“What They Taught Us?”

Sunday, June 16, 2024, 10:50 am
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Opening Words and Welcome    Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Brief Invitations   Sam King, Vice Moderator, Board of Trustees

Unison Chalice Lighting

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.

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, strongly recommend 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       Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Haruka Ota, cellist; Mark Sumner, pianist

Opening Words and Welcome    Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Unison Chalice Lighting

*Hymn 128       For All That Is Our Life

SHERMAN ISLAND

(CCLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 6-7 TO VIEW HYMN)

Brief Invitations   Sam King, Vice Moderator, Board of Trustees
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. Amen.

Reflection

Sam King, Worship Associate

Music ねむの花 (Nemu no Hana / The Silk Flower)  
Yoshinao Nakata  
Akane Ota, director; Mark Sumner, pianist

The Silk Flower

You are tired, as if saying "go to sleep," the silk tree flower blooms in the evening. An evening like a dream, those are gentle, pale flowers, clusters of blossoms.

Someone sings in the wind, like a bird, like light. Even if I recall it intermittently it does not take form in voice. That is an old song of love.

On the shore of this transformed world, bitterly standing still, in my heart, Once again, a faint dream is revived, clusters of blossoms, the silk tree flower urging dreams. Nestled in gentle arms, forgetting the sleep that melts into love, Only painful sleep beckons me, on the fast-flowing shore of this world.

Time of Prayer/Meditation

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern
Offering

This morning’s offering will benefit the work of Friends Outside (FriendsOutside.org). Read more about them on the next page. 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, 06-16-24, "Sunday Plate."

DONATE

Offertory Music いのちの歌 (Song of life)  
Takatsugu Muramatsu  
Akane Ota, director; Mark Sumner, pianist

Every time I ask myself the meaning of living, the warmth of my beloved people crosses my heart.
The miracle that we were able to meet in a corner of this planet is a treasure more precious than any jewel.
There are days when I want to cry, days when I mourn in despair. At times like these, your shadow is by my side, snuggling close to me.
When we sing together, it brings back nostalgic memories. That gentle warmth of the sunset in my hometown.
What is really important is hidden and cannot be seen. There is irreplaceable joy in these little days.
Someday, everyone will say goodbye to this planet. The time will come, but life will be passed on. What I was born with and what I was raised with.
Things I met and things I laughed at. Thank you for all that. Thank you for this life.

Sermon “What They Taught Us?”  
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 348  
Guide My Feet  
GUIDE MY FEET  
(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGE 8 TO VIEW HYMN)

*Benediction

Postlude Allegro  
Antonio Vivaldi  
Yuki Ota and Haruka Ota, cellists, Mark Sumner, pianist

*Please rise in body or spirit.
PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Sam King, Worship Associate

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

Musician
Akane Ota, director
Kei Uchida and Tetsuya Taura, singers
Yuki Ota and Haruka Ota, cellists
Mark Sumner, pianist

OFFERTORY

Many people forget that when a parent is incarcerated, the time they do on the inside is also done by their children. An estimated 2.7 million children in California have a parent currently in the California adult criminal justice system, including approximately 195,000 who have parents in a state prison. Life changes when your parent is incarcerated. Studies have shown that kids need to stay connected to their parents for health and mental health reasons. Families’ finances also change. Children still need school supplies, clothing, food, etc. Making a donation to this fund allows us to assist children and families of incarcerated parents with the needs for daily living that are missing as a result of incarceration. Please donate today! For nearly 70 years, Friends Outside has been providing services to incarcerated and reentering people, their families, and communities. Thank you for your generous donation on this day when we think of parents and their children.

ABOUT

Haruka Ota, a 14-year-old cellist and incoming 9th grader at Burlingame High School, will start in August 2024. Under the guidance of Mr. Eric Sung at the San Francisco Conservatory’s Pre-College program, Haruka’s exceptional talent has earned her spots at the Junior Bach Festival in 2022, 2023, and 2024. She won the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra Concert Opportunity in 2021, the 1st prize at the San Francisco Innovative International Music Competition in October 2023, and the 2nd prize at the American Protégé International Competition in 2024.

Yuki Ota, an 11-year-old cellist and 7th grader at Burlingame Intermediate School, will be active in music starting in August 2024. She is a member of the Golden Gate State Youth Orchestra and the Galbraith Honor Strings program. Additionally, Yuki participates in the advanced-level chamber orchestra and plays flute in the brass band (both activities at school). 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, receiving guidance from Mr. Eric Sung.

Akane Ota formed the ensemble trio AO in preparation for conducting the Kumamoto Chuo High School Choir Competition this summer. They will deliver heartfelt songs that connect the blue skies of San Francisco and Japan. Today marks our debut performance in a public setting.
For All That Is Our Life

1. For needs which others serve, for services we give,
   for sorrow we must bear, for failures, pain, and loss,
   for all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;

2. For work and its rewards, for hours of rest and love,
   for each new thing we learn, for fearful hours that pass,
   for all life is a gift which we are called to use to

3. For work and its rewards, for hours of rest and love,
   for each new thing we learn, for fearful hours that pass,
   for all life is a gift which we are called to use to

4. For needs which others serve, for services we give,
   for sorrow we must bear, for failures, pain, and loss,
   for all that is our life we sing our thanks and praise;

Words: Bruce Findlow, 1922–

LOVE AND COMPASSION
build the common good
come with praise and thanks
build the common good
and
come with praise and thanks
for
and
make our own days glad.
all that is our life.
make our own days
1.-3.
glad.
all that is our life.
Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet
2. Hold my hand while I run this race.
3. Stand by me
4. Search my heart

Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Stand by me
Search my heart

Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race, for I
Stand by me
Search my heart
don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

Words: Traditional
Music: Spiritual from the collection of Willis Laurence James, 1900–1966
harmony by Wendell Whalum, 1932–

GUIDE MY FEET
Irregular
TODAY!

