

“The Transient and the Permanent in Unitarian Universalism: A Fire Communion”

Sunday, December 28, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





Order of Service
Sunday December 28, 2025
10:50 AM - 12:15 PM

Livestreamed at bit.ly/uusfmedia

Greeting One Another

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/newcomersguideuusf>)

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	How Brightly Shines the Morning Star Wake Now My Senses Morning Has Broken	Bach Chorale Traditional Irish Melody, Manz/ Wood Gaelic Air, Keith Chapman/Dale Wood Reiko Oda Lane, organist
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Opening Words and Welcome

Kwanzaa and Remembering Brother Clinton Sockwell II

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 38

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

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

*Unison Covenant

Santana Gonzalez-Gomez

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.

Reading "When we Pause to Remember..." by Rev. Alicia Forde Santana Gonzalez-Gomez
From "To Wake, To Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience"

Music *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Olive Nelson Russell

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 to this loss.

In Music

Wake Now My Senses

Traditional Irish Melody, Manz/ Wood

Letting Go

Mark Caswell

Offering

Today's offertory will be for **Thomas Brown's Memorial Reception**. Thomas Brown served UUSF for over 30 years. Holding the building and our hearts. Caring for those less fortunate and creating meals that fed bodies and spirits. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code below, please select the line for Special Sunday Offerings. 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, 12-28-25.

Offertory Music *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Olive Nelson Russell
Reiko Oda Lane, organist



Beginning Anew

*Hymn 131

Love Will Guide Us

OLYMPIA

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 7-8 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Brief Invitations

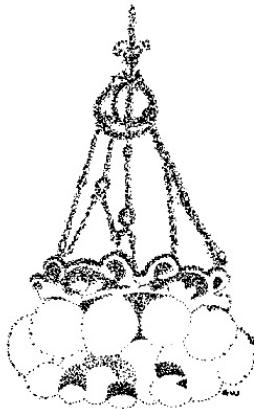
Liz Strand, Trustee

Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Mark Caswell

Postlude *Festival Toccata*

Percy Fletcher
Reiko Oda Lane, organist



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern

Santana Gonzalez-Gomez, Worship Associate

Liz Strand, Trustee

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Alicia Cover, Eli Boshears, Camera Operators

Jonathan Silk, Communications Director

Kelvin Jones; Jose Matias Pineda; Francisco Castellanos, Sextons

Athena Papadakos, Flowers

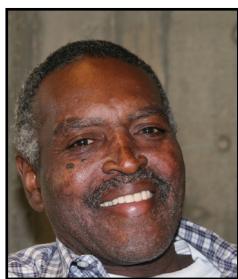
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Ben Rudiak-Gould, Songleader

Thomas Brown Memorial Reception



Today's offertory is dedicated to **Thomas Brown's Memorial Reception**, honoring his over 30 years of service to UUSF, where he cared for the less fortunate and creating meals that fed bodies and spirits. We are all saddened by his passing, and his memorial service is scheduled for January 3rd in New Orleans. To express our love and gratitude, First UU Society of San Francisco will sponsor the catering for the reception following the service. More details will be available in the weekly Flame Newsletter. Donations can be made online (bit.ly/uusfpayments) or by check to the "Minister's Discretionary Fund," noting they are in honor of Thomas Brown. We will share information about whether the service was recorded once available. Thank you for your support of his family and this event.

Offertory Update

Last Sunday we raised \$518 for the Children's Book Project.

The Children's Book Project gives books to children who need them for literacy, learning, and life.

Morning Has Broken

d. = 56 Unison

1. Morn-ing has bro-ken like the first morn-ing, black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heav-en, like the first
 3. Mine is the sun-light! Mine is the morn-ing born of the
 spo-ken like the first bird. Praise for the
 dew-fall on the first grass. Praise for the
 one-light E-den saw play! Praise with e-
 sing-ing! Praise for the morn-ing! Praise for them,
 sweet-ness of the wet gar-den, sprung in com-
 la-tion, praise ev-ery morn-ing, God's re-cre-
 spring-plete-ing ness fresh where from the the Word!
 a-ness of God's feet pass. a-tion of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, used by perm. of David Higham Assoc., Ltd.
 Music: Gaelic melody, © 1931 Oxford University Press, harmony by David
 Evans, 1874-1948

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D.

♩ = 60

1. Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope in -
 2. If you can - not sing like an - gels, if you
 3. Love will guide us, peace has tried us, hope in -

side us will lead the way on the
 can - not speak be - fore thou - sands, you can
 side us will lead the way on the

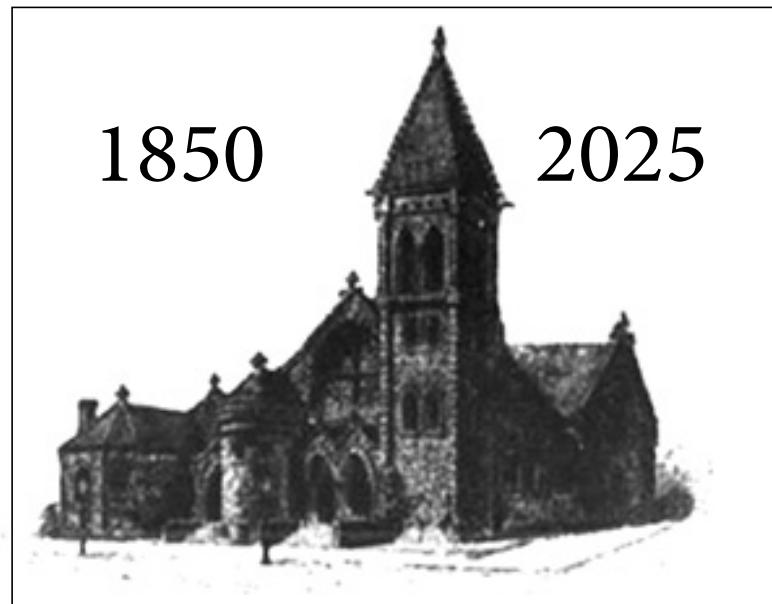
road from greed to giv - ing. Love will
 give from deep with - in you. You can
 road from greed to giv - ing. Love will

