

"Seeing Nature and Presence Through the Eyes of Robin Wall Kimmerer"

Sunday, December 1, 2024, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



Order of Service
Sunday December 1, 2024
10:50 AM - 12:15 PM

Livestreamed at bit.ly/uusfmedia

New to UUSF? Complete Our Connections form at <https://bit.ly/uuconnections2024>

A Guide for Newcomers - What to Expect During Worship (read at <https://bit.ly/newcomersguide-uusf>)

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.

Stay Engaged: Explore Our Busy Hand Activity Station

Did you know we have a busy hand activity station at the back of the sanctuary for all ages?

You can find fidget toys, coloring, and so much more.

Check it out if you need something to keep your hands busy during the service.

Please return items before you leave the sanctuary.

Prelude *Jerusalem Concerto*

William Gunther Sprecher
Rami Bar-Niv, pianist

Opening Words and Welcome

Richard Davis-Lowell, Worship Associate

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.

Greeting One Another

*Hymn No. 226

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Akané Ota, songleader; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

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

Land Acknowledgement

*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 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

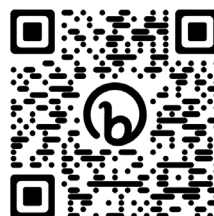
8
ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
ca - da tie - rra, ca - da voz. A - men.

Reflection

Richard Davis-Lowell

Offering

Our offering this morning will be taken to support the work of the **Segorea Te Land Trust**, an organization run by Ohlone women to rematriate the land. [To learn more click or turn to page 5.](#) 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 Special Sunday Offering. 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, **12-01-24**.



Offertory Music *Waltz in A-Flat*

Frederic Chopin Rami

Rami Bar-Niv, pianist

Meditation

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

In Words

In Silence...

*During this time if you have lost someone close to you in the past year,
we invite you to stand or raise your hand in silent witness.*

In Music

Reading from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Music *Prayer*

Rami Bar-Niv

Rami Bar-Niv, pianist

Homily "Seeing Nature and Presence
Through the Eyes of Robin Wall Kimmerer"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn No. 70

Heap High the Farmer's Wintry Hoard

LAND OF REST

Akané Ota, songleader; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

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

Invitations

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Postlude *Malagueña*

Ernesto Lecuona

Rami Bar-Nivi, pianist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Richard Davis-Lowell, Worship Associate

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Francisco Castellanos; Eli Boshears Camera Operators
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director
Thomas Brown, Matias Pineda Salazar, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons
Amy Kelly, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Rami Bar-Niv, pianist
Akané Ota, songleader
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

ABOUT

Rami Bar-Niv is a highly acclaimed Israeli pianist known for his extensive international concert career. Born in Tel Aviv and a graduate of the Rubin Academy of Music and Mannes College of Music, he has won numerous awards, including the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Competition. Bar-Niv performs globally across various continents. He made history as the first Israeli artist to perform in Egypt after the Begin/Sadat Peace Treaty and has gained popularity through his recordings, which have received critical acclaim from major publications like The New York Times and The Boston Globe. Today is Rami's birthday, and he will be performing at the Forte House in San Francisco at 6 PM to celebrate. The concert will feature a mix of classical pieces and original compositions, promising an intimate and memorable evening. Attendees can enjoy wine and a gourmet buffet for a \$25 donation. RSVP by emailing fortehouse1498@gmail.com or dial 415-627-8436.

OFFERTORY

Our offering this morning will be taken to support the work of the **Segorea Te Land Trust**, an organization run by Ohlone women to rematriate the land. The gift will be our contribution toward the Shuumi Land Tax, a voluntary annual contribution that non-Indigenous people living on traditional Ohlone territory make to support the critical work of the Segorea Te' Land Trust. For more information, please see the website, <https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/about/>.

$\text{♩} = 54$

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more

crown-ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y

Peo-ple, look
 a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour-ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.

east and sing to - day:

Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Peo-ple, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, used by perm. of David Higham Assoc. Ltd.
 Music: Traditional French carol, harmony by Martin Shaw, 1875-1958, used by
 perm. of Oxford University Press

BESANÇON
 8.7.9.8.8.7.

A D V E N T

Heap High the Farmer's Wintry Hoard

70

$\text{♩} = 52$

1. Heap high the farm - er's win - try hoard! Heap
 2. Through vales of grass and meads of flowers our
 3. We dropped the seed over hill and plain be -

high the gold - en corn! No rich - er gift has
 plows their fur - rows made, while on the hills the
 neath the sun of May, and fright - ened from our

au - tumn poured from out the lav - ish horn!
 sun and showers of change - ful A - pril played.
 sprout - ing grain the rob - ber crows a - way.

4. All through the long, bright days of June
 its leaves grew green and fair,
 and waved in hot mid-summer's noon
 its soft and yellow hair.

