn, soprano; Mark Sumner, pianist

Reading  The Gospel of Matthew Chapter 1:18-25
         Mari Magaloni Ramos

Vignette  Mary's Mother
          Claire Cover

*Carol  The First Nowell

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  King Herod
          Michael Bossier

Music  Alleluia
       Wolfgang A. Mozart
       Kate Offer, soprano; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Vignette  Stable Hand  Tad Hopp

*Carol  Go Tell It On the Mountain

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

While shepherds kept their watching  The shepherds feared and trembled
O’er silent flocks by night  When, lo! Above the Earth
Behold throughout the heavens  Rang out the angel chorus
There shone a Holy light  That hailed our Savior's birth

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  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 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. 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), 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
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.

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.
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!

*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

Pianist: Wm. García Ganz

Altos: Carol Davison, Linda Enger, Megan Lehner, 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


Drummer: Jon Silk

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

Bell Choir

Eric Shackelford, Camera, Shulee Ong, Camera, Jackson Munn, Camera, Jonathan Silk, Director of Communications, Judy Payne, Amy Kelly, Carrie Steere-Salazar, Athena Papadakos

Support Team

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
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.

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

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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.

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**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

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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. 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**

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.
"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.

“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)

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/3A8Zl73
Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
415-776-4580 / 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.