

"Holding Open Possibilities for Each Other"

Sunday, May 11, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco



Order of Service
Sunday May 11, 2025
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.

Prelude	<i>Gift of Love</i> <i>Ave Maria</i> Aria: <i>If Thous Art Near</i>	Emma Lou Diemer Franz Schubert Johann Sebastian Bach Reiko Oda Lane, organist
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Opening Words and Welcome	Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern
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Unison Chalice Lighting	Rev. Laura Shennum
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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 298	<i>Wake, Now, My Senses</i>	SLANE
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[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 6 and 7 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Greeting One Another

Bell Anthem	<i>This Little Light of Mine</i>	American Spiritual arr. ROL UUSF Bell Choir; Reiko Oda Lane, director
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*Unison Covenant

Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

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

Dennis Adams

Offering

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

In our solidarity with mothers everywhere, we will give our offering to **Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas** (<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-greater-texas>). Planned Parenthood provides a wide range of preventive healthcare services, including lifesaving cancer screenings, birth control, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing and counseling, sexual health education, support for women going through menopause and perimenopause, and other basic healthcare services. **Everyone deserves a place to turn for accurate information and non-judgmental healthcare.** 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, **05-11-25**.



Offertory Music *Faith of Our Mothers*

Mary Bringle words, Betsy Stockton music

UUSF Choir; Robin May, oboist; Wm. Garcia Ganz, pianist; Mark Sumner, director

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 *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Reading "My Many Mothers" from *This Piece of Eden* by Vanessa Rush Southern

Music "Basket" *from* Four Pastorales

Thomas Ferril words, Cecil Effinger music
UUSF Choir; Robin May, oboist; Mark Sumner, director

Sermon "Holding Open Possibilities for Each Other"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 51

Lady of the Season's Laughter

JULION

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 8 & 9 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Brief Invitations

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Postlude "Wood" *from* Four Pastorales

Thomas Ferril words, Cecil Effinger music
UUSF Choir; Robin May, oboist; Mark Sumner, director

*Please rise in body or spirit.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

Sunday Support

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

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist & Bell Choir Director
UUSF Bell Choir
UUSF Choir
Mark Sumner, director
Robin May, oboist
Wm. García Ganz, pianist

ABOUT

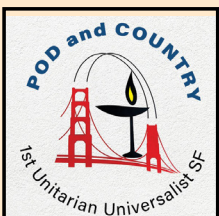
Robin May is a member of the Oakland Symphony, Pacific Chamber Symphony, and Symphony Napa Valley and a frequent performer with other Bay Area orchestras, including the San Francisco Symphony, Opera, and Ballet; Marin Symphony; Modesto Symphony; Santa Rosa Symphony; Lamplighters; Pocket Opera; West Bay Opera; and San Francisco Musical Theater Productions. Teaching includes: former director, Napa Valley Wind Sinfonia; private instruction.

OFFERTORY UPDATE!

Last week we took the offering for PERIOD. We raised a total of \$506.00.

Sign up for the All Church Retreat in the Redwoods - May 24 to 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.



Our New UUSF Podcast: "Pod and Country"

UUSF has launched a podcast called "Pod and Country," featuring Rev. Vanessa Southern and members Cal Ball, Michael Bossier, and Mari Magaloni Ramos. Supported by the Hinckley Foundation, the podcast promotes Unitarian Universalist values through interviews, comedy, music, and poetry. The first episode includes an interview with Rev. John Buehrens and is available on multiple platforms, encouraging listener engagement and sharing. Check it out by going to <https://podandcountry.podbean.com/>

Wake, Now, My Senses

♩ = 108 Unison

1. Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;
 2. Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;
 3. Wake, now, com - pas - sion, give heed to the cry;

feel the deep pow - er of be - ing in all;
 join with each pil - grim who quests for the true;
 voic - es of suf - fer - ing fill the wide sky;

keep, with the web of cre - a - tion your vow,
 hon - or the beau - ty and wis - dom of time;
 take as your neigh - bor both strang - er and friend,

giv - ing, re - ceiv - ing as love shows us how.
 suf - fer thy lim - it, and praise the sub - lime.
 pray - ing and striv - ing their hard - ship to end.

