

**"Possibility & Perception:
The Poetry of Wisława Szymborska"**

Sunday, April 12, 2026 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society San Francisco



Order of Service
Sunday, April 12, 2026
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/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 *Nocturno* Franz Strauss
Kyle Ko, french hornist; Mark Sumner, pianist

Words of Welcome and Call to Worship Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

Unison Chalice Lighting

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 61

Lo, the Earth Awakes Again

EASTER HYMN

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

New Member Ceremony

Emma Wakeling and Nancy Hardies

Greeting One Another

*Please rise in body or spirit.

*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



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.

Introduction to Symborska

Rev. Laura Shennum

Offering

Today's offering will go to the **Society for Community Work, Community Grants Committee**, a working group within UUSF (www.uusf.org/scw). Your SCW Community Grants Committee annually gives grants to small nonprofit organizations in San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area seeking to bring equality and justice into the lives of others. Some organizations we gave grants to this year include League of Women's Voters Oakland, registering younger voters in underserved areas; MLIFE, mentoring Black youth ages 14-24; Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC) supporting LGBTQ youth; Bay Area 350, purchasing air purifiers for people living near refineries; Oakland Theater Project, theater tickets for people who can't afford tickets ordinarily; Project Avary, funding summer programs for children with an incarcerated parent; and more. Please give generously to support our next round of grant making to these and other organizations making meaningful differences in our community. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments) using the Donate Button on our website www.uusf.org -- please select "Sunday Offering." If you are sending a check, please mark in the memo today's date, 04-12-26 - Sunday Offering.

Offertory Music Valse Triste, Op. 35, No. 7

Reinhold Gliere
Kyle Ko, french hornist; Mark Sumner, pianist

Readings

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 Abendlied, Op. 85, No. 12

Robert Schumann
Kyle Ko, french hornist; Mark Sumner, pianist

Readings

Closing Words

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 190

Light of Ages and of Nations

AUSTRIA

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

Invitations

Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

Extinguishing of the Chalice

*Benediction

Postlude *The Impossible Dream*

Mitch Leigh
Kyle Ko, french hornist; Mark Sumner, pianist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life
Emma Wakeling, Membership and Young Adult Manager
Nancy Hardies, Membership
Galen Workman, Moderator, Board of Trustees

Sunday Support

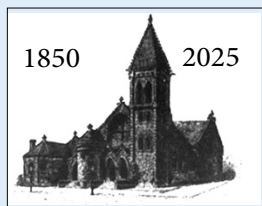
Shulee Ong; Eric Shackelford; Alicia Cover, Eli Boshears, Camera Operators
Desired Effect, Sound
Jonathan Silk, Order of Service
Kelvin Jones; Jose Matias Pineda; Justin Roth, Sextons
Carrie Steere-Salazar, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Kyle Ko, french hornist
Ben Rudiak-Gould, songleader
Mark Sumner, pianist

About

Kyle Ko is an active freelance horn player in the Bay Area and has performed with many ensembles in the area, including the San Francisco Ballet, Opera Parallèle, and the San Francisco Symphony. He received his bachelor's degree in music from UC Berkeley, studying with Alicia Telford and Mark Almond. In addition to his performance work, he serves on the coaching faculty of the Young People's Symphony Orchestra and maintains a private studio with students in San Francisco and the East Bay.



To everyone who hasn't had a chance to pledge for the coming year: we'd love for you to join us today! Your commitment is what fuels our mission. You can pledge online right now at <https://www.uusf.org/pledge> or stop by the table in the gallery after service. There, you can also get a flame sticker for your nametag and put your name on our bonfire bulletin board! Thank you! We need 100% participation to thrive.

Lo, the Earth Awakes Again

$\bullet = 126$

1. Lo, the earth a - wakes a - gain —
 2. Once a - gain the word comes true, Al - le -
 3. Change, then, mourn - ing in - to praise,

lu - ia! from the win - ter's bond and pain.
 All the earth shall be made new.
 And, for dirg - es, an - thems raise.

Al - le - lu - ia! Bring we leaf and
 Now the dark, cold
 How our spir - its

flower and spray — to a - dorn this
 days are o'er, Al - le - lu - ia! Spring and glad - ness
 soar and sing, How our hearts leap

⊕ Words: Samuel Longfellow, 1819–1892, arr.
 Music: Lyra Davidica, 1708, version of John Arnold's *Compleat*
Psalmody, 1749

EASTER HYMN
 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias

S P R I N G

190 Light of Ages and of Nations

$\text{♩} = 104$

1. Light of a - ges and of na - tions, ev - ery race and
 2. Rea - son's no - ble as - pi - ra - tion truth in grow - ing
 3. Lo, that word a - bid - eth ev - er; rev - e - la - tion

ev - ery time has re - ceived thine in - spi - ra - tions,
 clear - ness saw; con - science spoke its con - dem - na - tion,
 is not sealed; an - swer - ing now to our en - deav - or,

glimps - es of thy truth sub - lime. Al - ways spir - its
 or pro - claimed e - ter - nal law. While thine in - ward
 truth and right are still re - vealed. That which came to

in rapt vi - sion passed the heaven - ly veil with - in,
 rev - e - la - tions told thy saints their prayers were heard,
 an - cient sag - es, Greek, Bar - bar - ian, Ro - man, Jew,

