Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie	Minister of Worship and Coming of Age
Rev. Justin Schroeder	Senior Minister
Dr. Jerrod Wendland	Pianist
Dr. Randal Buikema	Director of Choral Arts and Orchestra

Chalice Lighters

9:30 Lilia Yorkhall

11:15 Andie Gegax

Holiday Decorations

Today's flowers were arranged by Rene Zweifel Block and are donated by Dennis Mills as a tribute to his late wife, Caroline Mills. A service honoring Caroline's life will be held at church today at 2:00 p.m.

The Visual Arts Committee dedicates this year's holiday decorations in memory of our long-time member Fran Addington. She would have loved our "Explosion of Beauty and Joy."

First Universalist Choir

Maria Almli
Kira Berglund
Judy Broad
Adam Burgstede
Amanda Carlson
Justin Carlson
Sherrilee Carter
Alison Cerier
Greg Chastain
Ian Cook
Ben Cooper
Michael Day
Shelley des Islets
Ray Dillon
Elizabeth Dunn
Mary Ellison
Renate Fiora
Valerie Garber
Nancy Gaschott
Bonnie Gray
Norma Hammer
Barbara Harman
Carol Hiniker
Greg Hoelzer
Marybeth Hoelzer
Ann Kay
Janet Keysser
Fawzia Khan
Jeni Klotz
Ellen Kluz
Rita Langteau
Geoff Lenox
Anne McBean
Mary Gitschier McCarthy
Candace McClenahan
Tony Meysenburg
John Murphy
Laurie Nelson
Jennifer Nielsen
Kathleen O'Donnell
Nora Page
Ron Parker
Jacalyn Paro
Karen Parson
Jim Patrykus
David Peichel
Liz Permar
Ashleyn Przedwiecki
Louis Quast
Jean Ramlow
Jim Ramnaraine
Weld Ransom
Dick Reuter
James Schanen
Susan Schultz
Sarah Sheehan
Lisa Sinclair
Alan Sroufe
June Sroufe
Lynne Stanley
Anda Tanaka
Victoria Thompson
Pamela Vincent
Tina Wade
Mary Weeks
Melody Werner
Katy Williams
Judith Wright
Sara Yale

First Universalist Orchestra

Violin 1
Colleen Cook
Mary Hanson
Becca Hanson

Violin 2
Laurie Melting
Martha Moriarty
Ellen Hartford
Derick Rehurek

Viola
Svetlana Davis
Ann Burr

Cello
Rosa Thompson-Vieira

Bass
Ann Marie McIntire

Oboe
Joel Abdella
Beth Moorhead

Bassoon
Cate Calkins

Trumpet
David Bach
Anda Tanaka

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis
December 13, 2015

Welcome

The Gift of Home

We invite you and your family to join us as we continue our spiritual tradition of re-imagining the holidays. This year, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is our Holiday Giving recipient and our goal is to raise $70,000. Please take home the envelope you'll find in today's order of service and talk with your family this week about what you'd like to give. Next Sunday, Dec. 20, bring your gift to church. As we collect these envelopes, we'll experience how we can create our own miracle of loaves and fishes. No gift is too small. All of us, together, will make the miracle happen. Stop by the table in the social hall today to learn more about Beacon and Holiday Giving.

Poinsettia Delivery

We need your help delivering poinsettias to members and friends who have lost loved ones in the past year, are struggling with ongoing, serious illness, or are living in nursing homes. Poinsettias are in the foyer outside the sanctuary doors with the cards and addresses of recipients. **Please help us by picking up a poinsettia and card to deliver to a member of our church community**. Some of you will find your name on the list. Please take your poinsettia as a remembrance of your loss and of the love and caring that surround you.

Daytime Connections

Through Daytime Connections, older adults empower each other to live intentional, joyful, purposeful, and spiritually fulfilled lives. Join us Thursday, Dec. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for "And the Light Returns Again: Solstice, Transitions and the Journey of Aging." Church members Karen West and Dick Reuter will share personal stories. Lunch follows the program (a $5 donation is encouraged). To register, contact Sandy DiNanni at Sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701.

