



Music Sunday

Rev. Kim Mason
December 15th, 2024
Order of Service

Welcome and Announcements

Adam Lunter

Ringing of the Bowl

Prelude

Gloria, Mvmt 1, by Antonio Vivaldi

First Unitarian Church Choir
Michael Mishra, Director

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

Adam Lunter

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

Story for All Ages

The Boy Who Said Wow by Todd Boss

Rev. Kim Mason

Children's Recessional #118 This Little Light

Guest at Your Table: Queer Svit

Special Music

Gloria, Mvmt 2-5, by Antonio Vivaldi

First Unitarian Church Choir
Michael Mishra, Director

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*Gloria, Mvmt 6, by Antonio Vivaldi*First Unitarian Church Choir
Michael Mishra, Director**Gratitude**

Rev. Kim Mason

Special Music*Gloria, Mvmt 7-10, by Antonio Vivaldi*First Unitarian Church Choir
Michael Mishra, Director**Homily**

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #57 All Beautiful the March of Days

*All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;
the hand that shaped the rose hath wrought the crystal of the snow;
hath sent the hoary frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed,
and laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.*

*O'er white expanses sparkling clear the radiant morns unfold;
the solemn splendors of the night burn brighter through the cold;
life mounts in every throbbing vein, love deepens round the hearth,
and clearer sounds the angel-hymn, "Good will to all on earth."*

*O Thou from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,
thy self the vision passing by in crystal and in rose.
Day unto day doth utter speech, and night to night proclaim,
in ever changing words of light, the wonder of thy name.*

***Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude*Gloria, Mvmt 11-12, by Antonio Vivaldi*First Unitarian Church Choir
Michael Mishra, Director

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Emily Jaycox and Patrick Montgomery
Greeters: Kathy and Dan Wilke
A/V Assistant: Margaret Weck

Music Notes

We welcome guest musicians and conductor this morning:

Dr. Michael Mishra, Conductor
Abby Meyers, Violin 1
Oscar Moody, Violin 2
Erika Lord-Castillo, Viola
Max Ludwig, Cello
Cole Turnquist, Double Bass

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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 15th, 2024

Music Sunday - Rev. Kim Mason

Our annual Music Sunday service featuring the First Unitarian Choir performing Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

Watch this Service on YouTube!

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

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

December 15th Designated Collection - Metropolitan Congregations United

MCU St. Louis is a community organization that brings together religious congregations, community groups, and individuals in the St. Louis area to work toward a more equitable life for all residents. They organize people to produce change. There are ~ 60 member or partner congregations, including First Unitarian. Recent focus has been on the school-to-prison pipeline, criminal justice, environmental justice, and voter engagement. The population served is primarily youth, as well as disenfranchised adults. Nominated by **Lisa Ross**.

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

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)

Monday, December 16th, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 17th, 2024

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Women's Alliance (online only)

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Siegrist/Milligan Covenant Group (Dodson Room)

Wednesday, December 18th, 2024

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

Friday, December 20th, 2024

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Winter Solstice Potluck and Spiral (Fellowship Hall & Chapel)

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024

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

Upcoming Services

December 2024 Theme -Presence

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

Joys and Concerns

Joys

A joyous welcome to new member **Peter Crumpler** who signed the book on December 8th. Welcome!

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrfikA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjKT_Vw/viewform)

Religious Education for Children

This Sunday 12/15 10am-11am

Children begin the morning in the service and then proceed to classes after the Story for All Ages.

Nursery is open for younger children.

Church News & Events

Partner Church Bake Sale – Sunday, Dec. 15th

Cookies, pies, breads and more! All proceeds support the Partner Church Fund.

Do you need a “stocking stuffer,” “white elephant” gift or some last minute holiday decorations?

Then..... be sure to stop by the Op Shop in Fellowship Hall because they have all those items.... and MORE!

Visioning Sessions - Only One Session Left - Dec. 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 TODAY in Hope Chapel at 11:30 and ending at 12:30.

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](#)

Christmas Eve Cookies & Hot Cider

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

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

Call list for church related issues during Reverend Kim's sabbatical.

A two page call list is available in Fellowship Hall (next to the basket containing the Sabbatical Brochure) to guide church members and friends to the appropriate people and resources for issues that may arise during Reverend Kim's sabbatical. Members may also contact Administrator Lynn Hunt (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org) to request having a copy mailed to them.

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 Anna-Maria Tesfaye is the co-founder of Queer Svit, an organization offering resources and companionship to the queer community in Ukraine who have been impacted by Russia's invasion.

Learn more about them here: <https://vimeo.com/1004141757?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
December 9, 2024 Virtual**

We moved the date for the Mid-Winter Meeting! Please, re-mark your calendars for Saturday evening, January 25, 2025. Join us for a potluck dinner, conversation, and camaraderie. Remote Interim DRE Michele Grove will be with us to lead the program.

The Board continues to facilitate small group discussions about our vision for First U's future. The final December discussion is on December 15. In January, we will also have two sessions designed and scheduled for young adults and RE parents. Once the sessions conclude, we will review all the data we have collected and share what we learned at the upcoming Mid-Winter meeting on Saturday, January 25.

Board President Chuck Eby sent a request to the Facilities Committee asking them to obtain bids for an outside consultant to perform a comprehensive Building Condition Survey of our buildings, physical systems, and site. The primary purpose of the survey is to advise church leaders on anticipated repair and replacement costs in the next 5-10 years to continue using our buildings for church-related activities.

Sidney Watson
Secretary

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:

5007 Waterman Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63108

(314) 361-0595

Staff

Rev. Kim Mason, Minister (kmason@firstuustlouis.org)

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