



***Traditional Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols***

**Rev. Kim Mason**

**December 24, 2023**

**Order of Service**

**Gathering Music**

Earl Naylor, Organ

**Ringing of the Bowl**

**Welcome**

Jan Herzog

**Prelude**

*Mary Did You Know?* by M. Lowry & B. Greene

Jess Green, flute

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Kim Mason

**Congregational Carol #253** *O, Come All Ye Faithful*

*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:*

*O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Lo, humble shepherds, hasting to his cradle,*

*Leaving their flocks in the fields, draw near.*

*We, too, with gladness, thither bend our footsteps;*

*O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;*

*O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!*

*Glory to God, all glory to the highest;*

*O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord*

**Chalice Lighting**

Jan Herzog

**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.*

**Reading** *Luke 2:1-20* Jan Herzog

**Carol** *Candlelight Carol* First Unitarian Church Choir  
by John Rutter

**Reading** *Mary's Song* by Lee Bennett Hopkins Danielle Kozemczak

**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 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)*

**Prayer** Rev. Kim Mason

**Carol** *Mary's Cradle Song* Esley Hamilton  
by Max Reger

**Reading** *A Christmas Blessing* by Christine Valters Paintner Jan Herzog

**Call for Offering** Rev. Kim Mason

**Offertory** *Christmas Lullaby* First Unitarian Church Choir  
by C.A. Silvestry & D. Forrest

**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*

*Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia!"  
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.*

Many thank yous to the following for providing the poinsettias: *Sue Ashwell, Helen Cadoret, Lori Calcaterra, Kay & Larry Dusenbery, Sue & Vince Fazio, Mitch & Jan Herzog, Dottie Kinscherf & Gene Rubin, Sharon Klein, Alison Lamothe & Steve Smidowicz, Rev. Kim Mason, Joan Oliver, Kimberly Perry, Nadine Vlietstra, Margaret Weck & Jamie Laing*

## **Serving Us This Evening**

**Ushers:** Emily Jaycox, Kathy Wire and Susan Herzberg

**Greeters:** Steve Wilke

## **Music Notes**

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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 24th, 2023

## **Worship 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.

Watch the 4:30pm Service on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/live/mQtzx8-otYs?feature=share>)

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

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

Watch the 6:30pm Service on YouTube

(<https://www.youtube.com/live/15zKnCzkDKU?si=TUslBdexKBsoQjEe>)

\*\* This Sunday

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**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>)

#### **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!

## **Designated Collections**

### **Gateway 180**

Gateway 180 is Missouri's largest emergency shelter for families and single women and an important member of St. Louis City's Continuum of Care to address homelessness. Gateway180's nurturing program includes more than shelter and warm meals. Their onsite Case Managers and Program Service Committee work to offer clients employment and education support, health and mental health services, housing navigation, empowerment classes and much more. The children temporarily living at Gateway180 are offered tutoring services and other confidence building activities such as Girl Scouts. Gateway180 currently shelters 110 women, children, and family members. This year (2023), Gateway

served over 445 individuals in shelter, including 244 children, successfully moving 295 individuals to their own home. Nominated by Rosemary Lawton.

### **Southside Early Childhood Center**

The mission of the Southside Early Childhood Center is to create lasting opportunity in the lives of our children—and their families—by providing the best in early childhood education and support services. In 1886, a group of women created the first “day nursery,” or child care center, west of the Mississippi River 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.