5. And now, with autumn's moonlit eyes,
 its harvest time has come,
 we pluck away the frosted leaves
 and bear the treasure home.

TODAY!

The Death Penalty is Dying. Sunday Forum with Bob Bacon - Sunday, December 1, 9:30 am, TSK Room/Zoom

On December 1 at 9:30 am, Bob Bacon will lead a discussion titled "The Death Penalty is Dying" in the TSK Room and on Zoom. The session will explore the decline of the death penalty in California and across the U.S., examining the reasons for its decrease and persistence in certain areas, as well as strategies for its complete abolition. Bob Bacon, an attorney in Oakland with extensive experience in capital cases and a commitment to criminal justice reform, has been involved in this field since 1990 and is a long-time member of the Unitarian Universalist community. A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. More info at <https://t.ly/20241201UUForum>

Black, Indigenous, & People Of Color Group - 1st Sunday of the month from 9:30-10:50 am, Stebbins Room

Join us for a conversation and community-building event open to anyone who identifies as Black, Indigenous, or a person of color (BIPOC). Meetings are held via Zoom and in person in the Stebbins Room on the first Sunday of each month, typically from 9:30 to 10:50 am. To receive information about the next meeting or to be added to the mailing list, please email bipoc@uusf.org.

THOMAS STARR KING AT 200: What Most Don't Know About Him - Sunday, Dec. 1, 12:30 pm, TSK Room/Zoom

People often remember Starr King for his role in "keeping California in the Union." Yet his impact was far more than political: it was religious, cultural, educational, environmental, and philanthropic. **Rev. John Buehrens**, in addition to serving as the 6th President of the UUA (1993-2001), has served the Starr King School for the Ministry as a trustee, faculty member, and friend. He retired in 2017 as Sr. Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, which will host and co-sponsor this first of several Starr King School for the Ministry events aimed at celebrating TSK's 200th by raising at least \$200,000 for the school named for him. We will offer a complimentary light lunch that includes sandwiches, salads, cookies, and sparkling water for all attendees of the event. Zoom Link: <https://t.ly/TSK200>

New to this community? New to Unitarian Universalism? - Sunday, December 1, 12:30 pm, Fireside Room

Newcomers are welcome to join us after the service to meet some of our members and learn more about our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. It's a great chance to meet other folks in the community, ask any questions you might have, and find out how to get involved in our programs and ministries. Free childcare is available to attendees who need it. We look forward to meeting you!

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

After services next week, Sunday, December 8, come to the Holiday Faire! All are welcome. Please refer to the flyer in this Order of Services for further details, and feel free to join the Holiday Faire Committee in singing the "Holiday Faire Song".

“Come, come, come, come—come to the Holiday Fair.

Come, come, come, come – Your friends will all be there!

We will have some food and maybe some wine.

And we're all going to have a very good time—

So come, come, come, come—come to the Holiday Fair!”

Poetry and Lunch with Robert Lavett Smith - Tuesday, December 10, noon to 12:30 pm on Zoom

This is a Zoom gathering to reflect on our monthly theme poem for December with its author, our own member and friend, Robert Lavett Smith. If you haven't had a chance to reflect in a group, this is your chance. For others of you who have read it in your small groups, heard it as part of worship, or spent time with it on your own, here is a chance to bounce your mind, heart, and spirit through and up against it again and see how things change. Go <https://www.uusf.org/soulmatters> to read the poem, in case you haven't had a chance to sit with it! Join us on December 10th at Noon. No advance participation necessary.

To register go to <https://t.ly/poemandlunch1224>

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

December Minister's Book Group - *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder **Wednesday, December 11, 6:30-8 PM (Zoom)**

This short book is already being quoted widely in our post-election world. Written in 2017 by Snyder, who is a professor of history at Yale and faculty advisor for the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, Snyder takes his scholarship of nationalism, Marxism, political movements, and European and World War II history and distills what shows up when Tyranny is slouching its way toward our corner of the world. A small book (Vanessa promises a quick read), this book offers one framework for how to step into the new year in our corner of the emerging world order. Register: <https://t.ly/MBG122024>

Festive Movie Night - Wednesday, December 11, 7 PM at UUSF

To ring in the festive season, the 20s and 30s community will be getting together for a movie night! We'll create our own private cinema with a projector, twinkly lights, pizza, popcorn, and a film to get us into the festive spirit. We'll vote on which film to watch based on your seasonal recommendations! Use the registration form (<https://t.ly/2024MovieNight>) to RSVP and to share your favorite holiday movie(s), and let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Honor Your Loved Ones This Holiday Season with a Poinsettia Dedication!

