

"Present to the Season: Holidays Pageant"

Sunday, December 22, 2024, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





Order of Service
Sunday December 22, 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 *Corelli Christmas Concerto* Antonio Vivaldi
Eugenia Wie, violin; Kathryn Marshall, violin; Tatiana Trono, viola;
Vanessa Ruotolo, cello. Allen Biggs, percussion

Opening Words and Welcome Rev. Laura Shennum

Unison Chalice Lighting Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

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 No. 226 *People, Look East* TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

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

Greeting One Another Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Winter Wander *Winter Walk; Here We Come A-Caroling; Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle*

Pageant Story “The Latke That Couldn’t Stop Screaming”
by Lemony Snicket

Rev. Laura Shennum

*Unison Covenant

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

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.

Offering

Rev. Laura Shennum

The offering this morning goes to **Safe & Sound**. Safe & Sound is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen families, build communities, and nurture children. They work to disrupt the cycle of poverty, abuse, and neglect by providing resources, support, and guidance to create better outcomes for children and families living in vulnerable circumstances. They have been working with families for over 50 years. For more information, visit: <https://safeandsound.org/>. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code on page 4, 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, **12-22-24**.



Offertory Music *Winter Dance, Hanukkah, O Hanukkah, Pat-A-Pan*

Meditation

Rev. Laura Shennum

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

Winter Wander *Little Drummer Boy, Winter Stroll, The Christmas Song*

Carol of the Bells

Ukrainian carol, Mykola Leontovych arr. Willhousky

UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director

Pageant Story "The Christmas Blessing" by Erin Guendelsherger Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Winter Wander *White Christmas, Betelehemu*

Pageant Story "Li'l Rabbit's Kwanzaa" by Donna L. Washington Rev. Laura and Rev. Vanessa

Winter Wander *Winter Harmony, O Christmas Tree, Silent Night*

Congregation: 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.

Invitations

Linda Enger, Trustee

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Postlude *Winter Embrace, Winter Wonderland*

Congregation: Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, In the lane, snow is glistening. A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walkin' in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird, here to stay is a new bird. He sings a love song, as we go along, walking in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman, then pretend that he is Parson Brown. He'll say: Are you married? We'll say: No man, but you can do the job when you're in town.

Later on, we'll conspire, as we dream by the fire. To face unafraid, the plans that we've made, walking in a winter wonderland.

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, In the lane, snow is glistening
A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walkin' in a winter wonderland.

→

In the meadow we can build a snowman, and pretend that he's a circus clown. We'll have lots of fun with Mister Snowman, until the other kiddies knock him down.

When it snows, ain't it thrillin',
Though your nose gets a chillin'? We'll frolic and play the inuit way, walkin' in a winter wonderland.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

Linda Enger, Trustee

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong, Eli Boshears, Camera Operators

Jonathan Silk, Communications Director

Thomas Brown, Matias Pineda Salazar, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons

Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Eugenia Wie, violin; Kathryn Marshall, violin;

Tatiana Trono, viola; Vanessa Ruotolo, cello. Allen Biggs, percussion

UUSF Choir

Mark Sumner, director

Wm. García Ganz, pianist

ABOUT

Welcome to the world of “**Winter Wander.**” While listening to this piece, our hope is to take the listener on a journey through a holiday landscape. We open with “Winter Walk,” which sets the stage for our imagined Winter Wander character, who finds herself on a quest to redefine the meaning of the holidays. The song that was part of the inspiration for this is transformed out of its usual upbeat form into a more pensive, pared-down version. Each time you see “Winter,” the theme will return (symbolizing her character); however, as her travels continue, the theme will not only return but also transform as she takes something with her from each scene.

“Winter Wander” is a project that was born during the first year of the coronavirus pandemic. This through-composed composition represents pieces that spoke to our desire for connection and unity, not only for us but for everyone—especially in those extraordinary years of great sadness but incredible hope. We hope that you love listening to “Winter Wander” as much as we loved creating it. —Kathy Marshall & Genie Wie (<https://t.ly/winterwander>)

People, Look East

$\text{♩} = 54$

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

BESAÑÇON
 8.7.9.8.8.7.

Christmas Eve Service

Celebrate the magic of Christmas Eve with us at 4:45 PM on December 24th. Enjoy a heartwarming service filled with candles and carols, creating a perfect atmosphere to embrace the holiday.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

New to this community? New to Unitarian Universalism? - Sunday, January 5, 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. We look forward to meeting you!

