



Music Sunday: Seven Joys of Christmas
Rev. Kim Mason
December 4th, 2022
Order of Service

Ringing of the Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Mike Lunter

Prelude *Suite on the Magnificat, Prelude by Jean Adam Guilain*

Earl Naylor, Organist

Call into Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #1060 As We Sing of Hope and Joy

*As we sing of hope and joy today,
Some know only anguish and despair.
How can we lift our voices in this way
while some have pain and misery to spare?*

*If a crumbling world we would renew,
We must sing no ordinary song,
Peals from a noisy gong will never do;
in every breath compassion must belong.*

*Let this song our greatest hopes contain:
Laughter of a well-fed child its tune,
Roofs over every heartbeat its refrain,
its harmony from peaceful cities hewn.*

*Sing of joy while hammering each nail.
Sing of hope while pulling every weed,
So shall we sing together and prevail;
May every Alleluia bear a seed.*

Lighting the Chalice

Mike Lunter

Sung Response

*Come as we light this candle of memory.
Come as we light this candle of hope.
Come as we light this candle of reverence.
Come into the flame. Come into the flame.*

Words and Music by Tony Fathman

Story for All Ages

Because by Mo Willems

Danielle Kozemczak

Children's Recessional #118

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Joys & Concerns

Submit Joys and Concerns online at <https://forms.gle/WiHevqVTkCc3dWmC7>

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kim Mason

Sung Response #123 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.*

Music and lyrics by Carolyn McDade

Special Music

The Seven Joys of Christmas by Kirke Mechem

First Unitarian Choir

Call for the Offering

Text the dollar amount you wish to give to this number: 833-649-0088

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory *Suite on the Magnificat, Flutes* by Jean Adam Guilain

Earl Naylor, organ

Homily

The Joy of Waiting

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #225 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.
Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.*

*O come, you Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might.
O come, and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last shall cease.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.*

*O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your presence here.
And dawn in every broken soul as vision that can see the whole.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.*

*O come, you Wisdom from on high, from depths that hide within a sigh,
to temper knowledge with our care, to render every act a prayer.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude *Suite on the Magnificat, Dialogue by Jean Adam Guilain*

Earl Naylor, organist

Music Notes:

Jean-Adam Guilain (real name **Johann Adam Wilhelm Freinsberg**) (c. 1680 – after 1739) was a German organist who was mostly active in Paris during the first half of the eighteenth century. A single collection of organ pieces (*Pièces d'orgue pour le Magnificat sur les huit tons différents de l'église*) was published in 1706 in two volumes, of which only one is now extant

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Kirke Mechem

SEVEN JOYS OF CHRISTMAS, Opus 25 – A Sequence of Carols (1964)

1. The Joy of Love: This is the truth (Soloist: Meredith Kendall)
2. The Joy of Bells: Ding, Dong! Merrily on high
3. The Joy of Mary: Joseph dearest, Joseph mine
4. The Joy of Children: Patapan
5. The Joy of the New Year: New year song
6. The Joy of Dance: Fum, fum, fum!
7. The Joy of Song: God bless the master of this house

Kirke Mechem composed the Seven Joys of Christmas for the Chamber Singers of the San Francisco College for Women. He set out with the goal of setting lesser-known, but none the less attractive, carols from different countries in order to paint different aspects of joy for the Christmastide. He employed the number "Seven" because it is considered a magical number (as

it applies to mystery in the liturgy). The final carol, God bless the master of this house, is an amusing combination of all the carols in the composition, in addition to other well-known Christmastide melodies. In certain passages, two, three, even four different carols are being performed at the same time!

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Hunter Hart
Greeters: Alison Lamothe and Kathy Wire
AV Assistant: Margaret Weck

Welcome to this religious community
where we affirm the dignity, worth, and freedom
of all who enter our doors.

Here we seek to live together in relationship and respect so that we may embrace and celebrate our differences. Understanding that we need not think alike to love alike, our religious values invite us to a shared journey of truth and meaning. Sincerity and connection guide our religious community, and call us into deeper association with ourselves and our world.

