

"Joy in the In Between"

Sunday, April 13, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



*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

Children/youth exit to classes during doxology.


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/Reading

Sam King, Worship Associate

Blessing of Rochelle and Don

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Offering

Rochelle and Don

The offering today goes to support the work of the **Starr King School for the Ministry**. Starr King School for the Ministry focuses on educating individuals for the Unitarian Universalist ministry and progressive religious leadership, emphasizing values such as countering oppressions and fostering just communities. Its holistic approach includes student-centered learning, excellence in religious studies, and the cultivation of spiritual practices to promote love, compassion, and justice. To learn more about them go to <https://www.skism.edu/> 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, 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, **04-13-25**.



Offertory Music *The Rejoicing*

George Frideric Handel

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Meditation

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

Song *Eliyahu Hanavi*

arr. Stephen Saxon

UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director

Havdalah is the ceremony that closes Shabbat, and Eliyahu is the traditional song Jewish people sing as it closes before wishing each other a Shavua Tov—or a good week. The song is about Elijah the Prophet.

The lyrics mean:

Elijah the prophet, Elijah of Tishbi, Elijah of Gilead, may he soon come to us along with the Messiah, son of David.

Sermon "Joy in the In Between"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 30

Over My Head

REEB

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

Brief Invitations

Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Postlude *Go Out with Joy*

Hank Beebe

UUSF Choir, Mark Sumner, director; Wm. García Ganz, pianist

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Easter Worship Service - Sunday, April 20, 2025

Join us for a special Easter service on April 20! Be sure to visit our Easter Bonnet Library in the Gallery, a cherished tradition initiated by Don Williams and David Jones. Select your perfect Easter bonnet and return it after the celebration or bring your own.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Sam King, Worship Associate
Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators
Jonathan Silk, Director of Communications
Kelvin Jones, Matias Pineda Salazar,
Francisco Castellanos, Sextons
Athena Papadakos, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist
UUSF Choir
Mark Sumner, director
Wm. García Ganz, pianist



Starr King School for the Ministry, established in 1904 as the Pacific Unitarian School for the Ministry, aims to educate individuals for Unitarian Universalist ministry and progressive religious leadership, emphasizing values such as countering oppression, fostering multi-religious learning, and building just communities. The school promotes a holistic educational approach that includes student-centered learning, excellence in religious studies, leadership formation, community service, and spiritual practice. Initially founded to meet the need for a liberal theological school in the West, it welcomed diverse students and focused on practical ministry. Under the leadership of Rev. Earl Morse Wilbur, the school emphasized mental freedom, reason, and tolerance in religion. In 1941, it was renamed Starr King School for the Ministry in honor of Thomas Starr King. The school has evolved under various presidents, particularly Josiah Bartlett, who introduced fieldwork and student governance, and became part of the Graduate Theological Union in 1964. To learn more about them go to <https://www.sksm.edu/>

OFFERTORY UPDATE!

Last week we took the offering for the Faithful Fools. We raised a total of \$1,001.

A Few More Good Pledgers Needed

Thanks to the 189 individuals/households who have pledged (including 15 visitors!!!!) and with incredible generosity! It's so heartening! We are still waiting to hear from about 53 individuals and households and have the remaining \$108,000 to raise, so if you think you aren't needed... you are wrong! We need everyone. Every pledge helps. Please see the bulletin board with the harbor motif to find a form if you need one and fill it out. If you have pledged (or when you do), you will find origami boats waiting for you to put your name on them and add them to the flotilla! Thank you! Let's secure this harbor, open to all, safe and bold, for all to enter.

361 Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

$\text{♩} = 112$

1. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
 2. O - pen your ears to the song.
 3. O - pen your hearts ev - 'ry - one.

En-ter, re-joyce, and come in.
 O - pen your ears to the song. To - day will be a
 O - pen your hearts ev - 'ry- one.

joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joyce, and come in.

4. Don't be afraid of some change.
 Don't be afraid of some change.
 Today will be a joyful day;
 enter, rejoice, and come in.

