

# "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](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      *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

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 6 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

## Greeting One Another

## Unison Covenant

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

TALLIS' CANON



From all that dwell be - low the skies; let songs of hope and  
 De to - dos ba - jo el gran sol; sur - ja, es - pe - ran - za

5  
 faith a - rise; Let peace, good - will on earth be sung through  
 fé, a - mor; ver - dad, y be - lle - za can - tan - do, de

8  
 ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.  
 ca - da tie - rra, ca - da voz. A - men.

## Reading

“When We Pause to Remember...” by Rev. Alicia Forde  
 From “To Wake, To Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience”

Dennis Adams

## 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"



Offertory

*Sarabande*

Bach

Allen Biggs, percussionist

Beginning Anew

Rev. Laura Shennum

\*Hymn 350

*The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time*

MCKEE

Akane Ota, songleader; Elliott Etzkorn, pianist

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 7 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

\*Benediction

Rev. Laura Shennum

Postlude

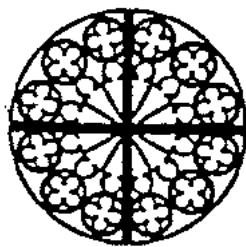
*Double*

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

$\text{♩} = 132$

1. Ring out, wild bells, to the wild, wild sky, the fly - ing  
 2. Ring out the old, ring in the new, ring, hap - py  
 3. Ring out the grief that saps the mind for those that  
 4. Ring out false pride in place and blood, the civ - ic

cloud, the frost - y light: the year is dy - ing  
 bells, a - cross the snow: the year is go - ing,  
 here we see no more; ring out the feud of  
 slan - der and the spite; ring in the love of

in the night; ring out, wild bells, and let it die.  
 let it go; ring out the false, ring in the true.  
 rich and poor; ring in re - dress to hu - man - kind.  
 truth and right; ring in the com - mon love of good.

350

# The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time

$\text{♩} = 96$

1. The cease - less flow of end - less time no  
 2. The pres - ent slips in - to the past, and  
 3. The past and fu - ture ev - er meet in

one can check or stay; we'll view the past with  
 dream - like melts a - way; the break - ing of to -  
 the e - ter - nal now: to make each day a

no re - gret, nor fu - ture with dis - may.  
 mor - row's dawn be - gins a new to - day.  
 thing com - plete 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

MCKEE  
 C.M.

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](mailto: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](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)

### 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.

### 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](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)

## **"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/3A8Zl73>

# 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/>



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

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