



**Ingathering: We Got Here Together
with Rev. Kim Mason
September 10th, 2023**

Ringling of the Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Mike Lunter

Prelude *Christ, unser Herr zum Jordan kam* by J.S.Bach

Earl Naylor, organ

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #360 Here We Have Gathered

*Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;
circle of kinship, come and step inside!
May all who seek here find a kindly word;
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
days of our lifetime, matters small and great:
we of all ages, women, children, men,
infants and sages, sharing what we can.
Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.*

*Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:
but in the shadows, let us not forget:
we who now gather know each other's pain;
kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.
Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.*

Chalice Lighting

Mike Lunter

Sung Response

*There is always a light
When we are ready to see it
There is always a light
When we are ready to be it*

*To see the light, to be the light
To raise our eyes in the dark of night
To climb this hill
Together, we will - Be the light*

Words by Amanda Gorman, Music by Lea Morris

Story, Part I

We Got Here Together
By Kim Stafford

Rev. Kim Mason &
Danielle Kozemczak

Special Music

With a Voice of Singing

First Unitarian Choir

Joys and Concerns

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

Rev. Kim Mason

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.

Story, Part II

We Got Here Together
By Kim Stafford

Rev. Kim Mason &
Danielle Kozemczak

Call for the Offering

Use the Online Giving QR Code on your pew QR codes card to make an online offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

Better Together by Jack Johnson
Caitlin Hill soloist, Matt Sluder percussion

First Unitarian Choir

Activity

Danielle Kozemczak

Reading

In Sweet Company by Margaret Wolff

Mike Lunter

Reflection

We Got Here Together

Rev. Kim Mason

Water Communion Ritual

Hymn #318 We Would Be One

*We would be one as now we join in singing
our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew*

*to that high cause of greater understanding
of who we are, and what in us is true.
We would be one in living for each other
to show to all a new community.*

*We would be one in building for tomorrow
a nobler world than we have known today.
We would be one in searching for that meaning
which bends our hearts and points us on our way.
As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service,
with love and justice, strive to make us free.*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude *Caprice sur les Grand Jeu* by Louis-Nicolas Clerambault

Earl Naylor, organ

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Lisa Ross
Greeters: Jeremy Colton & Susan Lammert
AV Assistant: Tom Finan

Music Notes

J. S. Bach (1685-1750) did a great deal of text painting in this chorale prelude, which is about the baptism of Jesus. The two voices in the right hand represent the conversation between John the Baptist and Jesus; the left hand is the Jordan River flowing along at a spritely pace; and in the pedals we hear the chorale melody.

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault 1676 –1749) was a French musician, best known as an organist and composer. He began as the organist at the church of the Grands-Augustins and entered the service of Madame de Maintenon. After the death of Louis XIV and Guillaume-Gabriel Nivers, he succeeded the latter at the organ of the church of Saint-Sulpice and the royal house of Saint-Cyr, an institution for young girls from the poor nobility. In 1719 he succeeded his teacher André Raison at the organs of the church of the Grands-Jacobins.

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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 ground.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Yellow Pages

(314) 361-0595 5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63108 <https://www.firstuustlouis.org/>
Weekly E-News from First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

This Sunday September 10th, 2023

10am Ingathering: We Got Here Together with Rev. Kim Mason

Each fall as we kick off the church year, we regather by combining water in a shared ritual. The water comes from many sources - mundane and extraordinary, near and far - symbolizing the literal and figurative journeys we've been on this summer, whether or not we ever left home. Join us for this annual tradition!

Watch This Service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/uvMzMU-jLuM>)

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81842582434?pwd=dThVUXR1clhTMVBFbmRYa0l3OVlKZz09>)

Submit Your Water Source Information to Rev. Kim

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuS0d1JRulZxJzn01EfRvs71IUffNB5YemN7SaIYM8SARqiw/viewform?authuser=0>)

Designated Collection this Sunday

Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU)

Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) is a community organization that brings together religious congregations, community groups, and individuals in the St. Louis area to work toward a more equitable life for all residents. There are ~ 60 member or partner congregations, including First Unitarian. Recent campaigns have included Juvenile Justice/Participatory Defense, Expungement of juvenile records, Integrated Voter Engagement, and Environmental Justice. The population served includes youth, particularly youth of color, as well as those living in disinvested neighborhoods. Nominated by Lisa Ross

Religious Education This Sunday

This Sunday September 3rd, 2023

Multigenerational Worship Service

Ingathering: We Got Here Together with Rev. Kim Mason

All Children and Youth are invited to attend service with their family at 10am

The Nursery will be Open for Childcare

Story for All Ages: We Got Here Together by Kim Stafford.

A simple story about a raindrop from the sky, a bubble from the ocean, and how we all got here, together.

2023/2024 RE Programming Begins Soon!

Sunday 9/17 RE Programming Begins

10am RE Kick Off Party! (Pre-K - 7th graders)

10am Coming of Age Orientation Part 1 (8-10th)

23/24 RE Registration is Now Open! (<https://form.jotform.com/232215110204131>)

Check out RE This Week! (<https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-09102023>)

This Week at First UU STL

Sunday September 10th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Ingathering/Water Communion (Sanctuary)

Monday September 11th

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Policy Board Meeting (online)

Tuesday September 12th

11:00 am to 2:00 pm Women's Alliance (Fellowship Hall & online)

Wednesday September 13th

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Saturday September 16th

9:00 am to 2:00 pm Teacher Training (Chapel)

10:00 am to 11:00 am Black Lives Matter Social Witness

Sunday September 17th

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

10:00 am to 11:15 am Religious Education Kick Off Party!