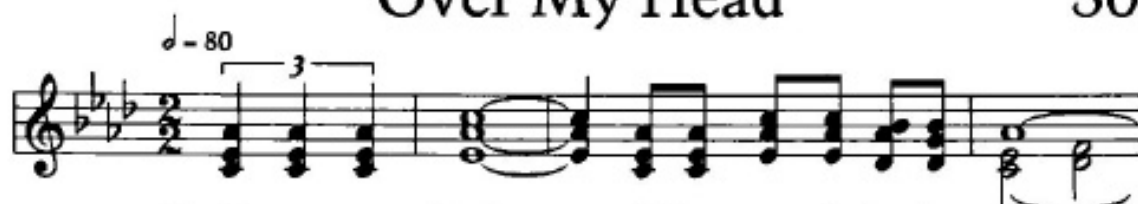
5. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
 Enter, rejoice, and come in.
 Today will be a joyful day;
 enter, rejoice, and come in.

Words & music: Louise Ruspini
 ⊕ Arr. by Betty A. Wylder, 1923- , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association

REJOICE
 7.7.8.7.

Over My Head

30



1. O - ver my head I hear mu - sic in the air.
2. O - ver my head I hear sing - ing in the air.
3. O - ver my head I see trou - ble in the air.



O - ver my head I hear mu - sic in the air.
O - ver my head I hear sing - ing in the air.
O - ver my head I see trou - ble in the air.



O - ver my head I hear mu - sic in the air.
O - ver my head I hear sing - ing in the air.
O - ver my head I see trou - ble in the air.



There must be a God some - where.

4. Over my head I feel gladness in the air... 5. Over my head I see angels in the air...

Words & music: African American spiritual, c. 1750-1875, arr. by Horace
Clarence Boyer, 1935- , © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association

REEB
Irregular

P R A I S E A N D T R A N S C E N D E N C E

TODAY!

A Joyous Wedding Celebration for Rochelle and Don

Sunday, April 13, 12:15 pm in the Courtyard

Celebrate the wedding, which was held at the church on April 12 of Rochelle Fortier Nwadiibia and Don Shearer today in the Courtyard after church at Social Hour. There will be music and snacks and a joyous atmosphere filled with laughter and love. We invite everyone to partake in this unique event and forge enduring memories together.



Spread Love: Join Our Card Ministry After Service

Plan to stop by the card ministry table after the service on Sunday. You will have a chance to write a card to those in our community who have experienced illness or loss, as well as a chance to thank those who are serving our community. Cards, notes, stickers, and postage are all furnished.

Sign up for the All Church Retreat in the Redwoods, taking place from May 24-26

The All Church Retreat will take place from May 24-26 at the CYO Retreat Center in Sonoma County, featuring activities such as campfire songs, workshops, and games, along with comfortable accommodations and recreational facilities. Registration is open until May 15, with fees between \$175 and \$250 and scholarships available; for more information and to register, visit <https://t.ly/uusfretreat> or scan the QR code.

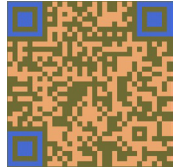


UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Participate in Community Suppers Wed. April 30 or Sat. May 3. Register by April 16!

Community Suppers are scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, or Saturday, May 3, offering an opportunity to build connections over shared meals. Participants can choose to be hosts or guests, with hosts typically providing soup and bread while guests bring salads and desserts, and discussions will revolve around the theme 'the Practice of Joy.' Registration is required by April 16, and for more information or to sign up, contact Emma Wakeling at ewakeling@uusf.org.

Register at <https://t.ly/uusuppersspring2025> or scan the QR code.



Sign up today for UUSF's Passover Seder on April 18th!

The UUSF annual Passover Seder, open to all, will take place on April 18th and features a potluck dinner with traditional foods, encouraging attendees to volunteer and bring a dish. A suggested donation of \$10-20 is requested, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds; for questions, see Mia Shackelford after church in the Gallery or email her at miashackelford@gmail.com or sign up online at <https://t.ly/passover-uusf>.



April Minister's Book Group: *Private Citizens* by Tony Tulathimutte

Wednesday, April 23, 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom) - Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

The theme of the month is "Joy," featuring a book from the NYTimes' "22 Funniest Novels," which explores millennial friendships in pre-2008 San Francisco with sharp humor. The discussion will delve into the familiarity of the characters, the insights humor provides about ourselves, and the impact of joy on our daily lives.