⊕ Words: Thomas J. S. Mikelson, 1936-
 Music: Traditional Irish melody, harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1926- ,
 renewal © 1992 Abingdon Press

SLANE
 10.10.10.10.

4. Wake, now, my conscience,
with justice thy guide;
join with all people
whose rights are denied;
take not for granted
a privileged place;
God's love embraces
the whole human race.

5. Wake, now, my vision
of ministry clear;
brighten my pathway
with radiance here;
mingle my calling
with all who will share;
work toward a planet
transformed by our care.



51 Lady of the Seasons' Laughter

$\text{♩} = 88$

1. La - dy
2. Sis - ter
3. Moth - er
4. God - dess

of the sea-sons' laugh-ter, in the sum-mer's warmth be
of the eve-ning star-light, in the fall-ing shad-ows
of the gen-er-a-tions, in whose love all life is
of all times' pro-gres-sion, stand with us when we en-

near, when the win-ter fol-lows af-ter, teach our
stay here a-mong us till the far light of to-
worth ev-er-last-ing cel-e-bra-tions, bring our
gage hands and hearts to end op-pres-sion, writ-ing

⊕ Words: Kendyl L. R. Gibbons, 1955- , © 1990 Unitarian Universalist Association
Music: David Hurd, 1950- , © 1983 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

JULION
8.7.8.7.8.7.

THE SEASONS

spir - its not to fear. Hold us in your stead - y
 - mor - row's dawn - ing ray. Hold us in your stead - y
 la - bors safe to birth. Hold us in your stead - y
 his - tory's fair - er page. Hold us in your stead - y

mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing year.
 mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing day.
 mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing earth.
 mer - cy, La - dy of the turn - ing age.

Last time

TODAY!

Memoir of a Reluctant Giant with David Strachan & Davi Barker - Forum, May 11, 9:30 am, TSK/Zoom
A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 am - More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

"Memoir of a Reluctant Giant" follows David Strachan's journey through the complexities of gender and identity, emphasizing themes of love, loss, and authenticity while showcasing his activism for LGBTQ+ rights and intersex issues. The memoir, introduced by ghostwriter Davi Barker, includes selected readings by David that reflect on his experiences with Klinefelter's syndrome and his advocacy since 1994.

20s & 30s Community: Mindful Drawing Session - Sunday, May 11, 1:00-2:30 pm, Chapel

In honor of this month's theme, 'The Practice of Imagination,' young adults are invited to a mindful drawing session to relax our minds and let our creativity flow. We will learn about and practice a relaxing and fun drawing technique called Zentangles. This practice creates beautiful art pieces that are made with simple and relaxing patterns. Art supplies and snacks will be provided.

Register at <https://t.ly/Mindful-Drawing>

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Open Door Legal's Fight for Trans Rights in a Challenging Climate - Thursday, May 15, 5:00 pm, TSK Room

Open Door Legal is dedicated to defending the rights of vulnerable communities, particularly the trans community, amidst increasing challenges from the current administration. An event on May 15 will address the struggles of low-income trans individuals and highlight the role of legal aid in protecting their rights.

Join the UUSF Food Pantry: Volunteer, Help Families, and Make a Difference! - Saturday, May 17!

Join the UUSF Food Pantry on Saturday, May 17, from 8:15 am to 11:15 am at Old First Presbyterian Church to volunteer and help families in need. Parking vouchers are available, and families with children aged 5 and older are welcome to participate; sign up by going to <https://www.uusf.org/foodpantry>

The Path to True Empowerment with Mwangi Mukami - Forum, May 18, 9:30 am, TSK/Zoom

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

Mwangi Mukami will present "Nothing About Us Without Us: The Path to True Empowerment" on Sunday, May 18, at 9:30 am, with a light breakfast available at 9:00 am. He advocates for the genuine involvement of marginalized communities in social change, emphasizing that true empowerment comes from trusting their leadership. As the founder of the MLIFE Foundation, Mwangi focuses on empowering these communities through education and leadership development.

