



**Children's Christmas Pageant
with Rev. Kim Mason & Danielle Kozemczak
December 17th, 2023**

Ringing of the Bowl

Welcome and Announcements

Danielle Kozemczak

Prelude *Von Himmel Hoch* by Johann Pachelbel

Earl Naylor, organ

Call into Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

***Hymn #226 People Look East**

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course and flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather; bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.*

Lighting the Chalice

Danielle Kozemack

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 #86 Blessed Spirit of My Life

*Blessed Spirit of my life, give me strength through stress and strife;
help me live with dignity; let me know serenity.
Fill me with a vision, clear my mind of fear and confusion.
When my thoughts flow restlessly, let peace find a home in me.*

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory *Candlelight Carol* by John Rutter

First Unitarian Church Choir

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 #259 We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

(Chorus)

*O Star of wonder, star of light, star, with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us through this perfect night.*

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 & Lisa Ross
Greeters: Kathy Wire & Sherry Bassi
AV Assistant: Charlie Haegele

Music Notes

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Pageant Cast

Mary - Nora Deason

Joseph - Theo Hamtil

Baby Jesus - Juliette Bateman

Three Kings - Grayson Vaughn, Amory Henderson, and Kira Hill

Angel Gabriel / Angel of the Lord - Cordelia Wagner

Herod - Caleb Hunt

Innkeeper - Josie Hamtil

Shepherds - Josie Hamtil, Schuyler Van Ryn, and Sophie Vaughn

Flock - Adelaide Bateman, Seamus Hill

Cherubs - Rory Van Ryn

Readers - Kenley Wilke, Maddie Minor, Tyler Hunt, Aerin Wilke,
Christian Cox, Martina Munie, Beverly Ratliff

Pageant Volunteers - Bethany Miscannon, Sarah Vaughn, Richard Haegele,
Jon Hunt, Tara Perry, Susan Herzberg, Steve Wilke, Mike Hamtil, and others!

**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 17th, 2023

Worship Service

Sunday December 17th 10am

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.

Can't make it to church in-person this Sunday?

Watch this Service on YouTube (https://youtube.com/live/g_a_UEVupMo)

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

**** After Service this Sunday**

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

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

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.

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

Monday December 18th

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

Tuesday December 19th

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Women's Alliance (online only)

Wednesday December 20th

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday December 21st

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

Friday December 22nd

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm Soup Potluck & Solstice Spiral (Fellowship Hall & Chapel)

Sunday December 24th

10:00 am to 11:00 am Christmas Caroling (Bethesda Dilworth)

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

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

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service - Contemplative (Sanctuary)

Joys and Concerns

Joys

*Welcome new member **Amie Ford**, who signed the membership book on December 10th..Welcome!*

Concerns

*Our condolences to the family of former member **Rob Harding**, who passed on December 6th at his home in Franklin, TN.*

*We send our sympathy to **Grace Munie** whose cousin Delores died on November 27th from cancer and COVID*

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

Last Sunday the joys and concerns form experienced a glitch during service. Here are the joys and concerns submitted and not shared that morning:

Concerns:

The over 17,000 civilians killed in Gaza.

Grief and anger re the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the failure of the United States to join the UN call for a cease fire

Prayers for a friend recovering from kidney surgery and moving home to take care of his ailing mother

Healing for a fiancée's ongoing winter upper respiratory issues.

Joys:

Seeing people of all faiths, races, and walks of life uniting to stand against genocide all over the world.

Appreciation for the joy of watching a toddler experience holiday traditions and wonders of the season

Enjoying an old family recipe for Christmas cookies made by a spouse

Garden Glow with grandkids

Getting to take groceries to - and spend time with - a friend recovering from surgery.

Excited about tech week rehearsal for the upcoming holiday performance of the Gateway Gay Men's Chorus next weekend! Please come!!!

Former Member Passes Away

It is with sadness that we inform you that former member Rob Harding passed on December 6th at his home in Franklin, TN. Rob is warmly remembered by many for his charm and good nature. The many ways he supported the church include: former Board President, Auction chair, Canvass chair, Social Responsibility projects. Our sympathy to his wife, Susan, daughter, Allison, and the rest of his family. You can read the full obituary (<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/robert-harding-obituary?id=53819831>) here. A virtual memorial service will be held on January 6th (details will be provided in the obituary).

New Member Bio: Erica Perlow

Erica is a native and long-term resident of St. Louis, MO. Erica has been coming to First Unitarian since mid-March of this year to experience the environment and worship. They grew up Catholic and years later came out as a queer, non-binary person. After their first visit to our congregation, they felt welcomed as the person they are and free to have their own beliefs.

Erica works full-time as a house cleaner at the Cleaning Authority in Affton. They also work part time as an Uber driver. Outside of work and the church, Erica is part of a women's choir group called CHARIS. They also perform local community theatre throughout St. Louis.