We welcome people of all ages, races, classes, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. First Unitarian Church of St. Louis is a *Welcoming Congregation* committed to the inclusion of LGBTQIAA+ individuals, families and communities in the life of our congregation. We are a *Green Sanctuary Church*, committed to sustainable practices and ethical consumption on our building and grounds.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Yellow Pages

At Church This Week!

Sunday December 4th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship Service - In Person & Online

11:15am to 12:15pm Partner Church Bake Sale (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am to 1:30 pm Hanging of the Greens (Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary)

Monday December 5th

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm What Moves Us (In person and online)

Tuesday December 6th

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Alliance (online)

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Executive Committee (online)

Wednesday December 7th

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday December 8th

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm New Member Class (site tbd)

Sunday December 11th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship Service - In Person & Online

11:15 am to 12:00 pm Newcomer Chat (Dodson Rm)

11:15 am to 12:30 pm Pageant Scenery Up (Sanctuary)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Active Hope Project (Chapel)

Please check the Church Calendar on the website for more information about gatherings

Deadline for announcements: Wednesday, noon

Send items to dkozem@firstuustlouis.org

Our Mission

We strive to be a welcoming congregation, inspiring lives of loving kindness and integrity by nurturing spirituality, building community, and advancing justice

Upcoming Services

December Theme - Joy

Sunday December 11th - Joy Comes in the Morning with Rev. Kim Mason

Joy is a tool for resilience and resistance. We'll explore how to embrace joy in moments of loss and pain, marginalization and oppression.

Sunday December 18th - Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday December 24th 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday December 25th No Service- Christmas Day

Joys and Concerns

Joys

We celebrate with Pamela Gempel. Her recent surgery was successful and no further treatment is needed.

Concerns

We send condolences to...

Lisa Cary, on the recent death of her father Gordon Faubel

Jane Rueckert, on the recent death of her father

As a church community, each of us is an integral part of the care and concerns network. Not only do we show up and care for one another, we can make sure people get care by sharing with the care and concerns team when health and other concerns arise. Contact the Care and Concerns team by calling or emailing careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org

Upcoming Designated Collection

Sunday December 4th, 2022

Food Outreach

Food Outreach is the only St. Louis area organization whose mission is to provide nutritional support and enhance the quality of life of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS or cancer. In addition to providing fresh, healthy food to clients the organization offers nutritional education and counseling with a registered dietician. **Nominated by Gregory Hoeltzel**

As a way of putting our faith into action, our church periodically dedicates Sunday collections to worthy non-profits or church programs.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Policy Board Meeting Summary

17 November 2022 via Zoom

The Board discussed a topic raised in the Rev. Kim Mason's report, specifically: "The biggest challenge right now is managing all the expectations for our 'return to normal.' This fall the staff have consistently bumped up against challenges of what people expect from before the pandemic and what we have the volunteer capacity to offer in this current moment." We are facing a volunteer shortage that has impacted our RE program and the church auction, among other programs and activities. The Rev. Kim suggests we ask ourselves, what are our priorities? What are the congregation's priorities? What adaptations can we make? How can we support staff? In essence, we are in a period of transition. Things aren't and won't be the same as they were prior to Covid. The times call for patience, flexibility and experimentation.

The Rev. Kim introduced the Active Hope Project in her 10/09/2022 sermon. We have just begun a series of conversations with members of our congregation to discern their ideas and preferences regarding a church-wide initiative to address social justice in our larger community.

Cathy Rauch reminded Board members that the Active Hope task force is composed of different groups within our church and is not committee specific. The Board and Council are not dictating but rather asking what congregants want to do.

Norma Vogelwied had asked us via email to review the project description on our website and wondered if it aligns with how we as Board members view this project.

Alison Lamothe noted that the current iteration of the Green Sanctuary program has been updated to be more expansive and includes a social justice component. While we are currently certified as a Green Sanctuary by the UUA, any new initiative could help us achieve reaccreditation under Green Sanctuary 2030. In other words, our new project(s) can be part of an ongoing initiative. We can build upon promises we have already made.