Words: Sally Rogers, © 1985 Sally Rogers, used by perm. of
 Thrushwood Press Publishing

⊕ Music: Traditional, arr. by Betty A. Wylder, 1923- ,
 © 1992 Unitarian Universalist Association

OLYMPIA
 L.M.

guide us through the hard night.
change the world with your love.
guide us through the hard night.



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

Join Gavrilah Wells on **Sunday, December 28 at 9:30 am** for our Sunday Forum to learn about **Amnesty International's Write for Rights Campaign**. This global initiative encourages individuals to write letters advocating for those unjustly imprisoned and to demand justice for human rights abuses. Participate by bringing international stamps and postcards, and help make a difference through collective grassroots action! <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

The Environmental Justice Working Group has rescheduled its monthly meetings to the 4th Sunday of each month. The December 28th meeting is canceled due to a lack of facilitator, but the next meeting will take place on **January 25 from 12:30 to 1:15 pm** in Fahs, focusing on planning the 2026 Earth Day event. Everyone is invited to join, share ideas, and volunteer for projects.

Join Rev. Ranwa Hammamy on **Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 10:50 am** for a thought-provoking sermon titled "Sustaining Love in the Struggle." As a Congregational Justice Organizer with the UUA's Side With Love team, Rev. Hammamy will explore the nourishing aspects of resistance.

New to this community? New to Unitarian Universalism? - **Sunday, January 4, 12:30 pm in 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. Free childcare is available to attendees who need it. We look forward to meeting you!

Join Betsy Darr for the "Simply Pray" class, running Tuesdays from **January 6-27, 7-8:30 pm in the Kincaid room.** This four-session course will explore the meanings of prayer for Unitarian Universalists and introduce various prayer practices to enhance your spiritual life. Participants will engage with questions about the purpose and audience of prayer, allowing for personal theological interpretations. The class is inspired by Eric Walker Wikstrom's book, "Simply Pray," with some copies available for borrowing. Space is limited to 10 participants, so please commit to attending all sessions. Register at <https://t.ly/Simply-Pray>.

Join the UUSF Men's Breakfast Group **every Saturday at 9:00 AM** for meaningful discussions and sharing. The group alternates between in-person and online meetings via Zoom, fostering a supportive environment for deeper connections. Check-ins kick off each session, allowing members to express their feelings and insights. New members are always welcome to join this enriching experience. For more details and to participate, visit: <https://www.uusf.org/breakfast>.

Join us on **Sunday, January 11 at 9:30 am** in the TSK Room or on Zoom for a forum featuring District 2 Supervisor Stephen Sherrill. Enjoy a light breakfast starting at 9:00 am as Stephen discusses his initiatives to enhance public safety, support small businesses, and improve neighborhoods in San Francisco. This event will also include a Q&A session, providing an opportunity to engage directly with our district supervisor.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the Craft the Theme Small Group held on the **2nd Sunday of each month after service** in the Children's Art Room. Engage creatively with the monthly "Soul Matters" theme using various craft materials—no artistic skills required! This group offers flexibility with no full-year commitment needed, but please RSVP to help with planning. Feel free to bring your own supplies, as some will be provided. For questions, reach out to Debbie Wu at debbiestuff@icloud.com.

Join the Elder Wisdom Group on the **second Wednesday of each month from 12 pm to 2 pm**, facilitated by Rev. Laura Shennum. This gathering invites senior citizens to discuss topics that matter to them while enjoying a light lunch. No registration is required, making it easy to participate. For more details, reach out to Rev. Laura at lshennum@uusf.org

Starting in the new year, the TSK room will feature a book corner where you can take free books. This will be available most Sundays after the service. Don't miss the opportunity to pick up a great book.

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.

CHILDREN/YOUTH: All ages are welcome in the Sanctuary for service. Children/youth and their parents/guardians are invited to sit together in the first few rows of pews. Most Sundays, we also offer a variety of age-specific programming; turn to the back of the Order of Service for today's offerings.

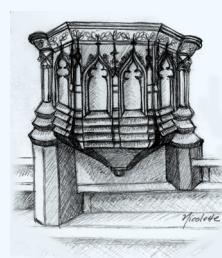
PETS: If you came with your pet, there is a pet-friendly section on the furthest section on the left toward the front of the sanctuary. To read our new dog policy (as of July 2025), visit <https://bit.ly/uudogpolicy>.

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!

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>.



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.

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 Previous and Upcoming Services:
<https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>



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

Today's Sunday School Plans
<https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>

This Sunday (December 28 & January 4):

- There will be no classes or childcare on December 28 or January 4, to give teachers a holiday break. Children and youth are always welcome in the Sunday service.