Erica enjoys many activities here at First Unitarian of St. Louis, including performing in the choir group, volunteering as a preschool teacher in religious education, and participating in other social events to meet new people. We are glad Erica found our congregation and grateful for all that they bring to our community. Welcome Erica!

Religious Education This Sunday

First UU Christmas Pageant

Saturday 12/16 10am- noon Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Sunday 12/17 9am Cast Arrives for 10am Service

This Sunday our children and youth will perform our annual Christmas Pageant! All participants 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

NO RE Programming 12/24 or 12/31

The nursery will be open for children 5 and under. Children and youth are encouraged to attend services with their families on these dates.

Upcoming Services

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.

Christmas Eve Cookies & Cider

Sunday December 24th 5:30-6:30 pm

Last year's cider and cookies after the Christmas Eve service was so lovely we're doing it again! Bring a plate of cookies to share, and gather with friends between services. Stay after the 4:30 service or arrive early for the 6:30 service - we'll provide the hot cider!

Sunday December 31st Let the Mystery Be with Lay Leader Pam Geppert

How do UUs perceive Mystery. Is it something to be solved? Something to embrace? Something to be feared? Something to revere?

Church Events

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!

RSVP for Solstice Spiral and Soup Potluck (<https://forms.gle/xGXxRZkkkj4prjzR7>)

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>)

Save the Date! Mid-Winter Meeting

Saturday January 20th 5:30pm

All members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to participate in the annual Mid-Winter Meeting. Join friends old and new for a potluck dinner and an update from the Policy Board. Childcare will be available!

Sign-Up to Attend!

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf00nTsvGhUXmnjcZoMSv7V7p0LPJqIQJJ2N9rnUw7v00HpHw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Church News

Calling for Cookies!

Got more cookies than you know what to do with? Last year's cider and cookies after the Christmas Eve service was so lovely we're doing it again! Can you bring a plate of cookies to share? Drop cookies off the week of December 18-22 or bring them on the 24th.

Bookstore Volunteers Needed!

We need more helpers to re-open the John Learned Bookstore in Fellowship Hall in 2024! We are looking for six people to share the workload. Please click the button below and fill out the form to indicate your interest. Once individuals are identified, an organizing meeting will be arranged.

Thanks for your consideration,

Margaret Weck for the Bookstore Task Force.

NOTE: please DO NOT drop off new book donations at this time. WE need to get going again before we can accept new donations.

Bookstore Volunteer Interest Form (<https://forms.gle/2WzBrGVVQnmXicRo7>)

Ways to Help Our CWE Neighbors This Winter

Ongoing Food and Hygiene Item Donations for Trinity

Many thanks to those who donated to the Social Responsibility Fall Food Drive for Trinity's Food Ministry. Our donations, along with those from other neighboring churches, keep Trinity's pantry stocked to serve an estimated 450-550 individuals monthly. Let's keep the momentum going and continue donations of the requested items to the right. Donations can be left at the designated table in Fellowship Hall.

First Church "Little Free Pantry"

Located in the center of the church parking lot, our Little Free Pantry is a way to share basic necessities with our local friends and neighbors. Bring an item when you come to church or sign up as an individual or group to sponsor stocking the pantry for a week. Click the button below to view the Sign-up Sheet.

During the winter we ask you not to bring canned goods, as they can freeze and explode. Other ready to eat food items are welcomed, along with hand warmers, hygiene supplies, and clothing items such as socks, gloves, and hats. Thanks for helping us keep the pantry stocked during the cold months!

LFP 2023 Sign-Up

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1k_THEz0ChOHzzYQYKRfHiRh9ZBhepbe4dlwlutOQhs0/edit?usp=sharing)

LFP 2024 Sign-Up

(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DvpGPfJrviYZyi7E0nCflHSRGGD3OtpOSBtG5BvsC44/edit?usp=sharing>)

Support of the “Just Food Truck” Project

The Rev. Barbi Click of Trinity Episcopal is coordinating the launch of the “Just Food Truck” which will offer free hot meals and ministry to residents of impoverished neighborhoods. A 2023 First Church Community Fund microgrant recipient, the Project is addressing start up challenges. Check out the website: <https://www.diocesemo.org/justfood-truck/> for updates on project status and ways to be involved. Stay tuned for a Social Responsibility Coffee Hour on this project and food insecurity this spring.

-Submitted by the Social Responsibility Committee

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

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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

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Vice President – Alison Lamothe

Secretary – Sidney Watson

Treasurer – Jeremy Colton

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Chris Kocher

Member – Susan Lammert

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Sherry Bassi, Chair

Tom Finan, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Outreach & Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Grace Munie, Programming Cluster