Join the Fight: Mock Trial Against PG&E's Reckless Practices!- Saturday, January 11, 2:00 pm, TSK Room

Have you been affected by PG&E's skyrocketing rates or the deadly wildfires that the utility monopoly has sparked? Join the Unitarian Universalist EcoSocialist Network (UUESN) for a mock trial of our nation's criminal utility company, Pacific Gas & Electric, on January 11th at 2 pm in the Thomas Starr King Room.

Poetry and Lunch with Robert Lavett Smith - Tuesday, January 14, noon to 12:30 pm on Zoom

This is a Zoom gathering to reflect on our monthly theme poem for January 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 January 14th at Noon. No advance participation necessary. To register go to <https://t.ly/poemandlunch0114>

Unpacking Racism: Join Us for a Powerful Workshop and Discussion. This event is open to all. Saturday, January 18, at 10:00 am, TSK Room and Zoom

Join us on Saturday, January 18, at 10:00 AM for a mini workshop presented by UUSF BIPOC. The event will feature a screening of "Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America," followed by a discussion and lunch with guest facilitator Milton Reynolds.

Exploring The Fillmore's Deep History with Immersive Stories with Michael Epstein

Sunday Forum, January 12, 9:30 am, TSK Room and on Zoom. light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Fillmore District in San Francisco has a rich yet painful history of exclusion. Journalist Michael Epstein has developed innovative projects over the past six years, including "The Fillmore Eclipse," which explores the decline of the 1950s Bebop scene, and "The Museum of the Hidden City," an award-winning audio and augmented reality experience addressing community responses to redevelopment. As the founder of Walking Cinema and an adjunct faculty member at the California College of the Arts, Epstein focuses on media that engages audiences with important historical narratives. More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

End of Life Series: Wills & Trusts - Sunday, January 19, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, TSK Room

Join Julia Wald & Ben Gale as they discuss the importance of creating and updating wills and trusts. They will share their experiences and help you determine your next steps. If you have questions, contact Rev. Laura at lshennum@uusf.org. Refreshments will be offered. Register at <https://t.ly/PUo0C>.

Bridging Divides: Insights from Palestinian/Israeli Leaders at UUSF Event

SF Friends of Standing Together thanks UUSF for hosting an event with Palestinian/Israeli leaders Rula Daood and Alon-Lee Green on 12/14. Those who missed it can watch the recording at <https://t.ly/202412StandingTogether> and are encouraged to send questions or comments to sffriendsofstandingtogether@gmail.com. Rev. Southern notes the conversation and their work also gives us a roadmap for how to walk through difficult political circumstances that are relevant to our own national situation. Watch it!

Soul Matters

January: Story

Story is our theme for January. We human beings are so many things: tool makers (though not the only tool-making species); language users (though not the only species to communicate in sounds); and also one of the only story-telling species we know—at least so far. Stories are how we make sense of the world. They can tell the hero's journey, teach moral lessons, make us laugh, hold a mirror up to some piece of our world so we can see it clearly, and even show us the shadow side of the human spirit. History is just journalism, Joseph Campbell once said, and not very reliable. “Myth is much more important and true than history.” Myth and story, at their best, capture something deep and powerful, ground us in a narrative, and invite us to throw our life up against or through that narrative. Nothing is more powerful than learning to tell a story about the world that makes sense, a new story to lead the world forward to a new way of being. Come reflect with us on story and what stories are most important to you. Check out our Soul Matters programing at <https://www.uusf.org/soulmatters>

Tales We Tell Ourselves

by Robert Lavett Smith

In January, when the wind is shrill,
We contemplate its sad soliloquies.
As bitter weather bends us to its will,
Street trees embroider doubtful histories.
The spirit of the season faced both ways,
The future as uncertain as the past—
Both faces, so prevailing wisdom says,
Composing chronicles that will not last.
We shelter in the tales we tell ourselves,
Truths deeply rooted in the loam of time;
Our sense of narrative, if nothing else,
Inclines our common lives to the sublime.
And even if we never write a word,
Our stories rescue us from the absurd.

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://www.uusf.org/livestream))

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>)

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>

"Hanging of the Greens"
Sunday, December 15, 2024, 10:50 am



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