Budget Vote Meeting Announcement - Sunday, May 18, 12:30 pm, TSK Room/Zoom

The UUSF congregation votes each year to approve the upcoming year's budget. The proposed FY26 Budget was approved by the Board of Trustees on April 15th, read more about it at <https://t.ly/budget-uusf>. Members can submit written amendments by May 11th to secretary@uusf.org for consideration before the budget vote on May 18th. Due to a tenant revenue shortfall, an Extraordinary Operating Reserves Draw is necessary to prevent a deficit budget. Zoom Link: <https://t.ly/UUSFBudgetMtg25>

UUSF Environmental Justice - Sunday, June 15, 12:30 pm, Fahs Room

Join the UUSF Environmental Justice Working Group for monthly meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm in the Fahs Room. Everyone is welcome to share ideas and volunteer for projects, and don't forget to check out the new bulletin board in the gallery.

Young Adults Lunch - Sunday, May 18, 12:30 pm, Chapel

Join us for the Young Adults Lunch on Sunday, May 18, at 12:30 pm in the Chapel, where we will order food for delivery to accommodate our growing group. This month, lunch is complimentary from UUSF as a thank you for our community's growth. No registration is needed; just drop in and enjoy!

You're invited to the next UUSF Board Meeting! - 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm - 8:00 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 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 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 at secretary@uusf.org.

No Children/Youth Classes or Childcare

Due to Bay to Breakers and the All Church Retreat, there will be no children/youth religious education classes or childcare for PreK/Nursery on Sundays May 18, and May 25. Children and Youth are welcome to join their parents/guardians in the 11:00 am worship service on those days.

SOUL MATTERS - Imagination (uusf.org/soulmatters)

Practicing imagination involves actively engaging our creative thoughts to envision possibilities beyond our current reality. We often use our imaginations unconsciously, contemplating our daily lives, others' perceptions, or future experiences. In today's world, harnessing our collective imagination is crucial for fostering love and combating hate. Adrienne Rich emphasizes that a radical imagination is essential for transcending mere survival and recognizing our true potential. Walter Brueggemann highlights the importance of prophetic ministry in nurturing alternative perceptions to challenge dominant cultural narratives, as totalitarian regimes fear the power of imagination. This month, we invite you to embrace the practice of imagination and explore our role in reimagining a better world. Learn more by going to uusf.org/soulmatters

May Minister's Book Group

Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families by Peggy Gillespie

Wednesday, May 21, 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom) - Led by Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

The UUA Common Read for 2025 is "Authentic Selves," which focuses on the joyful and rich lives of trans and nonbinary individuals and their families, rather than solely on their struggles for legal rights. This compilation includes life stories, photos, and reflections that highlight the power and beauty of living authentically. UU communities across the country will read this book together, fostering connection and understanding. More info and to register: <https://uusf.org/are#mbg>



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>)

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

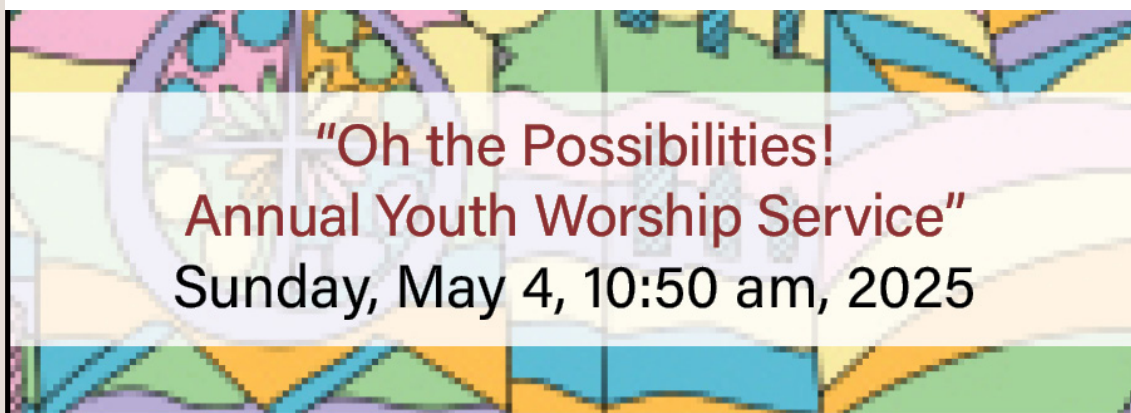
View our videos <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

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.