



**The Mystery of Miracles
with Rev. Kim Mason
December 10th, 2023**

Ringing of Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Carole Watson

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose* by Johannes Brahms Judy Meyer, Soprano, Carolyn Toft, Piano

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #83 Winds Be Still

*Winds be still.
Storm clouds pass and silence come.
Peace grace this time with harmony.
Fly, bird of hope, and shine, light of love,
and in calm let all find tranquility.*

*Bird fly high.
Lift our gaze toward distant view.
Help us to sense life's mystery.
Fly high and far, and lead us each to see
how we move through the winds of eternity.*

*Light shine in.
Luminate our inward view.
Help us to see with clarity.
Shine bright and true so we may join our songs
in new sounds that become full symphony.*

Chalice Lighting

Carole Watson

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

*Come, dream a dream with me,
come, dream a dream with me,
come, dream a dream with me,
that I might know your mind.*

(Chorus)

*Come, walk in rain with me,
come, walk in rain with me,
come, walk in rain with me,
that I might know your mind.*

(Chorus)

*Come, share a rose with me,
come, share a rose with me,
come, share a rose with me,
that I might know your mind.*

(Chorus)

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

Joy to the World Wilbur Held

Earl Naylor, organ

*This week's flowers are given by **Carole and John Watson** who wish Happy Holidays to one and all!!*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Scott Sinclair & Gary Parks
Greeters: Grace Munie & Susan Lammert
AV Assistant: Pamela Geppert

Music Notes

Veni, Emmanuel is a 15th century French processional. This morning's version was arranged in 2006 by Raymond H. Haan for cello and organ but is now adapted for soprano and piano.

The tune of *Brightest and Best* is "Star of the East" written in 1835 by American William Walker. The words are from a hymn written 1811 by Anglican Bishop Reginald Heber.

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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 Sunday December 10th, 2023

Worship Service

Sunday December 10th 10am

The Mystery of Miracles with Rev Kim Mason

The winter holidays bring familiar stresses. When also dealing with loss or change, the holidays can feel more sad than festive. Together we acknowledge the challenges and seek solace in community.

"This Sunday's flowers are given by Carole and John Watson who wish Happy Holidays to one and all!!"

Watch this Service on YouTube (https://youtube.com/live/8Brn-m_6B4k?feature=share)

**** After Service this Sunday**

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Fair Trade Sale (Fellowship Hall)

Last chance to buy a UUA book this Sunday! We will also be selling Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Makers Ministry (Offsite)

Makers Ministry will do a holiday brunch on 12/10 and will not be meeting at the church. Any church member interested in participating the Makers Ministry brunch is welcome. Please contact Sherry Bassi for further information.

11:30 am to 1:30 pm Pageant Scenery Set-Up (Sanctuary)

We Need Pageant Scenery Helpers!

This Sunday after service we need help transporting scenery parts from the basement to the sanctuary. These pieces are heavy and need to be assembled. If you can carry and/or help assemble please let Danielle know by replying to this email!

11:30 am to 12:15 pm Newcomer Chat (Dodson)

Are you new to the First Church Community? Want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this congregation? Plan to attend the Newcomer Chat after service and meet with Rev. Kim and members of the congregation. This meeting will be in-person. Hope you can make it!

**** This Week at First UU STL**

Monday December 11th

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

Tuesday December 12th

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Personnel Committee (Clark Room)

Wednesday December 13th

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Saturday December 16th

10:00 am to 12:30 pm Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday December 17th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Children's Christmas Pageant Worship Service - In Person & Online

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Fair Trade Sale (Fellowship Hall)

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

5:00 pm to 8:00 pm ERDE Solstice & Tibetan Singing Bowls (Clark Room & Chapel)

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Welcome to four new members! Nesi Rose, Chris and Annette Peterson and Erica Perlow all signed the membership book on December 6th..Welcome!

Concerns

*Healing thoughts for **Jama Dodson**, who is currently in the hospital for extreme back pain **Dori Miller** has been moved to Bethesda Dillworth, Room 2010. She can receive short visits on the weekends, and welcomes phone calls.*

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

Submit Joy or Concern Online

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrfikA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8IF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform)

Religious Education This Sunday

RE Classes Meet This Sunday! Children and Youth are encouraged to begin in service with their families. After the Story for All Ages ends, children and youth can exit the sanctuary to attend class. The Nursery will be open for childcare.

