



Joy Comes in the Morning
Rev. Kim Mason
Sunday December 11th, 2022
Order of Service

Ringing of the Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Adam Lunter

Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr by Roger Hellweg

Judy Meyer, Piano

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

Adam 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 *The Little Book of Joy* by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu
Illustrated by Rafael López

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

Reading

Joy Unspeakable by Barbara A. Holmes

Adam Lunter

Call for the Offering

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

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

Feelin' Good

Pam Geppert, soloist
Greg Hoeltzel, pianist

Reading

Finding and Centering Queer Joy by Sassafras Lowrey

Adam Lunter

Homily

Joy Comes in the Morning

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #100 *I've Got Peace Like a River*

*I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,*

I've got peace like a river in my soul. (2x)

I've got joy like a fountain...

I've got love like an ocean...

I've got pain like an arrow...

I've got tears like the raindrops ...

I've got strength like a mountain ...

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude *What a Wonderful World*

by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss
sung by Judy Meyer and Pam Geppert, and Greg Hoeltzel, piano

Music Notes:

The text for “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” is derived from “The Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn” from the Litany of St. James written in the 4th century. Today’s piano arrangement, a traditional French melody, was arranged by Roger Hellweg.

“What a Wonderful World” was written by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss and was first recorded by Louis Armstrong and released in 1967.

Serving Us This Morning

Ushers: Roy Cole and Sherry Bassi

Greeters: Jeremy Colton and Susan Lammert

AV Assistant: Margaret Weck

Poinsettias Provided By:

Clint Cruse

Kay and Larry Dusenbery

Dottie Kinscherf and Gene Rubin

Alison Lamothe and Steve Smidowicz

Joan Oliver

Kimberly Perry

Lisa Ross and Chuck Eby

Nadine and Alvin Vlietstra

Margaret Weck and Jamie Laing

Kathy and Jim Wire

**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 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)

Monday December 12th

6:30pm to 7:30pm Policy Board Meeting (online)

Tuesday December 13th

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Alliance Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday December 14th

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Blue Holiday Service (Dodson Room)

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

Thursday December 15th

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Siegrist/Milligan Covenant Group (online)

Saturday December 17th

10:00 am to 12:15 pm Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm Young Adult Group (Kitchen)

Sunday December 18th

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

11:30 am to 12:30 pm SRC Forum- Southside Early Childhood Center Presentation (Chapel - in person only)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Young Adult Group (Dodson)

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm Winter Solstice Spiral/Singing Bowl Meditation (Mark Biehl) (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 18th - Children's Christmas Pageant

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

Sunday December 25th 10am Christmas Morning w Rev. Kim

Sunday January 1st 10:30 am New Year's Day Potluck Brunch (Fellowship Hall)

Joys and Concerns

Joys

*We are thankful for all the time and energy **Jane Hoelkeman** put into Hanging of the Greens*

Concerns

We send healing thoughts to...

***Claire Birge**, who is recovering from injuries caused by a recent fall*

***Mike Nolan**, who is recovering from injuries caused by a recent fall*

We send our condolences to...

***Grace Munie**, on the recent passing of her cousin*

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 Collections

Sunday December 24th, 2022

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

SouthSide Early Education Center

The mission of the Southside Early Childhood Center is to create lasting opportunity in the lives of children and their families. In 1886, a group of women created SEEC to ease the burden of childcare for immigrant families. Today, that historic organization is called SouthSide Early Childhood Center. It is an invaluable resource for St Louis City children and their parents offering quality education and enrichment opportunities to a diverse group of children across socio-economic, racial and cultural backgrounds. Nominated by Kimberly Perry

Gateway 180

Gateway 180 is Missouri's largest residential shelter for families and single women. Its programming includes shelter and rapid re-housing services along with educational programming, supportive casework, counseling

referral, help with basic necessities in achieving housing, and various child-focused programming, including tutoring and summer camp. It currently shelters 100 women, children and family members, down from its pre-COVID count of 150. Nominated by Rosemary Lawton

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

Church Events

Active Hope Project: Facilitated Listening Circle

Sunday December 11th, 2022 11:30am

(Meet in Hope Chapel)

Part of our congregation's mission statement is "advancing justice" and the Policy Board has been discussing how to fulfill that part of our mission for months. The result was the Active Hope Project. During its initial phase church officers are gathering information to determine a social action issue that our congregation can focus on together through listening circles and individual conversations. This Sunday our second Listening Circle will happen after service in Hope Chapel and we hope you can join us! The third and final Listening Circle will be held on Sunday January 15th, 2023 after Sunday Worship Service.

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

Please bring something to share if you are able

5:30pm Spiral Ritual in Hope Chapel,

honoring the journey from darkness to light

6:30pm Tibetan Singing Bowls meditation with Mark Biehl

A profoundly calming and transformative experience. We will have yoga mats, but you may want to bring an additional mat or pad for comfort. There is no charge, but donations are appreciated to help cover the cost.

Religious Education This Week

This Sunday December 11th, 2022

Story For All Ages: The Little Book of Joy,

by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, illustrated by Rafael López

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 Class This Sunday:

Babies and Toddlers (Nursery)

Preschoolers (Nursery) Chalice Children: Candles for Winter Holidays

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade (C2) Spirit Play: The Story of Jesus' Birth

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

7-12th Graders - (C7) Our Whole Lives: Gender Identity

10th-12th Graders - (C8) Youth Group Holiday Party

First UU Christmas Pageant

Important Dates:

Sunday 12/11 11:30am Pageant Scenery Goes Up

Saturday 12/17 10am- noon Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Sunday 12/18 9am Cast Arrives for 10am Service

Roles and important information went out this week to all families who have RSVP'd. If you plan on participating and did not receive an email please contact Danielle!

Adult volunteers are needed for several tasks. Please contact Danielle if you can help!

Danielle Kozemczak. DRE dkozem@firtuustlouis.org

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

Little Free Pantry Reminder

It's the season to bring stocking caps, winter socks, tee shirts, sweaters and fleece neck scarves. Even if not your week it is ok to add a nice warm surprise on a random day. You will make someone's day better!

Auction Donations!

If you have questions about a donation or want to make a donation you can talk with Auction Committee member Emily Jaycox (look for someone wearing a big hat!) in Fellowship Hall on Dec. 11th & 18th after the service.

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!

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

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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
Secretary – Alison Lamothe
Treasurer – Jeremy Colton
Member – Becca McBride
Member – Norma Vogelweid
Member – Joel Hickman
Member – Susan Lammert

Church Council

Cathy Rauch, Chair
Clint Cruse, Facilities
Kathy Wire, Stewardship
Lisa Ross, Social Responsibility
Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement
Sue Herzberg, Programming Cluster