Susan Lammert, Steve Wilke and Alison Lamothe agreed to prepare the Policy Board's evaluation of the Rev. Kim. The official deadline is 02/01/2023 but our report should be completed ahead of time so that Rev. Kim has the opportunity to review.

Susan offered her summary from the Committee on Ministry's meeting and it echoes the theme of adjusting to our post-pandemic reality: "we need to consider/re-consider what we have done in the past with what is possible now with the limitations of volunteer and low numbers of children. Until we know how big our congregation is we may need to manage with smaller groups- it's called 'right-sizing.' How do we bring back activities when we haven't done them in a while? Yet, people are hungry for the 'way it used to be.' It's an awkward time, no matter what." Amen to that!

RE Director Danielle Kocemczak is worried that our RE program is stagnating. We have a very small number of participating young children. She would like to make space for families with younger children but we have too few volunteers to staff more grades/levels. Although parents of children who participate in RE have traditionally been the backbone of our program, we need more members who do not fit this profile to volunteer to keep the program going and, ideally, growing.

The topic of this month's leadership training was "Finding Your Center: Spiritual Grounding as Leaders." Rev. Kim briefly returned to a theme we discussed during our August retreat: we have not yet articulated our values as a congregation. She asked how Board members define values and then proposed this definition: values are what we prize or cherish and what we publicly affirm. We were asked to consider prior to our next Board meeting: What are the things that we prize and cherish? What do we publicly affirm? This topic will also be considered with the larger congregation during our mid-winter meeting.

The next Policy Board meeting will be held Monday, December 12, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Lamothe

Church Events

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 4th (after the morning service)

Start your holidays with this fun gathering at the church. Make a yummy purchase at the Partner Church Bake Sale. Then have lunch at the sandwich buffet in Fellowship Hall (\$10 per adult, \$5 for 12 and younger, \$25 cap per family unit) Make a Christmas craft and decorate the tree in the Sanctuary. Sing Christmas tunes and welcome a chubby visitor in red who resides at the North Pole!

You will have a jolly good time!

Partner Church Bake Sale

Sunday, December 4th 11:15am

Fellowship Hall

The Annual Partner Church Bake Sale is returning to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 4th after Sunday Worship Service

Active Hope Project: Facilitated Listening Circles

Sunday December 11th, 2022 11:30am

(Meet in Hope Chapel)

We are in the process of reaching out to congregants to get your input on the idea of congregational social action, and what that might look like, as we explore what we mean by "advancing social justice" in our mission statement. If you have not spoken with a member about this project yet, please plan on attending this meeting.

Sunday December 18th, 11:30am

Social Responsibility Coffee Hour:

SouthSide Early Childhood Center

Presenters: Jackie Weaver, SECC Executive Director
and Cleo Zundel, SECC Development Director

Many may not realize that Southside was founded by 15 forward-thinking Unitarian women in 1886. Originally known as Southside Day Nursery, the organization still exists today as Southside ECC, and it continues to serve families in St. Louis. Join us and learn about Southside's work today and why it is important for us to continue our support. Attendees may participate in person or via Zoom. A Zoom link will be provided in the E-News prior to the program.

Sunday December 18th, 5pm

ERDE Winter Solstice Celebration

5:00pm Light Refreshments in Fellowship Hall

5:30pm Spiral Ritual in Hope Chapel

6:30pm Tibetan Singing Bowls meditation with Mark Biehl

Religious Education This Week

This Sunday December 4th, 2022

Story For All Ages: Because, by Mo Willems

A musical story for Music Sunday! This book tells the story of a young girl who is inspired to devote her life to music after she attends a symphony made possible by the joy and magic of music.

The Nursery will be open to provide childcare. Children and Youth are encouraged to attend service with their family. After the story for all ages, they will proceed to their classrooms

RE Classes This Sunday!

Babies and Toddlers (Nursery)

Preschoolers (Nursery) Chalice Children: How Many Days Until Christmas?

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade (C2) Wonderful Welcome: The Gift of Learning Together

3/4/5/6th Graders - (C1) History of Religion: Hinduism- Karma and Reincarnation

7-12th Graders - (C7) Our Whole Lives: Gender Roles, Stereotypes, and Identity.

