



**Desert Journey
with Rev. Kim Mason
April 2nd, 2023
Order of Service**

Ringing of the Bowl

Mike Lunter

Welcome and Announcements

Mike Lunter

Prelude

Prelude on "Leoni" by Richard Proulx

Earl Naylor, Organist

Call to Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

Hymn #306 Sing of Living, Sing of Dying

*Sing of living, sing of dying, let them both be joined in one,
parts of an eternal process like the ever-circling sun.*

*From the freshness of each infant giving hope in what is new,
to the wisdom of the aged deepened by a longer view.*

*Open to a deeper loving, open to the gift of care,
searching for a higher justice, helping others in despair.
Through the tender bonds of living in a more inclusive way
we are opened more to suffering from the losses of each day.*

Lighting the Chalice

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

Canvass Affirmation

Tom Crouch

Canvass Update

Emily Jaycox & Sarah Francois

Joys & Concerns

Rev. Kim Mason

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

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.

Reading

Passover

Mike Lunter

by Rev. Lynn Ungar

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Text the dollar amount you wish to give to this number: 833-649-0088

Offertory Music

Think on Me by James Mulholland

First Unitarian Church Choir

Reading

Ready

Mike Lunter

by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

Sermon

Desert Journey

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #210 Wade in the Water

(Chorus)

Wade in the water,

wade in the water, children,

wade in the water,

God's gonna trouble the water.

See that band all dressed in white.

God's gonna trouble the water.

The leader looks like an Israelite.

God's gonna trouble the water.

(Chorus)

*See that band all dressed in red.
God's gonna trouble the water.
It looks like the band that Moses led.
God's gonna trouble the water.
(Chorus)*

Closing Words

Rev. Kim Mason

Extinguish the Chalice

Mike Lunter

Postlude

Toccata by Théodore Dubois

Earl Naylor, Organist

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Sheryll Coulter and Kathy Wire
Greeters: Alison Lamothe and Jeremy Colton
AV Assistant: Pamela Geppert

Today's flowers are given in thanks for members and friends who have chosen to support First Unitarian with a financial pledge and are Sustaining the Flame.

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MUSIC NOTES

Richard Proulx (1937-2010) was an American composer and editor of church music, including anthems, service music, hymn concertatos, organ music and music for hand bell choir, formerly based in Chicago. The pronunciation of his name is suggested by the section of his catalog entitled "Noulx [new] from Proulx". He served as a consultant on several important hymnals, including The Hymnal 1982 and the United Methodist Hymnal. He had a long association with Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, and has made several recordings with The Cathedral Singers, a professional chorus which he founded in 1991.

Théodore Dubois (1837–1924) was a French composer, organist and music teacher. The music of Dubois also includes ballets, oratorios and three symphonies. His best-known work is the oratorio *Les sept paroles du Christ* ("The Seven Last Words of Christ" [1867]), which continues to be given an occasional airing; his *Toccata in G* (1889), for the organ, is a recital staple, by no means solely in France.

**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

Weekly News from First Unitarian Church of St. Louis,

Sunday April 2nd, 2023

Worship Service

This Sunday April 2nd, 2023

Desert Journey with Rev. Kim Mason

As the Israelites fled enslavement in Egypt, they left behind everything they knew. We explore the Passover story for lessons on surviving the grief that comes with any life transition.

Read this Sunday's Order of Service (<https://tinyurl.com/325aapyw>)

Watch This Service on YouTube! (<https://youtube.com/live/YILT0MRN4so>)

Join Our Virtual Coffee Hour

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

Events After Service

Canvass Brunch (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, April 2nd 11:30 am

On Sunday, April 2nd we will celebrate the conclusion of our annual pledge canvass with an all church brunch! This brunch will be in Fellowship Hall after worship service.

Welcoming Congregation Committee Meeting

12pm in the Dodson Room

The Welcoming Congregation Committee strives to make our church community a welcoming place for LGBTQ+ friends and members through education, awareness, and fellowship.

Religious Education This Sunday

RE Classes this Sunday!

Preschoolers - 10am Chalice Children

K-6th - 10am Children's Chapel - Henry David Thoreau

7th-9th - 10am - OWL: Consent Education

10th-12th - 10am Youth Group - Fill Easter Eggs for Next Sunday

There will not be a Story For All Ages

The Nursery will be open for childcare

Check out RE This Week! (https://mailchi.mp/firstuustlouis.org/re-this-week-sunday-04_02_23)

Canvass 2023-2024 - Sustain the Flame

Our canvass theme for 2023 is 'Sustain the Flame'. In the spirit of good stewardship, we are all asked to make a responsible annual pledge to keep our church open and thriving. Pledges are essential in operating and

maintaining our building in good repair, fairly compensating staff, and maintaining and providing quality worship experiences and programming. You can still submit your pledge! We are \$69,855.00 away from our goal and every pledge helps!