More info and to register: <https://uusf.org/are#mbg>



Restore the Delta with Morgen Snyder & MacKenzie Owens - Sunday Forum, April 27, 9:30 am, TSK/Zoom

A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m. - More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

Restore the Delta (RTD) is a grassroots campaign dedicated to preserving the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and addressing water management issues, particularly concerning the Delta Conveyance Project. Key figures Morgen Snyder and MacKenzie Owens lead initiatives that promote a healthy estuary and engage youth in water advocacy and workforce development.

Join Our New UU Class - Sunday, April 27, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room

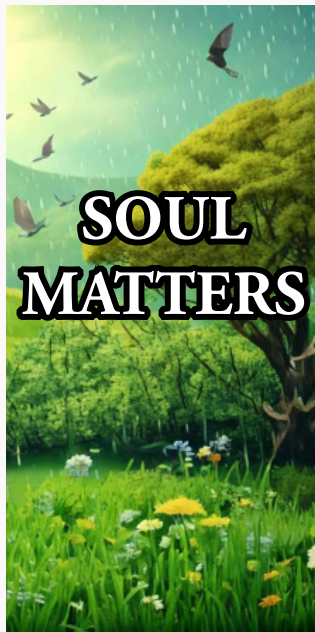
The New UU class, led by Rev. Laura Shennum and Emma Wakeling, provides an interactive introduction to Unitarian Universalism, including its history, mission, and membership process. This class is open to everyone, regardless of their interest in membership, and is a step toward becoming a member at UUSF. The next session will take place on Sunday, April 27 at 1 PM, with snacks and childcare available; registration is encouraged. Register by going to <https://uusf.org/are#new-uu>.



PURE JOY, INFECTIOUS

by Robert Lavett Smith

April is often wrongfully maligned
By accusations claiming cruelty;
The sun is warm, precipitation kind,
The *smale fowles maken melodye*.
Pure joy, infectious, spreads from tree to tree,
As birds of every feather join the choir,
Sharing without restraint, quite candidly,
Their simple songs of satisfied desire.
New foliage, a green and healing fire,
Ignites its verdant chalice in our hearts;
The human spirit rarely rises higher
Than it does now, as celebration starts.
Perhaps we're destined for exuberance
And joy may save us, given half a chance.



SOUL MATTERS IN APRIL: JOY

Joy is a funny thing—no pun intended—you can resolve to have more joy in your life (I've done that a few times in the last few years), but that isn't how joy works, by working at it. It is often the thing that happens to you. Sometimes it happens when it is very appropriate, like laughing at a particularly awkward or sad moment. When it does happen, it feels like it adds years to your life, better than vitamins and exercise together. Maybe too, though you cannot make it happen, and working at it almost makes it harder to find, you and I can put ourselves in the way of it. We can pay attention to when we feel it, who we feel it when we are around, what we have to let go of to open up to it—and do more of all of that. Maybe too, these days, like so many days, when the world is falling apart, we can also just give ourselves permission to feel joy. The world isn't more virtuous or more compassionate because we don't feel joy. In fact, joy can be the engine and the fuel to keep us leaning into the storms and engaged in the muck and mud of the world. Maybe laughter is the sound you hear when the world is being knit back together, and joy (along with love, courage, and stubbornness) is what is threaded through all the fraying and hurt places to make it gorgeous and whole again. Maybe. What gives you joy? <https://www.uusf.org/soulmatters>



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)

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>)

You're invited to the next UUSF Board Meeting! - 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:30 pm

The board meeting is open to UUSF members both in person and via Zoom. The board meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and members are recognized and allowed to share (briefly) a thought or concern at the beginning of the meeting, but can stay for the whole meeting if they wish. Meetings take place in the Fireside Room. You can also join via Zoom; email the Secretary of the Board for the Zoom link: secretary@uusf.org.

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>

"Attempted Poetry and Other
Misdemeanors, Oh Joy!"

Sunday, April 6, 10:50 am, 2025



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