

“Christmas Eve”

Tuesday, December 24, 4:45 PM, 2024

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





Order of Service
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
4:45 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

Noël Anciens

Louis-Claude Daquin

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Sicilienne

Maria Theresia von Paradis

Ave Maria

Giulio Caccini

Abendlied

Robert Schumann

Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Haruka Ota, Yuki Ota, cellists; Wm. García Ganz, Mark Sumner, pianists

Wolcum Yole, from *Ceremony of Carols*

Benjamin Britten

Madeleine Gerlach, Morgen Warner, Nancy Munn, sopranos

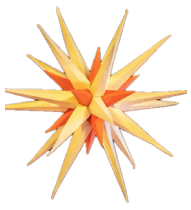
Welcome and Opening Words

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern & Rev. Seanan Fong

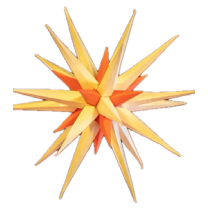
Introit *Ave Maria*

Franz Biebl

Morgen Warner, Nancy Munn, Akane Ota, trio; UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director



The Story of Christmas



Visit of Gabriel to Mary Drawn from *Luke 1:26-33 & 2:1-7 & Matthew 1:18-25*

Richard Davis-Lowell

*Congregational Carol *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.

O come, you Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.

O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul as vision that can see the whole.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.

O come, you Wisdom from on high, from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care, to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.

The Census and the Inn *Drawn from Luke 2:1-7*

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Congregational Carol *Angels we have heard on high*

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo.
Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain

See him in a manger laid
Who the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

*Congregational Carol *The First Nowell*

The First Nowell the angel did say was to
Certain poor shepherds, in fields as they lay, in
Fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a
Cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, No-well, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining
In the east beyond them far, and
To the earth it gave great light, and
So it continued both day and night.

Nowell, No-well, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

And by the light of that same star, three
Magi came from country far; to
Seek a king was their intent, and to
Follow the star wherever it went.

Nowell, No-well, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

The Magi *Drawn from Matthew 2: 1-12*

Richard Davis-Lowell

Music *River*

Joni Mitchell
Lila Bailey, soloist; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Christmas Homily "Light One Candle!"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Music *Maria Wiegenlied*

Max Reger
Ari Nieh, soloist; Haruka Ota, cellist; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Mary sits by the rose bower and rocks her little Jesus,
Softly through the leaves, the warm wind of summer blows.

A brightly coloured bird sings at her feet:
Go to sleep, sweet child; it's time to go to sleep!
Your smile is lovely, your happy sleep lovelier still,
Lay your tired little head against your mother's breast!
Go to sleep, sweet child; it's time to go to sleep!



The offering this evening will benefit **Up on Top**, an afterschool and summer program that serves children in the Tenderloin. Up on Top was founded by members of the Unitarian Universalist Society in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood in 2001 with a mission to provide free childcare and support services to neighborhood families. Learn more at <https://www.upontop.org/>. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR, 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, **12-24-24**.



Offertory Music

*Ukrainian Bell Carol*Mykolo Leontovich
Handbell Choir, Reiko Oda Lane, director

Prayer and Meditation

Rev. Seanan Fong

Candlelighting

Richard Davis-Lowell

Solo

*Silent Night*Roy Hatton
Nancy Munn, soloist; Mark Sumner, pianist

*Carol

Silent Night

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.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Child of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Taking the Light with Us

Amen from *Ave Maria*

Franz Biebl
UUSF Choir

* Recessional Carol *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The child is come: let earth with praises ring.
Let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns: let hearts their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
Let righteousness, its glories show, as far as love is found,
As far as love is found, as far, as far as love is found.

* Recessional Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing on his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"



*Please rise in body or spirit.



SERVICE NOTES



Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Rev. Seanan Fong, Affiliated Community Minister
Richard Davis-Lowell, Worship Associate

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, Organist & Bell Choir Director
Mark Sumner, Music Director
Haruka Ota, Yuki Ota, cellists
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

Lila Bailey, soprano
Madeleine Gerlach, soprano
Nancy Munn, soprano
Ari Nieh, Bass
Akané Ota, Alto
Morgen Warner, soprano

Choir

Pianist:
Wm. García Ganz
Soprano:
Lila Bailey
Nancy Hardies
Amy Kelly
Lisa Lim
Maggie McGrann
Judith Morrow
Nancy Munn
Judy Payne
Millie Phillips
Morgen Warner
Kathé Cairns

Mary Castiglia
Betsy Darr
Claudine Jones
Kelli Murray
Tina Shibue
Judy Strachan
Millie Phillips
Tina Shibue
Judy Strachan
Morgen Warner
Barb Wismer
Tammy Zhu

Alto:
Karen Brooks
Carol Davison
Linda Enger
Audrey May
Talulah Patch
Janet Scott
Joan Snyder
Anne Steele
Carrie Steere-Salazar
Judith Stoddard
Bari Cornet
Barbara Delaney
Akané Ota

Tenor:
David King
Brett Allen
Ted Arnold
Rusty Harris-Bishop
David Jones
Ben Rudiak-Gould
Adam Varoqua
Bass:
Dennis Adams
Edward Whitmore
Jack Darr
Benjamin Gale
Tha Htet

Andrew Kessler
Aiden Pelly
Eric Shackelford
Nicholas Wasilewski
Ari Nieh
Asher Davison
Drummer:
Jon Silk

Diane Allen
Cheryl Deaner
Barbara Delaney
Madalyn Fernandez
Maddy Gerlach

Bell Choir

David Jones
Amy Kelly
Maric Munn
Judy Nichols

Kathleen Quenneville
Janet Scott
Harold Stoddard
Chris Valentine

Support Team

Eric Shackelford, Camera
Shulee Ong, Camera
Eli Boshears, Camera
Francisco Castellanos, Camera
Jonathan Silk, Director of Communications

