



Three Josephs, Two King Herods and a Zebra: a No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant

Rev. Kim Mason
December 8th, 2024
Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

Sue Fazio

Ringling of the Bowl

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming* arranged by Gordon Young

Allen Hoffman, organ

Call into Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

***Hymn #326 Let All the Beauty We Have Known**

Let all the beauty we have known illuminate our hearts and minds.

Rejoice in wonders daily shown, in faith and joy, and love that binds.

*We celebrate with singing hearts the loveliness of sky and earth,
the inspiration of the arts, the miracle of ev'ry birth.*

*Life's music and its poetry surround and bless us through our days.
For these we sing in harmony, together giving thanks and praise.*

Lighting the Chalice & Advent Wreath

Sue Fazio

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

Introduction to the Pageant

Steve Wilke

Guest at Your Table: Haitian Bridge Alliance

Joys & Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Kim Mason

Sung Response #352 Find a Stillness

Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me.

Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me.

In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit giving power,

I will find true harmony.

Call for the Offering

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* - African-American spiritual

Allen Hoffman, piano

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)**

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.

The Star #259 We Three Kings

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh.

Prayer and praising, all are raising, worship God most high.

(Chorus)

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

(Chorus)

*Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
love forever, ceasing never, in our hearts to reign.*

(Chorus)

Hymn #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.

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 *He is Born, the Divine Christ Child* - arranged by Douglas Wagner Allen Hoffman, piano

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Sherry Bassi and Lisa Ross
Greeters: Larry Dusenbery and Grace Munie
A/V Assistant: Adam Lunter

Music Notes

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

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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 grounds.

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

Worship Service

Sunday December 8th, 2024

Three Josephs, Two King Herods and a Zebra: a No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant -

Rev. Kim Mason

Join us for an updated, all ages version of our traditional Christmas Pageant - your participation is encouraged!

Watch this Service on YouTube!

<https://youtube.com/live/CU5fly7MS9o>

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

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

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service (in person and online)

11:15 am - 12:00 pm - Newcomer Chat (Dodson Room)

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Young Adult Covenant Group (Youth Group Room)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Visioning Session (Chapel)

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Tibetan Singing Bowls (Chapel)

Monday, December 9th, 2024

11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Grief Circle (Dodson Room)

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Policy Board Meeting (online) Board meetings are open to all members to attend as observers. If you would like the link to the meeting please contact Administrator, Lynn Hunt.

Tuesday, December 10th, 2024

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Women's Alliance (in person & online)

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Choir Practice

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

9:00 am - 10:00 am - Care and Concern (online)

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Worship Committee (C1 and online)

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

10:00 am - 11:00 am - Worship Service (in person and online)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Partner Church Bake Sale (Fellowship Hall)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Visioning Session (Chapel)

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

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Maker's Ministry (Youth Group Room)

Newcomer Chat – This Morning after the Service in the Dodson Room

If you are new to First Unitarian and would like to meet members and Rev. Kim this is your chance. Have your questions answered and learn more about this church.

Hope you can make it!

Upcoming Services

December 2024 Theme -Presence

December 15th, 2024 - Music Sunday - First U Choir

December 22nd, 2024 - Restful Presence - Rev. Kim Mason

December 24th, 2024 - Christmas Eve (4:30 pm) - Rev. Kim Mason

December 29th, 2024 -- Fire Communion - Rev. Kim Mason

Three Josephs, Two King Herods and a Zebra: A Pageant Update

The Pageant is coming December 8th! If you come to church on Pageant Sunday, it may seem like the pageant just magically happens each year! If you are a parent, you know that each year the pageant requires heavy lifting (literally - that set is HEAVY) and many hours of labor to deliver. We have long traditions here at First Unitarian about what ages and grades play what roles and how Baby Jesus is picked. However, as we've adjusted to the present realities of our religious education program, we've found ourselves short on both the number of children needed, and the volunteers necessary to produce the pageant.

So, we are going to do something a little different this year. Rather than just have the children and youth perform, we want everyone involved - ALL AGES. We are doing an interactive, no rehearsal pageant, and will need volunteers of all ages. We're telling the same story we tell each year, we're simply adjusting the format. Anyone can participate! We will be asking for volunteers at the beginning of the service, and hope many of you will say yes. We're saying yes to all participants, so if we have four wise people instead of three, that's great. If there is a horse among the sheep in the manger, that's great. We will have props and costumes available for all the traditional roles, however, if there is a role you know you want to play, or an animal you want to be and you have the necessary costume items at home, feel free to come in costume!

And we still need our youth to read the beatitudes at the end, as is the tradition. If you have a youth willing to be a reader, please let Rev. Kim know.

We hope that you will attend on December 8th and be a part of a renewed First Unitarian tradition.