Please consider honoring a loved one by dedicating a poinsettia to our holiday display. We recommend a \$40 donation to sustain the sanctuary's floral arrangements throughout the year. Dedications will appear in the order of service on Tuesday, December 24. You may pay by check, and if there is a dedication, name it on the memo line. Alternatively, you may pay via the uusf.org payment donate button at <https://t.ly/uusfdonate>, but select the Sunday Flowers/Poinsettias line. You can enter the dedication online, but we recommend sending it via email to jsilk@uusf.org by 6:00 pm Wednesday, December 18.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

If you're new, please familiarize yourself with the guidance and support available on Sundays below. If you have any questions, an usher, greeter, or member of staff will be happy to help.

COVID-19: 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. If you feel unwell, please stay home and enjoy the service at home via livestream. ([bit.ly/uusfmedia](https://t.ly/uusfmedia))

BUSY HANDS: Explore our Busy Hands activity station located at the back of the sanctuary. You will find things like fidget toys and coloring for all ages to help you keep your hands busy during service. Please return items before leaving the sanctuary.

Pets: If you came with your pet, there is a pet-friendly section on the furthest section on the left toward the front of the sanctuary.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICE: We can provide hearing assistance devices for the service. These are with the ushers in the back of the sanctuary, who will help you get oriented and comfortable with one.

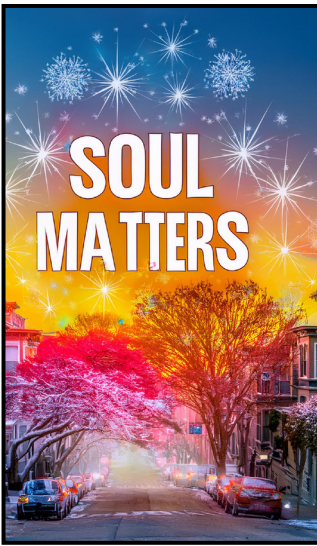
CANDLES: In Unitarian Universalism we light candles to recognize sacred time, honor loved ones, mark important life events, and more. If you have something on your mind for which you'd like to light a candle, you are invited to come forward and light one silently during service.

SOCIAL HOUR: Everyone is welcome and invited to join us at social hour after service. This is normally in the courtyard (when weather permits) or in our Thomas Starr King room at the end of the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Help yourself to beverages and snacks!

Welcome to UUSF: Connect and Discover

NEW TO UUSF? Complete a Connections form to receive our newsletter, which includes a link to the Order of Service and Sunday Livestream. If you're at UUSF in person, you can find a yellow connections card at the welcome table in the gallery outside the sanctuary or in a pew in front of you. You can also fill it out online at <https://bit.ly/uuconnections2024>.

A GUIDE FOR NEWCOMERS: What to Expect During Worship (read at <https://bit.ly/newcomersguide-uusf>)



December: Presence

Woody Allen famously once said, “80% of success in life is just showing up.” Showing up certainly matters. Studies of people who “are lucky” find that those folks who are out circulating in the world, making friends, and making connections “get more lucky.” Being there when opportunity arises matters. Friendships are formed, so often, by “time on task.” Presence—that quality of just being there, steadily, reliably—matters. And this month we want to invite you to pay attention also to the kinds of presence we can pay attention to, to how we can deepen our connection to self, to each other, to the miraculous, mysterious, and unknown, to purpose and calling. It won’t all happen in our services. You might find it in the poem of the month or a small group, a discussion of an issue in the world, a piece of music, or conversation over coffee some day in the courtyard. We invite you to be present to presence!

Poem of the Month

The Kind Assertion

By Robert Lavett Smith

There is a certain presence to December,
Even in places where there is no snow—
The distant sun has dwindled to an ember,
but there is something holy in its glow.
The Druids knew its power long ago;
It promised passage through the longest night,
When cold enclosed the moonrise like a bow
And shadows shivered in the red firelight.
That promise lingers even now, despite
Pervasive smells of woodsmoke and wet clay;
The ground is brown here, but the sky is white,
The dogeared page of the diminished day.
The kind assertion that awaits us there
Disseminates its blessings everywhere.



To engage in ancient practice of meditating on a piece of writing as a spiritual practice.

- Written instructions at <https://t.ly/visioinstructions>
- Participate in our August 4th service and guided meditation go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaAugust>
- Or watch this video recording and have us guide you through the process, go to <https://t.ly/VisioDivinaDecember2024>



Welcome to these invitations to go deeper. Website: <https://www.uusf.org/soulmatters>



UUSF Presents:

Holiday Faire

Sunday, December 8, 12:30pm

Fabulous Chili luncheon

Victorian Tea Room

Art

Original Gifts

Crafts * Vendors

Holiday Pub * Wreaths

Raffle * Caroling * Prizes

* Bring cash or checks if you can. Although tickets for food and drink can be purchased with credit cards, some vendors do not take credit cards.

* Lunch is \$15 for adults, and \$5 for children 7 to 17. Victorian Tea Room. No one turned away for lack of funds.

*Shop for presents, make new friends,
*enjoy games and entertainment
and Have Fun!

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.

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/>



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



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