### **\*\* This Week at First UU STL**

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Monday December 25th

Church Office Closed

Tuesday December 26th

Church Office Closed

Wednesday December 27th

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Worship Committee (C1)

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Choir Practice

Sunday December 31st

10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship Service

### **Joys and Concerns**

#### Joys

*Congratulations to...*

*Religious Education graduate Max Smidowicz who just graduated from SIUE with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Way to go Max!*

*Tony and Grace Munie, who will celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve*

#### Concerns

*Healing thoughts to...*

*Joel Hickman who is recovering from walking pneumonia and Gwenne Hickman who has bronchitis.*

*Carole Watson, who is currently in the hospital recovering from cellulitis.*

*Our condolences to Peggy Feinberg and Sarah Francois, on the unexpected passing of Peggy's son and Sarah's brother Chris Feinberg.*

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)

Submit Joy or Concern Online

([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8IF17IBeY9tZgdzU\\_bjkTVw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8IF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform))

### **Chris and Annette Peterson New Members Bio**

Chris and Annette came to UU on the recommendation of their three college-age children who thought Chris would appreciate UU more than Annette. They were right! Chris immediately felt at home whereas it took Annette a few months to feel comfortable venturing back into church. Annette is here to become more involved in social justice and meet others who are open to diversity in a positive joyful atmosphere. Chris enjoys being part of a community of people trying to improve themselves and the world while looking forward to chances to be involved and appreciating pearls of wisdom from multiple traditions. They both are inspired by the Covenant Group they've joined and look forward to meeting more people in the church community. They also enjoy being able to walk to the church. Both are Physical Therapists but work in very different areas of PT. Annette enjoys being part of the Maker's Ministry and both enjoy rock climbing, board games, running, and reading. Chris aspires to one day be able to do a one arm pullup while Annette hopes to master the unicycle she got Chris for Christmas last year.

### **Religious Education This Sunday**

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.

### **Story for All Ages: Mary's Song, by Lee Bennett Hopkins**

On that first Christmas night, the earth bursts with praise at Jesus' birth. Donkeys bray, sheep bleat, horses neigh, and shepherds come from nearby fields -- but Mary simply wants to be alone with her sweet babe.

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **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?

Sunday January 7th - Fire Communion with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday January 14th - MLK Jr. / Jazz Sunday with Lay Leader Pam Geppert

Sunday January 21st - Make Channels for Streams of Love with Rev. Kim Mason

## **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>)

### **First Unitarian Litter Pick-Up**

**Saturday, December 30 at 9:30 AM**

Four times a year, our congregation is responsible for doing litter pick-ups along Forest Parkway between Big Bend and Skinker Boulevards, near Washington University. This location is significant to our congregation's history, because our Unitarian "ancestor" William Greenleaf Eliot was a co-founder of Washington University as well.

We will gather in the parking lot north of Snarf's (360 N. Skinker Blvd.), where the sign specifies parking for Grace Methodist Church and Snarf's. For liability reasons, this activity is limited to adults only. Those interested can enjoy lunch together after our work is complete. Snarf's has delicious sandwiches, soups, etc. available. Please let Tom Crouch know by Friday, December 29, if you can help.

### **Congregational Circles on Israel/Hamas:**

#### **Small Group Conversations in Community**

**Sunday, January 7th, 11:30 AM**

Since October 7th, there have been many complicated feelings about the war between Israel and Hamas. Acknowledging that many different perspectives inform personal responses to the conflict, we're offering conversation circles as a beginning place to start engaging on this topic. The circle process is a simple practice of sharing and listening deeply. The circles are not intended to be a space for debate, rather a space to engage with one another respectfully held in covenantal community. Please RSVP.

RSVP for Israel/Hamas Conversations (<https://forms.gle/RKjS2ath2xWnjUSEA>)

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

## **Church News**



## **Toward Justice January Meeting Change**

### **Tuesday January 2nd @ 6pm**

Due to the holiday, Toward Justice will meet on Tuesday January 2nd at 6pm instead of the first Monday. This meeting will be online. Reply to this email to receive the zoom link.

### **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](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](mailto:kmason@firstuustlouis.org))

Danielle Kozemczak, Director of Religious Education & Communications ([dkozem@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:dkozem@firstuustlouis.org))

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs ([lhunt@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org))

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Earl Naylor, Music Director/Organist ([enaylor@firstuustlouis.org](mailto:enaylor@firstuustlouis.org))

Joel Knapp, Choir Director

Moe Hurst, A/V Technician ([mhurst@firstuustlouis.org](mailto: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