



**Children's Christmas Pageant
Rev. Kim Mason
Sunday December 18th, 2022
Order of Service**

Ringing of the Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Danielle Kozemczak

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose by Brahams

Earl Naylor, organ

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

Danielle Kozemczak

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

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

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

Adonai Roi by Gerald Cohen
Text: Psalm 23, sung in Hebrew

Alice Montgomery, alto

Homily

Rev. Kim Mason

Christmas Pageant

Procession #228 Once in Royal David's City

*Sung by the congregation

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
so may we when life turns hard find in love our stay and guard.*

*Shepherds came to see this wonder, and to kneel in holy awe
at that lowly stable manger where the infant lay on straw;
so may we this happy morn honor every child that's born.*

*From afar three magi journeyed to that stable rude and bare,
to pay homage to the infant, offering gifts both rich and rare;
so may we our gifts bestow, whether we be high or low.*

In that happy Christmas spirit, hear the angels from on high

*sing their ancient salutations: joy's a gift you cannot buy.
So may we, with heart that sings, share the truth this season brings.*

The Annunciation

The Birth *Away in a Manger*

**Sung by the congregation*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

Herod and the Wise Men

The Shepherds #253 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**Sung by the congregation*

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
(Chorus)*

*Lo, humble shepherds, hasting to his cradle,
leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.
We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps;
(Chorus)*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
(Chorus)*

The Adoration #231 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Sung by the congregation*

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
(Chorus)*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?*

(Chorus)

*See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.*

(Chorus)

The Star

The Teachings

***The Christmas Beatitudes #245 Joy to the World!**

***Sung by the congregation**

Joy to the world! The Word is come:

let earth with praises ring.

Let every heart prepare a room,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! Now gladness reigns:

let hearts their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground.

Let righteousness its glories show

as far as love is found, as far as love is found,

as far, as far, as love is found.

***Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo by J. S. Bach

Earl Naylor, organ

Serving Us This Morning

Ushers: Susan Lammert & Roy Cole

Greeters: Cathay Rauch & Kevin Kellogg

AV Assistant: Pamela Geppert

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

Pageant Cast
Mary - Kenley Wilke
Joseph - Tyler Hunt
Baby Jesus - Rory Van Ryn
Three Kings - Theo Hamtil, Josie Hamtil & Caleb Hunt
Angel Gabriel -Jane Bolen
Angel of the Lord - Nora Deason
Herod - Cordelia Wagner
Roman Centurion - Oliver Bolen
Towns People - Kira Hill, Grayson Vaughn, Amory Henderson
Inn Keeper - Beverly Ratliff
Shepherds - Amory Henderson & Oliver Bolen
Flock - Seamus Hill, Sarah Ivy Goeke-Munch & Sophie Vaughn
Dancing Angels - Kira Hill, Grayson Vaughn & Cordelia Wagner
Cherubs - children from the nursery
Readers - Eli Minor, Christian Cox, Martina Munie, Maddie Minor
Pageant Support - Andrea Berin, Sarah Vaughn, Caitlyn Hill, Jon Hunt, Joel Minor, Richard
Haegele, Sam Hunt and many others.
Three King Singers: Emily Colton, Anna Roach and Tom Finan

**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 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)

Monday December 19th

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Crouch/Feinberg Covenant Group (Clark Room)

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Church Council (online)

Tuesday December 20th

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

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm Yokota/Franklin Covenant Group (online)

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Auction Meeting (online)

Wednesday December 21st

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

Saturday December 24th

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Hospitality in Fellowship Hall

Sunday December 25th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Christmas Morning with Rev. Kim (Dodson Room)

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

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 celebrate with...

Tony and Melanie Fathman as they celebrate 60 years of marriage on December 29th

Concerns

We send our condolences to...

Auggie Underwood, on the recent passing of her brother Fabian Underwood

Kimberly Perry and Mike Nolan, who are mourning the death of a friend

The Care and Concerns team wishes everyone a joyous holiday season and peace and joy in the new year!

One of the important services the Care and Concerns team provides are rides to church and to medical appointments for our members and friends who cannot drive themselves. If you would like to help with this important service, please email the Care and Concerns at careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org

Letters to the Editor

Two First UU members recently had their letters to the editor published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch!

Cathy Rauch -

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-granting-rail-workers-sick-pay-is-not-too-much-to-ask/article_803e631b-c037-53b5-8da5-9c6e5234cac7.html

Susan Lammert -

https://www.stltoday.com/opinion/mailbag/letter-homeless-status-doesnt-justify-criminal-prosecution/article_f7ed4f33-d0a6-5c6a-9975-47c3f364275f.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

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

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. **This talk will be held in Hope Chapel and will be in-person only.**

Sunday, December 18th 11:30 am

Young Adult Group Meeting

(Clark Room and Zoom)

This month's meeting will be as informal as last month's meeting. We will discuss upcoming church events and future group plans. For our parents out there, please consider stopping by the meeting with little ones in tow. You

are welcome & wanted in the planning of this community! The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2023,
in the Dodson Room at 11:30 am.

Light snacks & coffee will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 844 9137 1998

Passcode: 103224

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.

Welcoming Congregations Meet & Greet

Sunday, January 22, 11:30 AM

Dodson Room

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies are invited for a meet and greet to discuss the post-pandemic reboot of the Welcoming Congregations Committee. Gather with new and old friends to envision how First Unitarian can support our Welcoming Congregation designation.

Religious Education This Week

This Sunday December 18th, 2022

First UU Christmas Pageant

Saturday 12/17 10am- noon Pageant Dress Rehearsal

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

This Sunday our children and youth will perform our annual Christmas Pageant! All participants over five years should plan on attending dress rehearsal on Saturday and arriving by 9am on Sunday to prep and do a run through of the pageant with our A/V tech before service begins at 10am. Please contact Danielle if you have any questions or concerns at dkozem@firstuustlouis.org

Children and youth not participating in the pageant are welcomed to attend service with their family. Nursery care will be available as well.

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

Staff Recognition Fund

First Church values our staff as individuals and key members of our church community and demonstrates this through periodic celebrations of staff accomplishments, achievements and life milestones. The Staff Recognition Fund exists to be a source of funds for such recognition and for modest staff celebrations.

Traditionally we recognize staff members at the holidays.

If you would like to contribute to this fund you may do so by:

- 1) Sending a check to the church with 'Staff Recognition Fund' in the memo line.
- 2) Make an online contribution using the link below and choose 'Staff Recognition Fund.'

<https://tinyurl.com/4z97sffw>

Thank you for your support and generosity!

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!

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

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