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Concerns

Healing thoughts and prayers to **Betty Neill** who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjKTVw/viewform)

Welcome New Members – Christina Tighe and Joe Katrosh!

Chris Tighe and Joe Katrosh joined First Unitarian Church of St. Louis when they signed the Membership Book on November 17, 2024.

Chris Tighe is a native of St. Louis. Chris was raised Catholic, with fifteen years of Catholic education. Chris is looking for a community that values equality, social justice, and spirituality without doctrine, as well as a community that allows women equal authority. She has been a teacher, primarily in Special Education, and a librarian, especially a law librarian but is currently retired. She currently teaches yoga at WashU's rec center. In her spare time she enjoys reading, gardening, tai chi, and is interested in meditation.

Joe Katrosh was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1955 and is 69 years old. He had no particular religious training. He moved to St. Louis in 1977 to attend grad school at Washington University and graduated in 1991 with a Ph.D. in Philosophy. He is currently retired, after a 40+ year career working at various law libraries: WashU Law Library (1980-86) and Bryan Cave LLP (now BCLP LLP) (1986-2021).

Chris and Joe have been married for 36 years and share a house in University City with their two cats, Oola and Bender.

Welcome Chris and Joe!

Religious Education for Children

This Sunday 12/8 10am-11am

Children and Youth Participate in the Service.
Nursery is open for younger children.

Church News & Events

Coming Soon: Fellowship Hall Family/ Play Area

Several great suggestions were made for use of the Fellowship Hall former bookstore space. The winning idea, offered by multiple church members: a play and creative space for children and others. The Church Council unanimously supported the idea of a welcoming area for children in Fellowship Hall. Margaret Weck has worked very hard to find appropriate places to donate the remaining books and the space will soon be available to begin planning the transformation. Please express appreciation to Margaret for the work she has done. Anna Drendel, Lynn Hunt, Michelle Grove, and members of RE and facilities will coordinate the transformation with a planned completion of late Spring 2025.

Sabbatical Update

First Unitarian is excited to welcome the Rev. Sabrina Trupia as our Sabbatical Minister. You may recall Sabrina from their time with us as a Contextual Education student. Rev. Sabrina graduated from [Eden Seminary](#) in 2022 and was ordained in April 2024 by the congregation in [Montclair](#), New Jersey where they also did their ministerial internship. Back in the St. Louis area, Rev. Sabrina is working part-time long distance for the UU Congregation of the Quad Cities, in Davenport, Iowa. In addition they are our current Community Minister.

Rev. Sabrina is a middle-aged, nonbinary person and their pronouns are they / them. They live in Edwardsville, IL with a spouse (Ed), a teenager (Isabella), and two adopted cats (Bo and Cap'n). As an affiliated community minister Rev. Sabrina will preach for us once a year and provide an annual adult RE opportunity. In their spare time they like to walk, read, do yoga and meditation, and take naps.

[You can learn more about Rev. Kim's sabbatical by reading this brochure.](#)

SANCTUARY SOUND JOURNEY with Mark Biehl

Dec. 8th 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Celebrate the joyfulness of the season with a deeply relaxing and enlightening experience. Join Mark Biehl, Certified Vibrational Sound Coach and Licensed Spiritual Health Coach in a blissful journey of sound healing. Allow the vibrational energies of over twenty Himalayan singing bowls, gongs, chimes, melodious flute and soothing vocals to transport you into deep relaxation and remove stress. **Please bring your own yoga mat, blanket, pillow, and eye covering (optional). Dress comfortably, bring some water to drink, and prepare for a very peaceful experience! Free for members. Tickets required for the general public (watch for details).**

Mark Biehl, CVSC, LSHC lifelong musician and composer, is the founder of Acuity Soundworks®, dedicated to the development and presentation of music and sound to inspire creative thought and action. Mark is a Certified Vibrational Sound Coach and Licensed Spiritual Health Coach. He has received training in Primordial Sound Meditation with Deepak Chopra, traditional shamanic sound practices with Zacciah Blackburn of the Center of Light Institute, and Certification in Sound Healing with Himalayan Singing Bowls from Nepalese Master Teacher Suren Shrestha. He has twenty years' experience in sound healing, and offers both private and group sound sessions. Mark believes in the idea that sound creates a gateway into deeper levels of consciousness, the heart, and soul. As a result, he utilizes various sound tools and the voice in conjunction with his spiritual health coaching skills and positive intention to gently support beneficial shifts in our perspective on life.

Solstice Spiral and Soup Potluck

Friday December 20th 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. After the potluck join in a participatory service for all with a candle-lit solstice spiral ritual! Hope to see you there!