Another tune, 189
 ⊕ Words: Samuel Longfellow, 1819–1892
 Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

AUSTRIA
 8.7.8.7.D.

al - ways hearts bowed in con - tri - tion
proph - ets to the guilt - y na - tions
writ - ten in the soul's deep pag - es,

found sal - va - tion from their sin.
spoke thine ev - er - last - ing word.
shines to - day, for - ev - er new.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Join us for Newcomer Orientation on **Sunday, April 12 at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room**, where you can explore our vibrant Unitarian Universalist community. This event is perfect for those new to the faith or simply curious, offering a chance to connect with welcoming members and learn about our congregation. Don't miss this opportunity to mingle, ask questions, and discover how you can get involved!

Mya Shone, a long-time advocate for Palestinian self-determination, will lead a discussion titled "The Hidden History of Zionism" on **April 12 from 12:30 to 2 pm** in the TSK Room. Her extensive work includes documenting the Palestinian struggle, producing media campaigns, and authoring influential works like *The Hidden History of Zionism*. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the conversation by asking questions and sharing their thoughts on the topic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join the 20s & 30s Spiritual Discussion Group on Zoom for two sessions in April, specifically on **Tuesday, April 14, and Tuesday, April 28, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm**. This month's theme is 'Embracing Possibility,' where participants will engage in spiritual reflection through literature, music, and art, followed by a short meditation. For registration and inquiries, contact Emma Wakeling at ewakeling@uusf.org.

Join the **April Minister's Book Group** on **April 15th from 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom)** to explore the poetry of **Wisława Szymborska**, where participants can share their favorite poems or engage with selections provided. Following this, the group will discuss Arundhati Roy's memoir "Mother Mary Comes to Me" on **May 27th**, also from 6:30-8:00 pm (Zoom), which delves into the complex relationship between Roy and her mother. Both sessions promise deep engagement with powerful literary works and themes. Don't miss the opportunity to connect with fellow readers and enrich your understanding of these influential writers. For more info and to register go to <https://www.uusf.org/are>.

Join UUSF for the Earth Day 2026 Celebration on **Sunday, April 19**, featuring a variety of events dedicated to environmental awareness. The day kicks off with a **Forum presentation by Recology at 9:30 am**, followed by an Earth Day service at **10:50 am**. Attendees can enjoy a fundraising **pasta lunch at 12:30 pm** and a screening of the **Netflix documentary "Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy" at 1:15 pm**. Volunteers are needed for lunch preparation and live music, and organizations are invited to table in the gallery. Additionally, the **Environmental Justice Working Group will meet on April 26** to discuss reaching Zero Waste and welcomes new ideas and participants.

Join us for the Young Adults Lunch on **Sunday, April 19 at 12:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. This monthly gathering invites UUSF young adults to enjoy lunch together, with food ordered for delivery. No registration is needed, so feel free to drop by and bring small bills or a card for payment via the Square app.

Donation boxes for food and clothing are located in the Gallery near the TSK Room to assist those in the city who are hesitant to shop for groceries and clothes. Donations will be delivered to Nuevo Sol, our partner nonprofit, with a preference for beans, rice, and nuts, though canned goods are also accepted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for the New UU class, "Welcome Home," on Wednesday, April 22, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom, led by ministerial intern Mark Caswell and membership manager Emma Wakeling. This interactive session will provide insights into Unitarian Universalism, UUSF's mission, and the membership process, welcoming all regardless of their interest in joining. To register or for questions, please contact **Emma Wakeling** at ewakeling@uusf.org.

Spring Community Suppers are returning, offering a chance for everyone to enjoy a meal together on April 22 or April 25, with hosts providing soup and guests bringing salad and dessert. Registration is open until April 11, and interested participants can sign up as hosts or guests at the provided link: <https://t.ly/202604Community>.

Join us for a Garden Party on **Saturday, April 25th**, as we celebrate the collaborative efforts of UUSF members who contributed to creating a welcoming outdoor space for Open Door Legal clients in San Francisco's Excelsior District. Everyone who participated in the planning and labor is invited, and there are still a few spots available for additional congregation members. If you are interested in attending please register at <https://t.ly/gardenparty>.

Join us for the inaugural Croquet with the Clergy event on **Saturday, June 6, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm**. at Stern Grove, hosted by the SF Croquet Club. This event is open to UUSF members, families, and friends, with light refreshments provided. Children aged 10 and older can register to play, while families with younger children are welcome to attend and enjoy the festivities. The cost to register is \$50 per player, with proceeds supporting the 2025 Church Auction; for questions and registration, contact info@uusf.org or visit the provided link: <https://t.ly/Croquet-Clergy>

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 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/newcomersguideuusf>)



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 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

This Sunday (April 12):

- Preschool/Nursery will be in Classroom A from 10:45am to 12:15pm.
- Grades K-5 will start in the Sanctuary at 11am, exit during the Doxology, and then have class in Kincaid until 12:15pm.
- Grades 6-12 will not have class, and are instead encouraged to volunteer in the congregation or attend worship.