



Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols
Rev. Kim Mason
December 24, 2022
Order of Service

Gathering Music Earl Naylor, organ

Ringing of the Bowl

Welcome Sarah Dashner

Prelude *Silent Night* by Earl Naylor Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship *Come Christmas* by Maureen Killoran Rev. Kim Mason

Congregational Carol #224 Let Christmas Come

*Let Christmas come, its story told,
when days are short and winds are cold;
let Christmas come, its lovely song
when evening's soon and night is long.*

*Let Christmas come, its great star glow,
on quiet city, parks of snow;
let Christmas come, its table gleam,
love born again: the truth of dream.*

Chalice Lighting Sarah Dashner

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.*

Carol *Din Don! Merrily on High* by Kirke Meachem First Unitarian Choir

Reading *The Winter Candle* inspired by Jeron Ashford Danielle Kozemczak

Congregational Carol: In the Darkness of the Winter (see insert)

*In the darkness of the winter,
Quiet hearts beneath the sky,
We are waiting for the day-star
And a holy newborns cry.
Friends and family here have gathered,
gathered here from near and far,
Sharing hearts and hands and laughter
in the soft light of the star.*

*Legends tell us of a baby born
to those whose hearts were free,
Scared and lonely trav'ling onward,
Seeking shelter, endlessly.
Ancient story of rejoicing
names the baby born that night
As a savior for all earth-bound,
Bringing hope and joy and light.*

*But who is this holy baby
Legends say was born this night?
Do we seek a newborn savior?
Could a child bring so much light?
We who gather know the secret
Of the savior long foretold:
They're a blessing deep within us
And a gift within our soul.*

*Ev'ry night a child is born
We know the spark of holiness.
Ev'ry person has within them
Hope and love and tenderness.
In the darkness of the winter,
Joyful hearts beneath the sky,
We proclaim the hope and power
In ev'ry newborn's cry.*

Reading *Luke 2:1-20* Sarah Dashner

Congregational Carol #231 Angels We Have Heard on High

*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 your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Chorus*

*Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Chorus*

Prayer

Rev. Kim Mason

Carol

In the Bleak MidWinter by Gustav Holst

First Unitarian Choir

Reading

I Will Light Candles by Howard Thurman

Sarah Dashner

Call for Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

I Will Light Candles by Kim Arnesen
Words by Howard Thurman

First Unitarian Choir

Homily

Rev. Kim Mason

Candle Lighting & Congregational Carol #251 Silent Night

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Child of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face*

*With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
"Alleluia to our King."
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.*

Benediction

Rev. Kim Mason

Recessional #245 Joy to the World

*Joy to the world! the Lord has come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing,*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Emily Jaycox & Roy Cole
Greeters: Joel Hickman & Gwenne Hickman
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**

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**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!

Saturday December 24th

4:30pm to 5:30pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Rev. Kim Mason

5:30pm to 6:30pm Christmas Eve Cookies Social (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday December 25th

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

Tuesday December 27th

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

Wednesday December 28th

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

Sunday January 1st

10:30 am to 12:00 pm No Worship Service - New Year's Day Potluck Brunch (Fellowship Hall) In Person Only

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

January Theme - Wintering

Sunday January 1st 2023 10:30am - New Year's Day Brunch at Church! No Worship Service

Sunday January 8th 2023 10am - "A Unitarian Jazz Sunday" with Lay Leader Adam Lunter

Sunday January 15th 2023 10am - MLK Jr Day Service with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday January 22nd 2023 10am - Fire Communion Service with Rev. Kim Mason

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*

We send healing thoughts to...

***April Sullivan**, whose beloved pet cat recently underwent surgery*

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

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

Save The Date!

Saturday January 21st, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Mid-Winter Meeting

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a potluck, followed by the congregation's Mid-Winter Meeting.

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 25th, 2022

No RE Classes This Sunday

The Nursery will be open to provide loving childcare during the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

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

Sunday January 8th 2023 10am-1:30pm

RE Hindu Temple of St. Louis Field Trip

All RE Participants K-6th Welcomed

We will be visiting the Hindu Temple of St. Louis on Sunday January 8th. This field trip is open to all RE participants K-12th grade.

Announcements

COVID Task Force Update

The COVID Task Force wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season. Given the rise in COVID cases and the additional surge in influenza and RSV infections, we will continue to recommend that masking be required in the worship service. We hope that this will enable as many as possible to share in our beloved community.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Policy Board Meeting Summary

12 December 2022 via Zoom

Supporting the Gospel Music Hall of Fame

Rev. Kim presented a letter, which we were asked to sign, that supports the conversion of the Second Baptist Church on 500 N Kingshighway Boulevard into a Gospel Music Hall of Fame. Rev. Kim noted that the Romanesque building is architecturally and historically significant, and if left unoccupied it will continue to deteriorate. Alison moved to sign the letter of endorsement. Erin seconded. Motion passed.

Board committees (Ministry, Personnel, Nominations) update

The Personnel and Nominations Committees did not meet since the last Board meeting. Although the Committee on Ministry did meet, Susan could not comment on their work since they are currently involved with Rev. Kim's review. She did, however, report that she attended a Webinar with Interfaith Power and Light. She summarized the webinar as follows:

“The Inflation Reduction Act makes funding for energy conservation available to Houses of Worship for the first time. It will be several years before details are worked out. In the meantime congregations should get ready. A start up kit is available for downloading at the Cool Congregations website. We should learn about cost effective strategies by forming a green team (the facilities committee is the obvious one). Next we should do an energy audit to develop a baseline and plan. We should encourage members to take similar measure at their homes. There are existing sources of funding by utilities and other congregations. One example is a challenge grant from Cool Congregations.”

Exercise in defining our Values

Rev. Kim prompted meeting attendees to list things or qualities that are important to us (“ones that we would publicly proclaim”) and/or that we perceive to be important to our congregation, which she then jotted down on a virtual white board. The final list included: tolerance, tradition, spirituality, community, justice, inclusivity, compassion, kindness, integrity, diversity, open-mindedness, love, progressive, free-thinking, learning, education, intellectual, careful, cautious, charity, outward looking, balance, inward focused, ecumenical, interfaith, Welcoming Congregation, Green Sanctuary, formality, comfort, structure, flexibility, collaborative, anti-authoritarian, musicality, participation, democratic process, engagement, non-dogmatic, non-creedal, covenantal, faith, search for meaning, creativity, generous, and stingy.

Rev. Kim then asked participants to select their “top three” priorities from the list that we generated. There was a lot of overlap. Justice was mentioned most often (7 responses), followed by community (5 responses). Two participants mentioned faith; tolerance, compassion, kindness, intellectual, non-creedal, and formality received one mention each.

Church maintenance issues: The roof, gutters, walls, and other structural concerns

Steve ended the meeting with a discussion of the maintenance needs of our church building. For example, the roof of the RE wing (constructed in the 1950s) and gutters need repairs. A wall is taking on water. In sum, the necessary repairs will total in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the future, a major task for the Board will be to determine how we will pay for this maintenance. Possible options include taking out a mortgage, tapping the General Fund and/or our investments, and/or launching a capital campaign as we did to build Hope Chapel. The next Policy Board meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Lamothe

Tuesday February 28, 2023 7:00–8:30PM
In Conversation with Michelle Alexander

Graham Chapel at Washington University in St. Louis

Prof. Fannie Bialek discusses the state of legal and social movements against mass incarceration with the best-selling author, legal scholar, and social justice activist.

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!

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

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Member – Norma Vogelweid

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