Story for All Ages:

The Christmas Without Gram, by Judith C Campbell

When someone loses a love one it makes the holidays different. This is a story about a young person named Rachel who loses her grandmother before Christmas time. Rachel struggles with mixed emotions, but finds hope in her memories, family, her dog, and a new kitten.

RE Classes This Sunday!

PreK - Winter Lights

1st-3rd - The Pageant Story

4th-7th - Pageant Table Read

8th-12th - Ethics Play and Holiday Party

Upcoming Services

December Theme: Mystery

Sunday December 17th - Children's Christmas Pageant with Rev Kim Mason

Join us for our traditional Christmas Pageant featuring participants in the First Unitarian religious education program. This is an all ages service.

Sunday December 24th Christmas Eve Services

4:30pm Christmas Eve: Traditional with Rev Kim Mason

A joyful Christmas Eve service featuring lessons and carols for all ages, followed by cider and cookies in the Fellowship Hall

6:30pm Christmas Eve: Contemplative with Rev Kim Mason

A reflective Christmas Eve observance inviting peace and presence this holiday season.

Church Events

Sunday, December 17th 5pm

ERDE Solstice Ritual and Singing Bowls

5pm ERDE Gathering in Clark Room

6pm Singing Bowls in Hope Chapel

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.

Solstice Spiral and Soup Potluck

Friday December 22nd 5:30pm

Welcome the returning light with this meditative evening for all ages. Bring your favorite soup for the potluck starting at 5:30 pm, then join in a participatory service for all at 7pm with a candle-lit solstice spiral ritual! Hope to see you there!

Sunday December 24th 10am

Christmas Caroling at Bethesda Dilworth

Join us as we spread Christmas Joy! We will meet at 10am in the lobby of Bethesda Dilworth (9645 Big Bend Rd). We recommend masking for this activity. Please click the button below to RSVP so we know who is joining us. If you have any questions please reply to this email.

RSVP for Caroling (<https://forms.gle/cqPQjL1RooiypFtM6>)

Church News

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Christmas decorations: Jane Hoekelman, Sue Herzberg, Margaret Weck and Jamie Laing.

First Unitarian Church of St Louis

Policy Board Meeting Summary

November 25, 2023 Virtual

The Policy Board unanimously adopted a recommendation from the Personnel Committee authorizing a new policy for paid vacation for all part-time staff who regularly work at least 10 hours per week. This new policy reflects our values to support our staff and all workers. Now, full-time and these part-time staff are entitled to paid vacation time.

We are looking for church members to join the Nominating Committee chaired by Margaret Weck. Serving on the Nominating Committee is a great way to learn more about all that is happening at First U. The Nominating Committee's busy time is from January to early May. Please let a board member or Margaret know if you may be interested. Please say yes if we approach you to invite you to join the committee!

The board enthusiastically agreed to ask the congregation to vote at the Mid-Winter Meeting to co-ordain (along with the Columbia, MO UU Church) George Grimm-Howell as a UU minister. The ordination ceremony will be held at First U STL in June. Congratulations to George for being accepted into preliminary fellowship pending completion of his internship.

The board continued to discuss creating a process for First U to take a public stand on social justice issues. The board minutes provide a summary of the UUA guide, Taking Action as a Congregation, Guide to Congregational Resolutions & Social Justice Statements, available at <https://www.uua.org/justice-programs/resolutions>.

The board approved sending letters to seven members we have not heard from in two years. At this time each year, First U sends letters to members whom we have lost touch with to see if they would like to remain members. We discussed how important it is to stay in touch and reach out to people we have not seen in a while.

-Sidney Watson, Policy Board Secretary

Stop by the OP Shop and check out the GREAT deals on holiday decor and tableware. There will also be some ornaments made from antique quilts for sale.

2023 Guest at Your Table Campaign

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals—the "guests" in Guest at Your Table.

<https://vimeo.com/uusc/gayt-abjp?share=copy>

Get know to UUSC partner organization, Alliance for Black Justice in Poland

Pastoral Appointments

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, Outreach & Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster