

# **"Looking Back, Looking Ahead"**

Sunday, December 29, 2024, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



**Order of Service**  
**Sunday December 29, 2024**  
**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/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.

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Prelude      *Hallelujah*

Leonard Cohen  
Eric Hamilton, guitarist

Opening Words and Welcome

Carmen Barsody and Mari Magaloni Ramos

Unison Chalice Lighting

Mari Magaloni-Ramos

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*

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

Akané Ota songleader; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

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

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.

Story *Sleeping With Bread*

Mari Magaloni-Ramos

Offering

Carmen Barsody

This morning's offering will benefit the work and ministries of First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco. Learn more at [www.uusf.org/about](http://www.uusf.org/about). To make a donation on Vanco ([bit.ly/uusfpayments](http://bit.ly/uusfpayments)), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code, please select the line for 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, **12-29-24**.



Offertory Music *Racing in A*

Steve Hackett  
Eric Hamilton, guitarist

Meditation

Carmen Barsody

**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**

Reflection/Writing

Carmen Barsody and Mari Magaloni Ramos

Music      *Horizons*

Steve Hackett

Eric Hamilton, guitarist

Ritual of letting go and Welcoming In

Mari Magaloni Ramos

\*Hymn No. 1028

*The Fire of Commitment*

Jason Shelton

Akané Ota songleader; Jon Silk, drummer; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

([CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 7 to 9 TO VIEW HYMN](#))

Invitations

\*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Carmen Barsody

Postlude      *Bouree and Gigue* (Lute Suite no. 1)

J. S. Bach

Eric Hamilton, guitarist

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\*Please rise in body or spirit.



# PARTICIPANTS

## Worship Leaders

Carmen Barsody and Mari Magaloni Ramos, Guest Preachers

## 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

Eric Hamilton, classical guitar

Akané Ota, songleader

Wm. García Ganz, pianist

# ABOUT

Classical guitarist **Eric Hamilton** is a Bay Area resident, having lived and performed from California to the East Coast, Canada, and the Caribbean. Since the 1970s, he has studied with some of the world's renowned guitarists, such as Christopher Parkening, Roland Dyens, and The Beijing Duo, and has also produced recordings with the award-winning Mason Williams of Classical Gas fame. Currently, he has 14 CDs of music for solo guitar, with both small and large ensembles and with full orchestra. Many can be seen on YouTube using the keywords Eric Hamilton music. In addition, Mr. Hamilton has earned tenure as a music educator at a state-certified performing arts school and currently serves as a luthier and stringed instrument technician and specialist at the "Lark in the Morning" world musical instrument dealership in Berkeley, California.



From the December 15, 2024, Hanging of Greens Service

## 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

BESANÇON  
 8.7.9.8.8.7.



# 1028 The Fire of Commitment

With joy and energy ♩ = 150

1. From the light of days re-mem-bered burns a  
 (2. From the) stor-ies of our liv-ing rings a  
 (3. From the) dreams of youth-ful vis-ion comes a

bea-con bright and clear Guid-ing hands and hearts and  
 song both brave and free Call-ing pil-grims still to  
 new, pro-phet-ic voice Which de-mands a deep-er

*Note: The use of percussion is highly recommended.*

⊕ Words: Mary Katherine Morn, 1961 – and Jason Shelton, 1972 –

⊕ Music: Jason Shelton, 1972 – , © 2001 Jason Shelton

FIRE OF COMMITMENT, 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Cm7 Eb/Bb Db Ab Bbsus Bb Ab Bb  
 spir - its In - to faith set free from fear.  
 wit - ness to the life of lib - er - ty When the  
 jus - tice built by our cour - a - geous choice

Cm Bb Ab Eb/G Fm7 Eb/G  
 fire of com - mit - ment sets our mind and soul a -

Ab Bbsus Bb Cm Eb/G Ab Eb  
 blaze When our hun - ger and our pas - sion meet to

Db Ab Bbsus Bb Bb7 Cm Bb  
 call us on our way When we live with deep as -



$A^b$   $E^b/G$   $Fm7$   $E^b/G$   $A^b$   $B^b_{sus}$   $B^b$

sur - ance of the flame that burns with - in Then our

$Cm$   $E^b/G$   $A^b$   $E^b/G$   $Fm7$   $B^b$   $B^b_{sus}$

pro - mise finds ful - fill - ment and our fu - ture can be -

$E^b$   $B^b/D$   $Cm7$   $E^b/B^b$   $A^b$   $B^b$

gin.

1, 2  $E^b$   $A^b/B^b$  3  $E^b(add9)$

2. From the  
3. From the

## UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

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### **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!

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### **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](mailto:lshennum@uusf.org). It's in-person only, and no prior participation is needed. Register at <https://t.ly/Theology2>.

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### **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.

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### **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>

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### **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>

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### **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.

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### **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](mailto:lshennum@uusf.org). Refreshments will be offered. Register at <https://t.ly/PUo0C>.

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### ***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.

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



# 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.

## 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

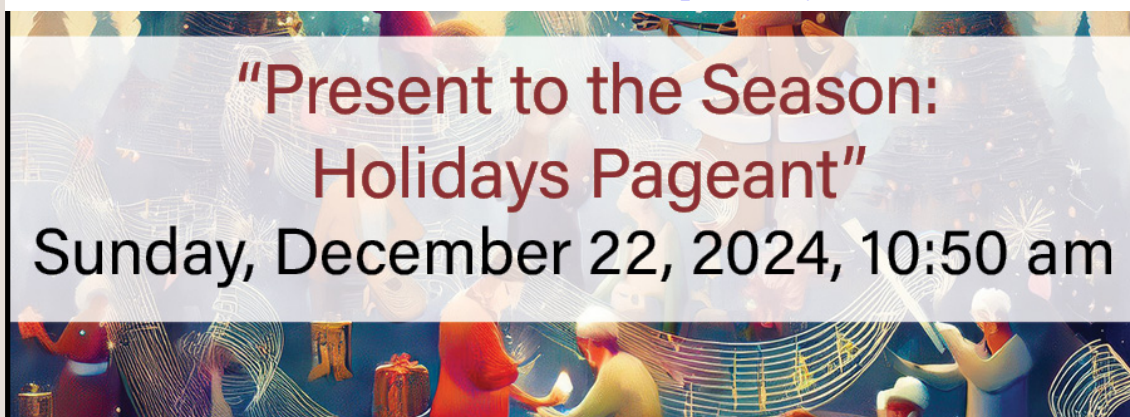
View our videos <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

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.