10th-12th Graders - (C8) Youth Group Meeting and Group Discussion

First UU Christmas Pageant

Sunday December 18th 10am

Rehearsal will be Saturday 12/17 in the morning

All children and youth are invited to take part in this First UU tradition! High school youth will be reading the narrative. Children and youth grades 4th-8th will most likely have one of the major parts (Mary, Joseph, three kings, etc). Children birth through 3rd grade will be cherubs, sheep, shepherds, townspeople, and dancing angels. Please RSVP if your child/youth is willing and able to participate by emailing dkozem@firstuustlouis.org. This helps us with casting and planning. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunities for Spring 2023 Religious Programming

Help our Religious Education Program grow! You don't need any special training and you don't have to volunteer every Sunday! Please contact Danielle Kozemczak for more information

Announcements

First UU Litter Pick-up Saturday, December 10 9:30 AM

First U. is responsible for doing litter pick-ups along Forest Parkway between Big Bend and Skinker Boulevards four times a year. You may have noticed the roadway “adoption” signs with our name on them along that segment! This location is especially significant to us since the street is adjacent to the main campus of Washington University, which was founded by our Unitarian “ancestor,” William G. Eliot. We will gather in the parking lot north of Snarf’s (360 N. Skinker Blvd.), where the sign specifies parking for Grace Methodist Church and Snarf’s. Those interested can enjoy lunch together after our work is complete. Snarf’s has delicious sandwiches, soups, etc. available. For liability reasons, this activity is limited to adults only.

Please let Tom Crouch know by Friday, December 9, if you can help.

Support for our Central West End Neighbors: Trinity Episcopal Church’s Food Ministry

Trinity Episcopal Church, our CWE neighbor, created a Food Ministry many years ago to ease the burden of daily living for area individuals and families. Trinity’s programming offers compassion and community along with food essentials to ease the burdens of the food insecure. In recent years, Trinity adopted a “Choice Pantry” model that permits its clients to shop bimonthly for preferred food items. Clients register their food preferences with Trinity to guide pantry stocking and donations. [Read More](#)

OP Shop Specials This Week:

The Women’s Alliance OP SHOP will be featuring holiday decorations until December 18.
Stop by the shop in Fellowship Hall to purchase/donate seasonal items!

It’s Poinsettia Time! Time is Running Out to Order!

Help us decorate the sanctuary for the holidays by ordering one or more holiday poinsettias. The deadline for orders is December 5. Talk to Dottie Kinscherf either by e-mail (flowers@firstuustlouis.org) or in person in Fellowship Hall after service on December 4. Cost is \$10 per 6” pot, payable at signup. You may take your poinsettias home with you after Christmas Eve services.

Guest at Your Table 2022: Hope Courage Action

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about critical human rights issues. This year – focusing on the theme Hope, Courage, Action – we are highlighting four leaders from UUSC partner organizations. Boxes were distributed on Sunday 11/20 and will be returned Sunday January 15th. Videos about this week’s guest Zsolt Szekeres can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/762051555/91d179297b>

Community News

CRC Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 14th, 3-7pm

CRC Parking Lot (Look for the Blood Donor Bus)

Our neighbors at Central Reform Congregation are hosting a blood drive in partnership with ImpactLife (formerly the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center) for whole blood and double red cell donation.

Appointments required - https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/118043

You can schedule pastoral appointments with Rev. Kim at your convenience. Click on this link <https://calendly.com/kmason-7> and choose the date that works best for you - no account necessary.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

314-361-0595

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister (kmason@firstuustlouis.org)

Danielle Kozemczak, Director of Religious Education & Communications (dkozem@firstuustlouis.org)

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)

Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. (aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org)

Earl Naylor, Music Director/Organist (enaylor@firstuustlouis.org)

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician (mhurst@firstuustlouis.org)

Policy Board

Board President – Steve Wilke

Vice President – Erin Milligan

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Member – Norma Vogelweid

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Sue Herzberg, Programming Cluster