Make your Pledge Here! (<https://lyhunt56.wufoo.com/forms/z10ghj1r05ra81k/>)

This Week at First UU STL

Monday April 3rd

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm What Moves Us (In person and online)

Tuesday April 4th

Voting Site (Fellowship Hall)

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm Executive Committee (online)

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Building Update Meeting (online)

Wednesday April 5th

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

Thursday April 6th

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm Facilities Committee (online)

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Covenant Group - Herzog (Dodson)

Friday April 7th

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm Toward Justice (online)

Saturday April 8th

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

Sunday April 9th

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

11:30am to 12:00pm Easter Egg Hunt (Kingshighway Lawn)

Upcoming Worship Services

April Theme - Grief

Thursday April 6th 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service with George Grimm-Howell

Sunday April 9th 10am Resurrection Hope with Rev. Kim Mason

We cannot have Easter Sunday without Good Friday. We cannot have spring without winter. Using the children's story Granddad's Prayer of the Earth, we'll journey together from grief to hopeful renewal.

Sunday April 16th 10am Worship Service with Lay Leader Dwight Homer

Sunday April 23rd 10am The Hidden Life of Trees with Rev. Kim Mason

Sunday April 30th 10am Perspectives on Grief with Lay Leader Adam

Upcoming Designated Collection

April 9th - Dream Builders

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Welcome new member Scott Sinclair, who signed the membership book on March 30, 2023

Congratulations to...

Sarah Francois, whose Realtor Team won the Keller Williams Triple Gold Award for sales in 2022

Dwight Homer, who welcomed a new grandson, Niles Willoughby Homer, this past Sunday 3/26/23

Concerns

Sending healing thoughts to Judy and Jeff Till, who are both recovering from COVID.

Our sympathy to...

the family of long time member Mary Broida, who passed away on March 23rd, 2023

Mike Lunter whose brother-in-law died on March 12th

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?subject=Joy%20and%20Concern)

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

We are saddened to inform you of the death of Mary Broida. Mary was a member of the congregation from 1987 to 2020 when she moved to Ohio to be closer to her children. All who knew Mary recall her keen interest in current events, political activities and love of gardening. Her family had a small family gathering in her remembrance in Ohio.

Welcome New Member Scott Sinclair! Scott signed the membership book on March 30th and we welcome him to the congregation!

Upcoming Church Events

Building Update Meeting (online)

Tuesday April 4th 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

The RE wing roof needs to be replaced! This presentation will explain the plan to repair the roof in anticipation of an upcoming congregational vote on funding. Please attend so you can be an informed voter!

Join this meeting on Zoom

(<https://firstuustlouis.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cdcf84e5e2cbb0b58a7359d85&id=78c979bb70&e=0def272979>)

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae – The Shadow Service

April 6th 2023 6:30 PM

All are invited to join our distinctly Unitarian Universalist Lenten celebration on Maundy Thursday , April 6 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. This Tenebrae. Or shadow service allows us to contemplate the magnitude of the loss Jesus faced, and to consider our own need for bravery as we peer into the darkness.

Easter Sunday!

Next Sunday April 9th, 2023

10am Multigenerational Worship Service

11:30am Easter Sunday Egg Hunt!

After service we will head to the Kingshighway Lawn for the egg hunt! Young children (up to age five) will go first, then K-3rd, then older children!

Saturday April 15th 6pm: Trivia Thru the Decades!

Childcare Available for Attendees!

Doors open at 6:00 pm and trivia starts at 7:00 pm. A table of 8 is \$200 or individual tickets are \$25. You can register and pay in Fellowship Hall after service or by clicking the link below.

You may bring in your own snacks and drinks. Alcoholic drinks are allowed. Water, soda, and homemade desserts will be available for purchase. Mulligans will be available for \$10. There will also be a 50/50 drawing and a table decorating contest (pick a decade!). Please join us for our first trivia night since 2018! All proceeds will go to our RE program's Boston Trip Fund. Questions? Contact Danielle at dkozem@firstuustlouis.org (<mailto:dkozem@firstuustlouis.org>)

Register for Trivia Night 2023! (<https://first-unitarian-church-of-st-louis.square.site/>)

ARREST III: Economic Justice

April 20th, 27th, May 4th and 11th 7-9pm

In this workshop series we will examine the structure of our current economic systems and unpack some of the underlying assumptions that create or widen the economic disparities. Understanding the causes of the economic disparity along racial, ethnic, and sexual lines can help us address these disparities in more productive ways. All sessions are currently scheduled to be held via Zoom.

Register for ARREST III: Economic Justice

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgvqY_RC2kv8Wo2OAAM3-PtzjLxeHCr25YpJolznXBxwNAsw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Save the Date -- Special Congregational Meeting, Sunday April 23rd, 11:30 am (in person and online)

The purpose of the meeting is to vote on proposed funding for the Religious Education wing roof replacement. More details will be available soon.