Film and Discussion: Where Olive Trees Weep - Sunday, June 16, 12:30 pm, TSK Room

UUJME and HRWG are presenting a film called Where Olive Trees Weep, which explores the Palestinian people’s struggle. The film aims to raise funds to pay legal fees for students arrested in pro-Palestine encampments. The film shares universally human stories of intergenerational pain, trauma, and resilience, aiming to inspire compassion and justice. It contributes to ending the occupation in Palestine, achieving equal rights and fair treatment, and spreading healing for intergenerational trauma cycles in the region. A $20 donation is requested from each individual but we will not exclude anyone due to insufficient funds.

Young Adult Lunch outing: Village Cafe - Sunday June 16, meet at UUSF after worship

Join UUSF young adults on the third Sunday of each month for lunch at Village Cafe after worship. This event is open to all 18-39 year olds, new or long-time members. As a special treat to celebrate the end of the year, lunch is on UUSF this Sunday. For any questions, contact Membership & Young Adult Manager Emma Wakeling at ewakeling@uusf.org.

HAPPENINGS

Join Us for some General Assembly Watch Parties!

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. We will be hosting watch parties for select General Assembly events. To attend, please register and let us know you are coming at https://bit.ly/45ltuyK or scan the QR Code.

The events are listed below and for more info go to https://www.uusf.org/#ga-watch-parties

- Wed, Jun 19 4pm-6pm - Berry Street Lecture
- Thurs, Jun 20 - no events hosted
- Fri, Jun 21 3:30pm-5pm - Service of the Living Tradition
- Sat, Jun 22 4pm-6pm - Ware Lecture
- All events will be hosted in the Fireside room.

Nazi Town, USA: Exploring America’s Right-Wing Shift in the 20th Century - Friday, June 21, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Sensible Cinema is screening the documentary Nazi Town, USA on Friday, June 21, at 6:30 pm on Zoom. The film explores the 20th-century history of the United States, particularly between World War I and World War II, and the right-wing political shifts during that time. The documentary, directed by Peter Yost, traces the development of the German American Bund, a group of Nazi sympathizers in the 1930s, using archival photos, films, historians, and journalists. The screening will be available exclusively on Zoom only. Website: https://www.uusf.org/

Join us for the SCW Scholarship Committee's End of Year Celebration!

Sunday, June 23, 12:30 pm, TSK Room & Courtyard

The SCW Scholarship Committee is excited to invite you to our end of school year celebration on Sunday, June 23rd 12:30 - 2:00 pm in TSK Room and Courtyard. We will start with a short program and then enjoy a delicious lunch in the company of our amazing scholars and mentors. We are requesting a $20 donation so that we can offer the lunch to our scholars for free. Please sign up at https://bit.ly/4e2Lcqa by June 22 or scan the QR code so we can get the right amount of food from the caterer. More info at https://www.uusf.org/scw scholarships
Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Gathering: July 7 from 9:30 am in the Stebbins Room and 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, July 7, 12:30 pm, Fireside Room
Those who are new to our church are encouraged to come and join us in the Fireside Room after the service so that they can get to know some of our members and learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. You will get the opportunity to meet other people in the community, ask any questions that you might have, and learn how to become involved in our activities and ministries. This is a wonderful opportunity.

Feed Our Community: Volunteer at the Interfaith Food Pantry - Saturday, July 20, 2024
Join UUSF members and community volunteers to distribute groceries to 325+ households on Saturday, July 20, 2024. Food prices are high, and we are needed now. Volunteer shifts start at 8:15 am, and 7:30 am if you can help unload the truck. Go to www.uusf.org/foodpantry to sign up, check out the calendar, and if you have questions, contact Hanna Hart or Ben Bear.

Limited Summer Hours at the Center
This summer, organized activities and meetings are the only times the Center is open throughout the week. All year long, we take reservations.
To obtain further information, email reservations@uusf.org, check out our calendar of events at https://bit.ly/uusfcalendar, or scan the QR code with your phone.
See you on Sunday!

Adult Spiritual Growth Classes (www.uusf.org/are)

Ministers' Book Group: June - Hijab Butch Blues: A Memoir by Lamya H - June 26
In our June book gathering, we will read the memoir of a young, queer, and hijab-wearing Muslim who comes to the US and her quest to find and be herself. Things about being an immigrant make that hard, and her family and larger community of Muslims can too. It is honest and searching, but the surprise and delight is how her search, within her faith tradition, leads her to passages, stories, and people in the Quran that can be read as liberatory and supportive of her own story, life choices, and journey. We will meet on Zoom Wednesday, June 26th, 6:30-8 pm. More Info and to register: https://www.uusf.org/are

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.

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT (under construction)
In an effort to make the world a better place, we support each other’s journey to seek truth with openness, curiosity and respect for different perspectives and paths.

As love is our spirit, we commit to respect, accept, listen to and support each other.

We hold ourselves and each other accountable by continually assessing our individual and community actions toward living into our covenant. This will include speaking up when someone’s actions are not aligned.

We commit to be in community with openness and loving kindness, acknowledging our own biases and differing perspectives.

We welcome the newcomer, we commit to building trust with each other, we celebrate differences and make space for repair when harm occurs.

UUSF MEDIA
View our videos http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia
Check out our Podcasts https://www.uusf.org/worship-archives
Go to our website at https://www.uusf.org/


“Metaphors for Us”
Sunday, June 9, 2024, 10:50 am

Scan the QR code to visit our UUSF Media YouTube channel and view upcoming and previously recorded services.