"Let Go of the Old & Ring in the New: Fire Communion"

Sunday, December 31, 10:50 AM, 2023
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Order of Service  
Sunday December 31, 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  Preludio  Johann Sebastian Bach  Allen Biggs, percussionist

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.

*Hymn 58  Ring Out, Wild Bells  GONFALON ROYAL  Akane Ota, songleader; Elliott Etzkorn, pianist

(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 6 TO VIEW HYMN)
Brief Invitations  

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 below the skies; let songs of hope and faith arise; Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung through every land, by every tongue.

Reading  

“When We Pause to Remember…” by Rev. Alicia Forde  

From “To Wake, To Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience”

Time of Prayer/Meditation  

Rev. Laura Shennum

Music  

Tempo de Bourree  

Bach  

Allen Biggs, percussionist

Letting Go  

Rev. Laura Shennum
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)), 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, 12-31-23, "Sunday Plate"

![Donate Button](DONATE)

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**Offertory**

* **Sarabande**
  
  **Bach**
  
  **Allen Biggs, percussionist**

**Beginning Anew**

**Rev. Laura Shennum**

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**Hymn 350**

* *The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time*
  
  **MCKEE**
  
  **Akane Ota, songleader; Elliott Etzkorn, pianist**

*(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 7 TO VIEW HYMN)*

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**Benediction**

**Rev. Laura Shennum**

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**Postlude**

* **Double**
  
  **Bach**
  
  **Allen Biggs, percussionist**

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*Please rise in body or spirit.*
PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Dennis Adams, Worship Associate
Diane Allen, Board of Trustees

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

Musicians
Allen Biggs, Percussionist
Akane Ota, Songleader
Elliott Etzkorn, Pianist

ABOUT

Allen Biggs has been first-call percussionist for musical theatre in San Francisco for over 20 years. He is the Principal Timpanist with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, as well as Principal Percussionist with the Santa Rosa Symphony. Allen performs regularly with such groups as the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Marin Symphony, and backs up groups such as The Who when they are on tour. Bear Valley, Cabrillo and Mendocino are some of the summer festivals where he has performed. Allen can be heard on many sound-tracks and was featured on a recording with the Handel and Haydn Society, which won two Grammy awards. An advocate for both new music and music education, Allen highlights the music of composers such as Frank Zappa when he performs in schools in the Bay Area.
Ring Out, Wild Bells

1. Ring out, wild bells, to the wild, wild sky, the flying cloud, the frosty light; the year is dying in the night; ring out, wild bells, and let it die.
2. Ring out the old, ring in the new, ring, happy bells, across the snow; the year is going, let it go, ring out the false, ring in the true.
3. Ring out the grief that saps the mind for those that here we see no more; ring out the feud of rich and poor; ring in redress to human-kind.
4. Ring out false pride in place and blood, the civic slander and the spite; ring in the love of truth and right; ring in the common love of good.
The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time

1. The ceaseless flow of endless time no
   one can check or stay; we'll view the past with
   no regret, nor future with dismay.

2. The present slips into the past, and
dream-like melts away; the breaking of to-
morrow's dawn begins a new today.

3. The past and future ever meet in
the eternal now: to make each day a
thing complete shall be our New Year vow.

Words: John Andrew Storey, 1935–
Music: African American spiritual, c. 1750–1875, adapt. and harmony by
Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

HERE AND NOW
TODAY!

Join us for a free screening of the documentary “Israelism”
Today 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

HAPPENINGS

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

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.

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

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.

Forum, Jan. 21 at 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.
"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, 8:30 am: A simple, centering loving kindness meditation practice which is appropriate for all religious backgrounds and levels of meditation. Equanimity Practice - Fridays, 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/

What’s Up With That: Interactive Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 24, 10:50 am, 2023