Fighting for Freedom:

A discussion on religious freedom and Missouri's latest abortion access lawsuit

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 27 7pm

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Join us for an evening with several local clergy who are plaintiffs in Rev. Blackmon v. Missouri. Panelists include Rabbi Susan Talve & Rev. Krista Taves, among others; and Denise Lieberman, local counsel involved in this lawsuit. Panelists will explore why Missouri's new abortion access lawsuit is different than the others and discuss the history of religious freedom and church-state separation in Missouri. RSVP coming soon! Hosted by Central Reform Congregation, Ashrei Foundations, and First Unitarian Church of St. Louis.

Church News

Members of Towards Justice organized a trip to Jefferson City this past Wednesday to attend the Protest for Trans Rights at the State Capitol building.

Worship Committee Statement: Why do worship assistants and leaders state their gender pronouns?

“Welcome” is among the first words stated in our Sunday services, with the hope that everyone—members, friends, and visitors—might find belonging in our church community. Over the past few years, members of the Worship Committee have become more aware of a simple yet powerful way to convey this hospitality to people with diverse gender identities, who are often made to feel unwelcome in many religious communities. By stating pronouns along with our names during introductions, we convey the understanding that gender should not be assumed from appearance. Furthermore, doing so creates a safer space and is an act of solidarity with those who must share their pronouns in order to be seen for who they really are.

The Worship Committee’s hope is that First Unitarian will join the many UU churches and other institutions who are increasingly embracing this inclusive practice. Beyond expressing our sincere welcome to transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming congregants, we recognize that this is one meaningful way to live out our UU values in worship and in the world.

So when you hear us state our pronouns from the pulpit, we hope you will hear an invitation for all of us to show up as our whole, authentic selves and join in the work of building the beloved community. Feel free to ask us any questions you have. The UUA has provided some helpful educational material about how we can put our faith into practice to become more welcoming, including how gender differs from sexual orientation. You can find those resources at <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/identity/transgender>.

You Can Be An Usher!

We are in need of several more people to usher on Sunday mornings. This is a great way to meet other people in the congregation and to help create a warm and inviting atmosphere on Sunday mornings. Plus it is easy to do! Please let Administrator, Lynn Hunt, (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org (mailto:lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)) know if you are interested and she will add to the group.

Thanks!

Board Brief

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

Policy Board Meeting Summary

13 March 2023 Virtual

RE Roof Repairs. President Steve Wilke summarized the roofing contract status and the Finance Committee's recommendations for funding options, which he has since outlined in an email sent to the congregation on Tuesday, March 21: <https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/Building%20Update.pdf> Time is of the essence: the longer we wait to act, the more damage will be done. Bartch can only guarantee its quote for a limited time; postponing the decision could cost us thousands more. Given these circumstances, the Board took the following action:

Norma Vogelweid motioned that we approve the Bartch Roofing bid, Susan Lammert seconded. Seven voted in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

In order to pay for these repairs, the Finance Committee recommends that money be withdrawn from the Endowment to cover the cost, an action that requires congregational approval. Alison Lamothe motioned that we approve seeking congregational approval to take the necessary funds to pay for these repairs from our endowment, Norma seconded. Seven voted in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Read more here.

(https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/FUUSTL_Policy_Board_Summary_03_13_2023.pdf)

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>)

Other News

Sunday, April 16, at 11:00 a.m. EDT/10:00 a.m. CDT

Spiritual Friendship: The Legacy of James Freeman Clarke

The Worship Ministry of First Unitarian Church, Louisville, invites you to join our service by Zoom or in person, on Sunday, April 16, at 11:00 a.m. EDT/10:00 a.m. CDT. Rev. Dr. John Buehrens, retired UU minister, celebrated author, and former president of the UUA, will deliver the sermon, which will focus on James Freeman Clarke, one of the early young Harvard-educated ministers who moved west to spread Unitarian ideas in the early 1800's. Rev. Buehrens specifically asked that your congregations be include in our list of invitees because Clarke was instrumental in convincing his friend, William Eliot, to go to the frontier town of St. Louis and organize a Unitarian Church. Our faith and our values today can be traced directly back to Clarke's and Eliot's connections to Unitarianism and Transcendentalism; consequently, this service will be historically significant for all Unitarian Universalists in our areas.

Watch This Service on Zoom ([https://firstulou.org/worship/live-stream service/](https://firstulou.org/worship/live-stream-service/))

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 – Erin Milligan

Secretary – Alison Lamothe

Treasurer – Jeremy Colton

Member – Becca McBride

Member – Norma Vogelweid

Member – Joel Hickman

Member – Susan Lammert

Church Council

Cathy Rauch, Chair

Clint Cruse, Facilities

Kathy Wire, Stewardship

Lisa Ross, Social Responsibility

Kevin Kellogg, Outreach & Engagement

Sue Herzberg, Programming Cluster