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

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Membership Committee (Library)

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday September 17th Answering the Call of Love with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday September 24th Repair Work with Rev. Kim Mason

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Welcome new member Robert Kokenyesi!

Congratulations to Religious Education graduate and son of members Judy and Randy Speck, Danny Speck, whose art work was recently featured by the Post Dispatch in a s (https://www.stltoday.com/life-entertainment/local/made-in-st-louis-artists-first-supports-and-showcases-a-local-talent/article_2ffb44f4-2d83-11ee-84fd-ab272f83e97d.html) tory about Artists First.

(https://www.stltoday.com/life-entertainment/local/made-in-st-louis-artists-first-supports-and-showcases-a-local-talent/article_2ffb44f4-2d83-11ee-84fd-ab272f83e97d.html) Way to go Danny!

Congratulations to member Jerry O'Brien, who has a new podcast

(<https://newbooksnetwork.com/eugenics-genetics-and-disability-in-historical-and-contemporary-perspective/>) about his recent book

Eugenics, Genetics, and Disability in Historical and Contemporary Perspective

As a church community, each of us is an integral part of the care and concerns network. SHARE a Joy or Concern with us by clicking the button below or email your joy or concern to

careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org (mailto:careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org)

(mailto:careandconcern@firstuustlouis.org)

Share a Joy or Concern (<https://forms.gle/c4VnpozjVLhQoJff7>)

Welcome New Member Robert Kokenyesi!

Church News

Gardening Day!

Saturday September 16th 9:30am

The weather is wonderful -- take this opportunity to help with gardening needs on our church grounds. Meet in front of the church at 9:30am to help. Please bring a water bottle and tools.

Metro STL UU Booth at Tower Grove Pride

Saturday 9/23 and Sunday 9/24!

The Metro STL UUs are collaborating on a booth at Tower Grove Pride! We have slots to sign up for staffing the booth as well as helping out with set up and take down. If you're planning to attend, it would be easy to tack a 2 hour shift on before or after you enjoy the festivities!

Sign up for a Shift! (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AADAA29A7FAC52-tower>)

Save the Date! Sunday October 1st, 11:15 AM-2 PM

Congregational Outreach and Community Engagement Summit

Let your voice be heard on Sunday October 1 in our first ever Congregational Outreach and Community Engagement Summit! During the shutdown, we looked inward to focus on who we are today as a church and what we value. Next on our spiritual journey is evidencing our values in our St. Louis community. Reverend Mason invites all church members to share lunch and conversation as we begin to plan the next steps in our mission of "advancing justice." We will meet after services in Hope Chapel, from 11:15 AM-2:30PM. Childcare will be provided. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

RSVP for this Congregational Summit (<https://forms.gle/LjgxnNGj7rU4Lsqb8>)

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser!

Sunday September 24th 11am - noon

in Fellowship Hall

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the annual First Unitarian Church pancake breakfast on September 24, right after the Sunday service! The breakfast will include all-you-can-eat pancakes courtesy of Chris Cakes, sausage (regular and vegan), fruit and other pancake toppings, coffee, tea and Tang! Tickets are \$6 - Kids 10 and Under, \$9 for Adults with a \$30 max for families.

Buy Tickets for 9/24 Pancake Breakfast (<https://first-unitarian-church-of-st-louis.square.site/>)

Flowers for Sunday Services

Do you enjoy having fresh flowers in the sanctuary on Sundays? These flowers are donated by members and friends of the church – often in memory of loved ones or in honor of a special person or occasion. Is this something you would be interested in doing this year? Donating is easy – Dottie Kinscherf can take care of ordering the flowers for you and arranging for delivery. If you are interested in learning more or signing up for a specific Sunday, contact Dottie at flowers@firstuustlouis.org (<mailto:flowers@firstuustlouis.org>)

UUA News

<https://youtu.be/sLcdqLiruZY?si=2c5xLT-yqfgBrFbq>

Welcome, in this Season of Return with the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

It is with a mixture of joy and a heavy heart that I welcome you into this season of return, as Unitarian Universalists celebrate ingatherings in congregations and communities and we come back to each other. With natural disasters looming, violence in our streets and in our institutions, and hate-fueled harm appearing daily in our newsfeeds, this is a difficult time. And yet I know that our communities offer the kind of ministry that responds to the need for connection and solace.

As congregations return to each other, I, too, am returning to leadership in the Unitarian Universalist Association. I am grateful for the love and support you have shown me during my presidential campaign, and I am moved by this opportunity to serve our faith. We are at the start of our shared ministry together and there is much to do. I want to share the video message below with you to begin to describe this work, and I hope you will share it widely with your congregations and communities.

As we move together into this new time for Unitarian Universalism, I want us to hold on to the lessons we have learned coming out of the pandemic – lessons about how to hold one another in care, how to protect the health of all, and how to center the needs of those most vulnerable among us so that community – writ large – continues. This is the work of communal care, as we steward this faith together.

Be well, Beloveds.

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

You can schedule pastoral appointments with Rev. Kim at your convenience. Click the button below and choose the date that works best for you - no account necessary.

Schedule an Appointment with Rev. Kim Mason (<https://calendly.com/kmason-7>)

Our Mission

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

Staff

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 – Alison Lamothe

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Treasurer – Jeremy Colton

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Chris Kocher

Member – Susan Lammert

Church Council

Sherry Bassi, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster