

**"Letter to My Country:
Notes from a Faithful Patriot"**

Sunday, July 5, 2026 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society San Francisco





Order of Service
Sunday, July 5, 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 Have a Dream*

Herbie Hancock
Larry Chinn, pianist

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 159

This is My Song

FINLANDIA

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 6 & 7 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Greeting One Another

*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/Reading

Dennis Adams, Worship Associate

Offering

Today's offering will go to the **Seventh-day Adventist Church** at 2889 California Street, which, on Monday, was the site of a four-alarm fire. In the spirit of support for one another across differences and a spirit of unity, particularly present in times of adversity, our offering will go to help them with their repairs and rebuilding. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments), using the Donate Button on our website, 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, **07-05-26**.

Offertory Music *The Promise*

John Coltrane
Larry Chinn, pianist

Reading

Meditation

In Words...

In Silence...

During this time if you have lost someone close to you in the past year, we invite you, if you wish, to stand if you are able or place your hand on your heart, in silent witness to that loss.

In Music...

Pensativa

Clare Fischer
Larry Chinn, pianist

Sermon "Letter to My Country:
Notes from a Faithful Patriot"

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern

*Hymn 149

Life Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

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

Invitations

Galen Workman, Trustee

Extinguishing of the Chalice

*Benediction

Postlude *Down By The Riverside*

Larry Chinn, pianist

*Please rise in body or spirit.



Participants

Worship Leaders

Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister
Dennis Adams, Worship Associate
Galen Workman, Trustee

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Alicia Cover, Camera Operators
Disired Effect, Sound
Jonathan Adam Silk, Order of Service
Francisco Castellanos; Kelvin Jones; Jose Matias Pineda, Sextons
The Flower Committee supplied the floral arrangement
Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Larry Chinn, pianist
Mark Sumner, songleader

About

Larry Chinn is an established San Francisco Bay Area jazz pianist, accompanist, and educator with over three decades of professional experience. A Berklee College of Music alumnus, he refined his distinct improvisational style under the private tutelage of jazz masters Don Haas and Peter Horvath. Known for his exceptional versatility, Chinn performs as a solo artist, leads his own ensembles, and works extensively as a trusted accompanist for top vocalists and instrumentalists. His career highlights include performances at premier venues and festivals like Yoshi's and the Monterey Jazz Festival, alongside collaborations with jazz legends such as Pharoah Sanders and John Handy. Beyond traditional jazz stages, he deeply engages with his community by accompanying local choirs, religious fellowships, and educational programs.

Offertory Update

Last Sunday, we raised \$686.00 for the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)** and **Pink Haven**. UUSC has been fighting injustice and advancing human rights for over 80 years, while Pink Haven focuses on trans liberation and community support.

Thank you for your generous contributions!

This Is My Song

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun-light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;

This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is,
but oth - er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,

Words: Lloyd Stone, 1912- , © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Co.
Music: Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957, arr. © 1933, renewed 1961 Presbyterian
Board of Christian Education

FINLANDIA
11.10.11.10.11.10.

P E A C E

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal line. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

149 Lift Every Voice and Sing

$\text{♩} = 76$

1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died; yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies, let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1871-1938
 Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954,
 © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co., renewed

LIFT EVERY VOICE
 Irregular

F R E E D O M

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the
 wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our
 met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; fac - ing the
 path thru the blood of the slaugh - tered, out from the
 wine of the world, we for - get thee; shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

F R E E D O M

TODAY'S EVENTS

Join us for Newcomer Orientation on **Sunday, July 5 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!

UU the Vote: We are writing postcards of encouragement to voters from underrepresented communities. Stop by the gallery table **before or after the service any Sunday from now until mid-October**.

Experience Nikolaus Rauch's captivating exhibition, "M-irror & W-alls," at the King Rooms **now through August 17**. This Munich-based artist transforms photographs of everyday urban environments into explorations of memory and perception through subtle interventions of paint and texture. The exhibition encourages visitors to reconsider the ordinary, revealing hidden connections and new ways of seeing. Drawing on images from cities like Munich and San Francisco, Rauch's work emphasizes the subjective nature of reality shaped by memory and interpretation. Additionally, a **workshop on August 16** invites participants to explore visual perception and create their own interpretations, regardless of artistic skill.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Rev. Laura Shennum for an in-person class "Love At The Center" on **Wednesdays July 8-22, no class July 29 and August 5-12, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm in the Kincaid Room**. Over five essays, the class will explore UU theology and its emphasis on values such as justice, interdependence, and love. Participants can buy a copy of the book at the UUA Bookstore or request a copy by emailing Alicia Cover at acover@uusf.org. Register at <https://t.ly/Loveatthecenter>. Questions? Send an email to Laura at lshennum@uusf.org.

The Starr King Way Performance Series, in partnership with Sensible Cinema, invites you to an unforgettable evening on **July 11th**. Join us for a screening of the documentary *Last Ecstatic Days*, followed by a live performance of "Roots Grown Deep" by the East Coast quartet "Ways of Remembrance" (Jay Brown, Aditi Sethi, Scott Sheerin, and JoEL Carabo Elliott).

Roots Grown Deep is a groundbreaking musical and educational ensemble that fuses diverse voices and cultures into a transformative soundscape known as Musical Ecology. This life-art movement seeks to harmonize various disciplines and languages, creating a soul-enriching experience.

The evening kicks off at **6pm in the TSK Room**, starting with a light dinner (soup) followed by the film screening and a special concert. A suggested donation of \$30 covers the film, dinner, concert, and travel expenses, though all contributions are appreciated.

A COMBINED STARR KING WAY PERFORMANCE SERIES & SENSIBLE CINEMA PRODUCTION

ROOTS GROWN DEEP

— WAYS OF REMEMBRANCE QUARTET —
World • Folk • Jazz

FEATURING JAY BROWN, ADITI SETHI, SCOTT SHEERIN, & JOEL KARABO ELLIOTT

PLUS DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING

SATURDAY 6PM
JULY 11, 2026

UU SAN FRANCISCO
1187 FRANKLIN (AT GEARY)

\$30 DOOR | SOUP 6-6:45PM

STARR KING WAY
United Community in Action

SENSIBLE CINEMA
Cinema with a Conscience

Meet the man who shared his death with the world.

Join us for "The Struggle & Lessons Of California Farmworkers' History & The Relevance Today," a panel discussion at the San Francisco Labor Fest on **July 12 at 12:30 pm in TSK Room**. Featuring experts like Robyn Magalit Rodriguez and Paul Ortiz, the event will highlight the often-overlooked contributions of Filipino workers in the United Farm Workers (UFW) and their marginalization in leadership roles. The panel will also examine the complexities surrounding Cesar Chavez and the censored narratives of the labor movement. Sponsored by LaborFest.net, the Al Rojas Foundation, and the UUSF Immigrant Rights group, this discussion will address the ongoing challenges faced by day laborers today.

Join the 20s & 30s Spiritual Discussion Group for summer sessions at UUSF on **July 14, August 11, and August 25**, from 7:00-8:30 pm. Engage in enriching conversations using literature, music, and art, concluding with a short meditation. To register go to <https://t.ly/Orv7A>. For questions, contact **Emma Wakeling** at ewakeling@uusf.org.

Join us for a Community Conversation on "Being Intimate: Friendships and Dating" on **Sunday, July 19, from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM at UUSF in the MLK Room**. Using the 'Our Whole Lives' curriculum, we'll explore Unitarian Universalist values surrounding friendships and romantic relationships, encouraging open dialogue and shared experiences. Bring a bagged lunch and your curiosity, and feel free to invite a friend to join this inclusive discussion.

Join Rev. Laura Shennum and Emma Wakeling for the New UU class on **Sunday, August 9 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Fireside Room**. This interactive session will provide insights into Unitarian Universalism, UUSF's mission, and the membership process, welcoming all regardless of membership interest. Snacks will be provided, and childcare is available upon request. Contact Emma Wakeling at ewakeling@uusf.org for any questions. More info and to register go to <https://www.uusf.org/are>.

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

Summer Religious Education Programming:

- Preschool/Nursery will be in Classroom A from 10:45am to 12:15pm.
- Grades K-5 will go straight to the Art Room at 11am, where they will do art and play games until 12:15pm.
- Grades 6-12 will not have class, and are instead encouraged to attend worship or volunteer in the community.