

"Impossible Things Happen Every Day"

Sunday, April 26, 2026 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society San Francisco



Order of Service
Sunday, April 26, 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	<i>Song of Faith</i> <i>O Come, You Longing Thirsty Souls</i> Contemplation on Tallis' Canon	Felix Mendelssohn Richard Purvis Richard Purvis Reiko Oda Lane, organist
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Words of Welcome and Call to Worship

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister

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

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

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.

Reflection

Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

Offering

Today's offering will go to the **Society for Community Work (SCW) Scholarship Committee**, which, in concert with SCW's mission of supporting the San Francisco community outside the walls of our church, awards scholarships for San Francisco High School graduates. To learn more 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, **04-26-26**.

Offertory Music

The Impossible Dream

Joe Darion/Mitch Leigh

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

Reflection

Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern

Metta 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.

Music *All Is Miracle*

Charles Anthony Silvestri/Kyle Pederson
UUSF Choir; Mark Sumner, director; Wm. Garcia Ganz, pianist

Sermon "Impossible Things Happen Every Day:
A Reflection on Love and Punishment and Possibilities"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 131

Love Will Guide Us

OLYMPIA

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

Invitations

Mari Magaloni Ramos, Trustee

Extinguishing of the Chalice

*Benediction

Postlude Allegro Maestoso (Sonata II)

Felix Mendelssohn

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Offertory Update

Last Sunday we raised \$695.75, which will be split between California Interfaith Power & Light (CIPL) and the Fortier Music Fund. CIPL is an organization that links ecology with faith to inspire congregations in advocating for climate justice and sustainable practices; the Fortier Music Fund supports our music program, including the exceptional music we enjoyed last Sunday.

Participants

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Mark Caswell, Ministerial Intern
Dennis Adams, Worship Associate
Mari Magaloni Ramos, Trustee

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Alicia Cover; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators
Jonathan Silk, Communications Director
Kelvin Jones; Jose Matias Pineda; Justin Roth, Sextons
Athena Papadakos, Flowers
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

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

Society for Community Work (SCW) Scholarship Committee

The Society for Community Work (SCW) offers annual competitive scholarships for high school students planning to attend accredited 2- or 4-year institutions, as well as for continuing undergraduate students who previously received SCW scholarships. The awards, ranging from \$1500 to \$2500 per year, are granted to students whose work aligns with the values of Unitarian Universalism and are distributed before the new academic year, typically in July. Recipients must complete at least 12 units per quarter or semester. To learn more go to <https://www.uusf.org/scwscholarships>.

SKWPS Special Fundraiser Concert

Sunday, May 3rd | 1:30 PM

SARA COUDEN: "Arias, from Bottom to Top"

Plans have changed, but the high notes (and the low ones!) remain. While Kate Offer is recovering from a health setback, the incomparable Sara Couden is taking center stage for a one-woman tour de force.

Originally set to perform their comedic spoof *Aria Kidding?*, Sara is now going solo with a program that showcases her incredible range. Though a "bonafide" contralto, Sara promises a fabulous time as she tackles her favorite bass, tenor, and soprano arias.

See her now before she heads to the big stage. This coming season, Sara makes her San Francisco Opera debut in *The Handmaid's Tale*. Join us for this intimate performance to support future SKWPS presentations and claim your bragging rights: "I saw Sara Couden back when..."

Lo, the Earth Awakes Again

$\text{♩} = 126$

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

131

Love Will Guide Us

$\text{♩} = 60$

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.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'guide us through the hard night. change the world with your love. guide us through the hard night.'

TODAY'S EVENTS

Join us for Peace & Freedom Party Perspective on **Sunday, April 26, at 9:30 am in the TSK Room or via Zoom** for a Forum featuring candidates addressing California's pressing issues. Speakers include Ramsey Robinson, Meghann Adams, and Frank Lara, who advocate for prioritizing working people in state politics to ensure affordable living, healthcare, and quality education for all. The party emphasizes a climate justice plan and aims to shift power away from billionaires to create a more equitable society.

We are deeply grateful for the generous donations to our food and clothing boxes, which have been vital for those who fear immigration raids and ICE. Who cannot go to their jobs because of the recent fear of immigration raids. We encourage continued contributions, particularly bags of rice and various beans, along with soups, sauces, and spices. Our efforts will persist until everyone feels safe accessing their local grocery stores, and the recipients have expressed their heartfelt thanks for your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for the **All Church Retreat from May 23-25, 2026**, in the beautiful Redwoods of Sonoma County. Enjoy a weekend filled with campfire activities, nature walks, and engaging workshops, all designed to rejuvenate your spirit. The CYO Retreat Center offers comfortable accommodations, recreational facilities, and nearby attractions like Wild Flour Bakery and local wineries. Participants should bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries.

Don't miss out—register by May 10, 2026, and reach out to acover@uusf.org with any questions! For more info and to sign-up go to uusf.org/annual-events or scan the QR code.



Join us for Newcomer Orientation on **Sunday, May 3 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!

The Pagan Interest Circle (PICT) invites everyone to celebrate Beltane on **Sunday, May 3rd**, in the UUSF Courtyard after the church service. The festivities will include making flower-wreath crowns, lighting a cauldron to honor the sun's growing power, and dancing around the **Maypole at 1:00 pm**. Participants are encouraged to bring flowers for crown-making, a bag lunch or snack, and to join in the celebration of creativity, community, and love.

Join us on **Sunday, May 10 at 9:00 am** for a discussion on the Farmworker movement of the 1960s-70s, led by Bruce Neuberger, author of "Lettuce Wars: Ten Years of Work and Struggle in the Fields of California." The program will explore the origins, triumphs, and challenges of this significant labor and civil rights struggle that began with the Delano grape strike in 1965. Attendees can enjoy coffee and a light breakfast while engaging in a Q&A session following the presentation.

Join the UUSF Food Pantry on **Saturday, May 16, from 8:15 am to 11:15 am** at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. Volunteers are needed to help sort and distribute food, and families with children aged 5 and older are welcome to participate. Free parking vouchers are available for volunteers, and you can sign up through the provided link. For more details and future dates, visit our website at <https://www.uusf.org/foodpantry>.

Join the May Minister's Book Group for a discussion of "Mother Mary Comes to Me" by Arundhati Roy on **Wednesday, May 27 from 6:30-8 pm via Zoom**. This memoir by the acclaimed Indian author and activist explores the profound and complex relationship between Roy and her mother, highlighting themes of pain, love, and the lessons learned about humanity. Through their intertwined stories, Roy reflects on the fierce and visionary nature of both women. Participants will delve into the emotional layers and insights that arise from their bond. For more info and to register go to <https://www.uusf.org/are>.

Applications for the SF Contemplarium **Spring 2026 Neighborhood Flamekeeper Cohort** are **now open**, inviting individuals who wish to support their community through life's ups and downs. The program runs from mid-May to mid-August, with applications due by April 28th. Interested participants can apply and find full program details through the provided link at <https://t.ly/aANyZ>. If you or someone you know is interested, we encourage you to reach out!

The spring **2026 edition of the UUSF Members Directory** is **now available for members** to pick up at the front desk or request via email from Emma Wakeling. Members are reminded that the directory is for their use only and should not be shared outside the membership. Additionally, please dispose of any old editions of the directory you may possess.

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>.

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 26):

- Preschool/Nursery will be in Classroom A from 10:45am to 12:15pm.
- Grades K-12 will start in the Sanctuary at 11am, exit during the Doxology, and then go to the Art Room for a service project.