



The Rhythm of the Rain: Water Communion

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

Ringing of the Bowl		Steve Wilke
Welcome and Announcements		Steve Wilke
Prelude	<i>Interpretation of "Beach Spring" - Tune: Sacred Harp Setting by Robert Chamberlin</i>	Robert Chamberlin piano
Call to Worship	<i>Water</i> by Philip Larkin	Rev. Kim Mason
Hymn #361 Enter, Rejoice, and Come In		Robert Chamberlin, piano
<i>Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in. Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.</i>		
<i>Open your ears to the song...</i>		
<i>Open your hearts ev'ryone...</i>		
<i>Don't be afraid of some change...</i>		
<i>Enter, rejoice, and come in...</i>		
Lighting the Chalice		Steve Wilke
Sung Response #362 Rise Up, O Flame		
<i>Rise up, O flame, by thy light glowing, show to us beauty, vision, and joy.</i>		
Story, Part I	<i>The Rhythm of the Rain</i> by Grahame Baker-Smith	Steve Wilke
Poem, Part I	<i>The First Water is the Body</i> by Natalie Diaz	Rev. Kim Mason
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.

Story, Part II

The Rhythm of the Rain
by Grahame Baker-Smith

Steve Wilke

Poem, Part II

The First Water is the Body by Natalie Diaz

Rev. Kim Mason

Call for the Offering

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

Rev. Kim Mason

Offertory

Down to the River to Pray
Traditional

First Unitarian Choir

Gratitude

Pam Geppert

Story, Part III

The Rhythm of the Rain
by Grahame Baker-Smith

Steve Wilke

Poem, Part III

The First Water is the Body by Natalie Diaz
Rev. Kim Mason

Rev. Kim Mason

Reflection

Rev. Kim Mason

Ritual: Water Communion

Closing Hymn #210 Wade in the Water

Robert Chamberlin, piano

(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

Postlude

Siyahamba
Tune: South African Freedom Song
Setting by John Behnke — organ

Robert Chamberlin, organ

*This morning's flower arrangement was created by **Karen Albin**.*

Serving Us This Morning
Ushers: Jan Herzog and Sherry Bassi
Greeters: Kathy Wire and Larry Dusenbery
A/V Assistant: Mike Lunter

Music Notes

One License reprint and podcasting license #731812-A

WORSHIPcast License 12857

**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 September 8th, 2024

The Rhythm of the Rain: Water Communion - Rev. Kim Mason

The water cycle connects to everyone and everything on our planet. As we celebrate our fall ingathering, the ritual of water communion invites a practice of interdependence.

Watch this Service on YouTube!

<https://youtube.com/live/bEMcsIeVm0c>

Join Virtual Coffee Hour After the Service!

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

Designated Collection - September 8th - Tabernacle CDC

The morning collection will be donated to Tabernacle. The Tabernacle Community Development Corporation (TCDC) works to eliminate poverty as well as social exclusion by improving the educational, social and economic infrastructure which leads to self-sufficiency. Their vision is to “Assist Communities by Building People”. They engage in community revitalization in the Jeff-Vander-Lou, Fairgrounds, O’Fallon and Greater Ville neighborhoods. TCDC assists people in transforming their lives by providing proper housing options, employment resources and opportunities that will improve and enhance their quality of life, including skills training in the areas of education, communication, and finance. They also provide affordable housing, a client choice food pantry, a community center, educational scholarships, and a comprehensive development area (The Village). Long range planning is guided by the residents and stakeholders that live and work in the area.

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

Sunday September 8th, 2024

10:00 am - 11:00 pm - Worship Service (In Person & Online)

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

Tuesday September 10th, 2024

11:00 am - 2:00 pm - Women’s Alliance (in person and online)

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

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Personnel (online)

Wednesday September 11th, 2024

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Choir (Choir Room)

Thursday September 12th, 2024

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

Saturday Sept. 14th, 2024

9:00 am to 10:00 am - Black Lives Matter Social Witnessing (Kingshighway & Waterman)

1:00 - 4:00 pm - Teacher Training (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 - 7:30 pm - Partner Church Committee (online)

Upcoming Services

September 2024 Theme - Invitation

- **September 15th - Powered by Love - Rev. Kim Mason**
- **September 22nd - Balance - Rev. Kim Mason**
- **September 29th - Imagination - Rev. Kim Mason**

Joys and Concerns

Joys

Big congratulations to **Mindy Allen** who is in the process of buying a house!