[Sign Up Here](#)

Visioning Sessions - Only Two Sessions Left - Dec. 8th & 15th

SAVE the DATES for small group sessions with Board members to reflect on the congregation member's VISION for the church. Feedback from these sessions will be the foundation for revising our Church's VISION STATEMENT in early 2025 during Reverend Kim's sabbatical.

We will meet in Hope Chapel on the following Sundays, starting at 11:30 and ending at 12:30.

November 17, November 24, December 8, December 15

Christmas Eve Cookies & Hot Cider

Bring your Christmas sweets to share after the Christmas Eve service. Hot cider will also be served.

IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!

Help decorate the sanctuary for the holidays by ordering one or more holiday poinsettias. Talk to Dottie Kinscherf either by email (flowers@firstuustlouis.org) or in Fellowship Hall after services on Nov. 24, Dec. 1, or Dec. 8. The deadline for orders is December 8. Cost is \$10 per 6" pot, payable at signup. You may take your poinsettias home with you after Christmas Eve services if you wish.

Makers Ministry: Wrapped In Love Project

Makers Ministry is planning to collect handmade and donated (new) scarves for a Wrapped in Love scarf give-away planned for MLK Day. Scarves will be draped on the church fence in a colorful “scarf bombing” display with a Wrapped in Love/ Free Scarves sign. Please bring scarves for donation on Sunday January 19th (before MLK Day). Please direct any questions to Sherry Bassi.

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s

annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 50 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. 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.

On Sunday morning pick up a GAYT box. Each time you have a meal or snack drop some coins into the box. We will collect the boxes on Sunday, January 19th, 2025. All monies collected will be contributed to the UUSC in order to support their programming.

Each Sunday in December we will hear the story of one of UUSC's partners on the ground. This Sunday's Guest is Haitian academics researching racism’s impacts on the experiences of migrants of color in the United States.

Learn more about them here: <https://vimeo.com/1004138269?share=copy>

If you do not already have a GAYT box, you can pick one up in Fellowship Hall. Each time you have a meal or snack drop some coins into the box. We will collect the boxes on Sunday, January 19th, 2025. All monies collected will be contributed to the UUSC in order to support their programming.

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Policy Board Meeting Summary November 17, 2024 Virtual

Please join Board members after church for a small group discussion about your vision for First U's future. Only two dates are left: December 8, and December 15. For more details, see the church e-blasts. We need your vision to help us see our future.

Our canvass co-chair has moved out of town, so we need a new co-chair to serve with Erin Milligan. The Board seeks someone who can commit to two years, has a high profile among church members, and is a good speaker. Canvass starts March 1. Let President Chuck Eby know if you are interested.

The Board discussed formally requesting that the Facilities Committee obtain bids for an outside consultant to perform a building condition survey to assess the condition and repair needs of our site, building, and systems. We need to plan for the building's likely maintenance and repair costs to function as a church in the immediate, short-term, mid-term, and long-term. Chuck Eby will draft a written request for Board review.

The Board passed a motion recommending to the Finance Committee the need for a spring 2025 fundraising event to address an anticipated budget shortfall. We anticipate a \$15,000-\$20,000 deficit in

the church's 2024-2025 operating budget due to increased building premiums and the need for a building condition survey not included in the present budget.

The Board picked Saturday evening, February 1, as the date for the Mid-winter Meeting. Please mark your calendars!

Respectfully submitted, Sidney Watson

Online Giving is Easier than Ever Before!

Our online giving platform, Vanco, is now easier to use than ever before. You can easily set up regular pledge payments, donate to specific funds or purchase tickets to church events on our new web based site (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCVK/home>) or you can install the app on your phone (this is ideal for Sunday morning offering). Use the QR code below to download the app. Any questions – contact Administrator, Lynn Hunt.



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

** Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitarianSTL>)

** https://www.instagram.com/first_unitarian_stl/ (https://www.instagram.com/first_unitarian_stl/)**
Website (<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/>)

** YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstUnitarianSTL>)

** TikTok (<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT84oXuQM/>)

Our mailing address is:
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Staff

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Michele Grove, Interim Remote Director of Religious Education (mgrove@firstuustlouis.org)
Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)
Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. (aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org)
Allen Hoffman, Organist
Joel Knapp, Choir Director
Moe Hurst, A/V Technician (mhurst@firstuustlouis.org)

Policy Board

Board President – Chuck Eby
Vice President – Larry Dusenbery
Secretary – Sidney Watson
Treasurer - Kathy Wilke
Member – Becca McBride
Member – Chris Kocher
Member – Betty Neill

Church Council

Sherry Bassi, Chair
Tom Finan, Facilities
Kathy Wire, Stewardship
Lisa Ross, Outreach & Social Responsibility
Erin Milligan, Outreach & Engagement
Grace Munie, Programming Cluster