Dan Barnard, Facilities Manager
Thomas Brown, Sexton
Jose Matias Pineda, Sexton
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Flowers

Judy Payne, Amy Kelly, Carrie Steere-Salazar, Athena Papadakos



Poinsettia Dedications 2024

In memory of my parents from Christine Valentine

In loving memory of Grampa Raeburn from Josh, Nikki, & Grammy

In loving memory of Mary Jane Steele from Anne Steele

Boyd/Birmingham/Warren Family: In loving memory of Mary Ann Boyd, Desmond Boyd,

Felix Laks, Ursula Leider, and Helen Mogck

To honor my brother, Kit Pool, and my stepsister, Susie Krewatch, from Julia Wald

For Bart and Nancy McDougal from Logan McDougal

In loving memory of Marie & Art Pesch—with love, Liz and Josh

In loving memory of Mike Thomas from Mellisa Fafarman

In memory of Fred Grob from Barbara Grob

In memory of Cathy Wu from Debbie Wu

Dedication from Jeffrey Jones

Dedication for Dudley Westler, August and Rosina Fauland from Irene Westler

In memory of Cathy Lyon from Martin Vanderlaan

In memory of Tod Mikuriya, MD, from Mary Jane Mikuriya

In memory of Nellie B. Ownbey from Natalie Shuttleworth

In loving memory of my parents, Ray and Bea Fenn, from Ralph Fenn

In memory of Barbara Workman

In memory of Gloria Kulik

In loving memory of Mary Jane Steele from Anne Steele

To my parents, Alma and Paul Green, from Meg Whitaker-Greene

For my uncle, John Greene from Hillary Clark

In loving memory of Jack by his spouse Betty

In loving memory of Kaye Carlson from Luanne and Matt

In loving memory of Eloise Mayo from Beth Johnson

In memory of my lovely daughter Diana Castiglia from Mary Castiglia

Dedicated to all who work for Peace & Justice in the World



Our offering this evening will go to Up on Top. Up on Top is an organization that was started by this congregation in response to a need that emerged for the families in the community. Although it is now an independent organization, its offices are housed here, and members of this community serve on its board as they always have. Up on Top provides vital support for children in our neighborhood, critical to their academic achievement and social resilience, and to their families ability to work. There is a summer camp with enrichment activities. If it takes a village, Up on Top is part of that village. If a child's success is in part due to having at least one adult who takes interest in you, Up on Top is part of every child's success who is in the program. Every child born is a holy child. There is more information. We thank you, in advance, for widening the circle of love and generosity tonight to children and families of our Tenderloin community. <https://www.upontop.org/>

WELCOME TO UUSF: CONNECT, CREATE, AND CELEBRATE!

Welcome to UUSF: Embrace Community, Comfort, and Connection!

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)

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.

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION: New to this community? New to Unitarian Universalism? We hold a Newcomer Orientation on the first Sunday of each month. It's a wonderful chance to meet other folks in the community, ask any questions you might have, and find out how to get involved. Our next orientation is on Sunday, 5 January, at 12:30 PM after service. We look forward to meeting you!

20S & 30S COMMUNITY: Folks aged 18-39 are invited to take part in our young adult programming to learn, grow, and build fellowship with our peers. We hold spiritual discussion groups, social events, and outings in the city. Check out our website for more information, to sign up for our newsletter, and see our calendar of upcoming events: <https://www.uusf.org/tnt>

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>)

Events, Meetings & Volunteer Opportunities (www.uusf.org/news)

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!

Creating Theology Together, Part 2 - The event will be held on Thursdays from Jan. 9 to 30, 6-8 pm in the Chapel

Part 2 of this series explores how external systems influence our theology and how our beliefs guide our actions. This class is a fresh approach to "Building Your Own Theology." For details, contact Rev. Laura at lshennum@uusf.org. It's in-person only, and no prior participation is needed. Register at <https://t.ly/Theology2>.

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.

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

Sunday Forum, January 12, 9:30 am, TSK Room and on Zoom. A 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>

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.

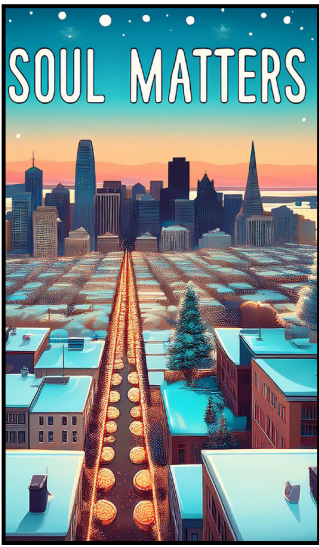
End of Life Series: Wills & Trusts - Sunday, January 19, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, TSK Room

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>.

***Smoke Gets in Your Eyes and Other Lessons from the Crematory* by Caitlin Doughty**

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom) - Register at <https://t.ly/bookgroup0125>

In January, Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern will lead a discussion on Caitlin Doughty's best-selling memoir, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes and Other Lessons from the Crematory." Doughty, who holds a degree in medieval history and has a unique perspective on death from her experience working in a crematory, shares her journey of exploring the world of the deceased. The memoir is noted for its vivid characters and wit, as well as its insightful commentary on society's fear of death, prompting readers to reconsider how our culture treats the dead, as highlighted by a review in the SF Chronicle.



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.

Poem of the Month

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.

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

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Photo: Landscape with the Fall of Icarus
by Pieter Bruegel the Elder c.1560

Visio Divina

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/VisioDivinaJanuary2025>



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/>



UPCOMING SERVICE: <https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>

"Looking Back, Looking Ahead"
Sunday, December 29, 2024, 10:50 am



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