Congratulations to **Carl and Sherry Bassi** who just celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary!

Concerns

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/1FAIpQLSdeSrftkA6h7HR77ZJfDI4K3Xr8lF17IBeY9tZgdzU_bjkTVw/viewform)

Religious Education This Sunday

for Children 1st-5th Grade

This Sunday 9/8 10am-11am

Intergenerational worship service. Children participate in the morning service. Nursery is open for younger children.

Interested in supporting our wonderful youth as an adviser this year?? Contact RE Committee chair, Caitlin Hill, at re@firstuustlouis.org – thanks!

Church News & Events

The First Unitarian Church of St. Louis seeks an energetic staff member to work part-time coordinating onsite activities for our children's Religious Education program. The coordinator will work in partnership with an offsite Director of Religious Education who will plan programming. First Unitarian Church of St. Louis is an historic congregation in the urban St. Louis neighborhood of the Central West End. We are a small mid-size congregation with 210 members and approximately 40 children and youth. See the full job posting here:

<https://www.firstuustlouis.org/sites/default/files/Sunday%20RE%20Coordinator%20.pdf>

Would you like to help improve voter participation in our neighborhood?

The Toward Justice group has four ways you can participate.

1. Write postcards encouraging voting. There is a sample you can use as a guide.. You can do this in Fellowship Hall on Sundays after church beginning Sunday, September 8 OR there are packets of 10 you can write at home.
2. Decorate postcards. They are more likely to be read if they are colorful.
3. Apply return address stamps and postage stamps to postcards.
4. We have 6,000 names and addresses and are short on funds to make this happen . . . So you can donate plain 4" X 6" postcards. . . OR

You can donate postcard stamps for this effort.

Bring either to the postcard writing table in Fellowship Hall on the 8th or to the church office.

See us in Fellowship Hall after the service or contact the church office for more information.

Thanks for your support!

New Member Orientation

Sept. 29th, Oct. 20th, Nov. 17th

In person – 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Facilitated by Members of the Membership Committee

Are you interested in becoming a member of First U? Want to learn more about the congregation and how to get involved? Want to get to know other people in the congregation? Then this 3 session orientation is for you! [Sign up online here](#) or on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Hope you can join in.

Flowers for Sunday Services

If you enjoy having fresh flowers for Sunday services, please consider signing up to provide them one Sunday (or more) this year. People often choose to donate in memory of loved ones or in honor of a special person or occasion. Donating is easy – Dottie Kinscherf can take care of ordering and arranging for delivery. If you are interested in learning more or signing up for a specific Sunday, talk to Dottie after services or contact her at flowers@firstuustlouis.org

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.



Partner Church Committee

First Church's Partner Church is in Csókfalva, Romania. Our committee coordinates our churches' interactions and support. The Partner Church Committee will hold its next meeting on Saturday September 14 at 6:00 pm. Please contact Kimberly Perry if you are interested in attending the meeting and joining the committee.

Social Responsibility Opportunities

Interested in helping with the North City ID Clinic & Supporting Tabernacle CDC at the same time? Help out with Evening Application Support hours!

Evening Application Support Volunteers Needed

Tuesday, September 10th

4:00-7:00 pm at the Hub

Visit the Ashrei Foundation website to learn more about becoming a photo ID clinic volunteer or to pick up a shift this summer. <https://www.ashreifoundation.org/photoid-volunteer>

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)

Lynn Hunt, Administration & Programs (lhunt@firstuustlouis.org)

Augustine Underwood, Office Asst. (aunderwood@firstuustlouis.org)

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