



Restful Presence

Rev. Kim Mason
December 22nd, 2024
Order of Service

Ringing of the Bowl

Welcome

Roz Cook

Prelude

Chorale prelude on Picardy arranged by Robert Powell Allen Hoffman, organ

Call into Worship

Rev. Kim Mason

*Hymn #55 Dark of Winter

Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me.

Let my thoughts go where they will; ease my mind profoundly.

And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal.

Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me.

Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly.

When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me.

And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal.

Darkness, when my fears arise, let your peace flow through me.

Lighting the Chalice & Advent Wreath & Yule Log

Roz Cook

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

Winter's Gifts by Kaitlin B. Curtice

Rev. Kim Mason

Reading

Winter Solstice by Rebecca Ann Parker

Roz Cook

Guest at Your Table: *Pink Haven Coalition*

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

Now the Green Blade Riseth arranged by Douglas Wagner Allen Hoffman, piano

Gratitude

Rev. Kim Mason

Story for All Ages

Frederick by Leo Lionni

Rev. Kim Mason

Reading

from *Rest is Resistance* by Tricia Hersey

Roz Cook

Sermon

Rev. Kim Mason

Closing Hymn #56 Bells in the High Tower

*Bells in the high tower, ringing o'er the white hills,
mocking the winter, singing like the spring rills;
bells in the high tower, in the cold foretelling
the spring's upwelling.*

*Bells in the old tower, like the summer chatter
from darting bright birds, as the grapes turn redder;
bells in the old tower, now the wine is brimming,
new life beginning.*

*Bells in the stone tower, echoing the soft sound
of autumn's mill wheel, as the wheat is spun round;
bells in the stone tower, see, the bread is yeasting
for time of feasting.*

*Bells in the cold tower, 'midst the snow of winter
sound out the spring song that we may remember;
bells in the cold tower, after the long snowing
come months of growing.*

***Closing Words**

Rev. Kim Mason

Postlude

Christmas Rondel by Charles Callahan

Allen Hoffman, piano

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Cathy Rauch and Patrick Montgomery
Greeters: Kathy Wire and Chuck Eby
A/V Assistant: Pam Geppert

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 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 22nd, 2024

Restful Presence - Rev. Kim Mason

Winter Solstice is the longest night, reminding us to make time for practices of rest. Join Rev. Kim as we honor the lessons of winter and reflect on the use of sabbatical.

Watch this Service on YouTube!

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

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

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

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (in person and online)

Wednesday, December 25th, 2024

Christmas Day - Office Closed

Thursday, December 26th, 2024

Office Closed

Sunday, December 29th, 2024

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

Upcoming Services

December 2024 Theme -Presence

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

Watch Christmas Eve Service on YouTube Here: <https://youtube.com/live/OwydI4Po2ic>

Order of Service:

<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/2024.12.24%20Christmas%20Eve.docx.pdf>

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

We hold in our hearts all who have struggles at this time.

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfD14K3Xr8lF17lBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform)

Religious Education for Children

This Sunday 12/22 am-11am

Religious Education classes are not meeting this week. Children and youth are encouraged to attend the service.

Nursery is open for younger children.

Church News & Events

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!

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.

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 The Pink Haven Coalition which creates networks of safety and welcome for trans and gender expansive people forced to flee unsafe states in the United States.

Learn more about them here: <https://vimeo.com/1004167135?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