We are so glad you are here.

At First Universalist Church, in the spirit of love and hope, we give, receive, and grow.

We welcome, affirm, and protect the light in each human heart; we act outside of our walls; we listen to where love is calling us next. We do all this as a faith community committed to racial justice. These spiritual practices and commitments are the ways we move in rhythm with the great love that is alive in the world.

Offering: Racial Justice Ministry of First Universalist Church

Today's offering will support the church's Racial Justice ministry. This includes such things as the 24 hour trainings with Dr. Heather Hackman, the facilitator that works with the People of Color Circle, inviting authors such as Debby Irving to speak at First U, and much more.

Are You Visiting?

Come to a brief orientation to First Universalist and Unitarian Universalism, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Our next orientation takes place: Dec. 20, 2015

Meet us in the front of the Sanctuary immediately after the service. Find out more about our community in this 45-minute overview. No sign up needed and coffee & childcare are provided.

The Visiting Families Welcome Station at the north end of the Religious Education wing has information about our Children, Youth & Family Ministries. Stop by if you are interested in learning more, or email Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries Lauren Wyeth at: lauren@firstuniv.org.

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis

In the Universalist spirit of love and hope, we give, receive, and grow.

Artwork by Ricardo Levins Morales

Prophetic Imagination

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie
Choruses from Handel's *Messiah*
First Universalist Choir & Orchestra,
Dr. Randal Buikema, Conductor

December 13, 2015

Music for Gathering
Dr. Jerrod Wendland

Variations in E Major "Harmonious Blacksmith"
-George Frederick Handel

Words of Welcome
Rev. Justin Schroeder

Prelude
Sinfonia
-George Frederick Handel

Call to Worship & Wonder
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Musical Response
Ben Cooper (Tenor)

Comfort Ye My People
-George Frederick Handel

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness;
prepare ye the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 40:1-3)

Lighting the Chalice

Love is the spirit of this church
And service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

-James V. Blake

(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Opening Hymn #241 (Please stand in body or spirit)
In the Bleak Midwinter

Musical Interlude

Message in Word
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Prophetic Imperative

Message in Music
And the Glory of the Word
-George Frederick Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

(Isaiah 40:5)

Silence

Cycle of Life
Rev. Justin Schroeder

Hymn of Prayer #123 (please remain seated)
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.

-Carolyn McDade

(reprinted with permission by the UUA)

Reading
Excerpts from *Isaiah*
Rev. Justin Schroeder

Message in Music
First Universalist Choir

O Thou That Tellest
-George Frederick Handel

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion… say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

(Isaiah 40:9, 60:1)

Message in Word
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Prophetic Imagination

Offertory
For Unto Us
-George Frederick Handel

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)

A Prophecy for Today
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Chorus of Praise
Glory to God
-George Frederick Handel

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.

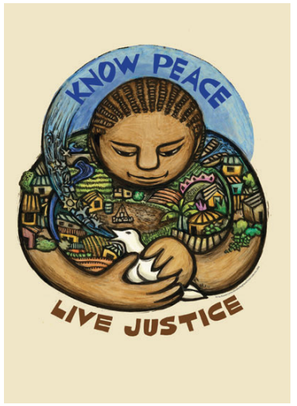
(Luke 2:14)

Closing Hymn #270 (Please stand in body or spirit)
O Day of Light & Gladness

Closing Words
Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413
Go Now in Peace

Music for the Journey
Dr. Jerrod Wendland



Artwork by
Ricardo Levins Morales
rlmartstudio.com

December Worship Theme: Making Room

So much in our consumer culture screams hurry up, do more, make it work, squeeze it in. We are bombarded with how to do things smarter, faster, more efficiently, especially at this time of year. If the purpose of the religious life is to grow our souls and repair the world, as Unitarian Universalist minister Richard Gilbert once put it, if we are to move into a greater sense of wholeness inside and out, then making room is key. Making room is different than squeezing it in. Making room connotes a sense of slowing down, refocusing our attention and coming into spiritual alignment. It is developing practices and systems that help us calm our tricked out nervous systems, and finding grace and goodness on the other side, when we least expect it.