



FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHOIR

Soloists:	Ray Dillon	Tony Meysenburg	Kate Seybold
Marybeth Hoelzer	Nancy Duncan	Linda Neuman	Sarah Sheehan
Fawzia Kahn	Alix Dvorak	Nate Ott	Lisa Sinclair
Tina Wade	Grace Fremont	Nora Page	Kelsey Speaks
Willow Wiedenhoef	Valerie Garber	Ron Parker	June Sroufe
Tony Meysenburg	Nancy Gaschott	Dave Paxson	Alan Sroufe
Choir:	Mary Gitschier McCarthy	Nancy Paxson	Lynne Stanley
Janet Avery	Pat Gottschalk	David Peichel	Deborah Talen
Margit Berg	Bonnie Gray	Julie Ploetz	Chip ten Besel
Kira Berglund	Gail Griffin	Louis Quast	Victoria Thompson
Fran Bieganeck	Steve Grove	Richard Rames	Shelley Thron
Angela Bowles Edwards	Wilbur Hannan	Jean Ramlow	Tyler Tracy
Theresa Brinkhaus	Anna Hayek	Jim Ramnarain	Tina Wade
Judy Broad	Carol Hiniker	Weld Ransom	Cora Walsh
Peter Brower	Marybeth Hoelzer	Cheryl Ritenbaugh	Willow Wiedenhoef
Randy Buikema	Geoff Lenox	Dick Rueter	Judith Wright
Alison Cerier	Anne McBean	Pat Ryan	
Bridget Cerny	Bill McBean	Susan Schultz	
Shelley des Islets	Nan Miller	Martha Scott Johnson	

FIRST UNIVERSALIST ORCHESTRA

Violin I	Viola	Oboe
Candice McCardle	Svetlana Davis	Beth Morhead
Derick Rehurek	Teresa Mager	Trumpet
Emily Hannan	Cello	Annie Marie Amen
Violin II	John Dunham	Keyboard
Mary Hanson	Bass	Franco Holder
Denise Bacon	Ann Marie McIntire	
Colleen Cook		

GET CONNECTED

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our Solstice Celebration, Christmas Pageants, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service are cherished traditions at First Universalist. Optional childcare is available for the Dec. 23 pageant and the Dec. 21 Solstice celebration if requested at least seven days in advance using the childcare request form on our website. Please note that Sunday worship services on Dec. 30 will be offered at 10 a.m. only. Mark your calendar and join us!

Solstice Celebration

Friday, Dec. 21, (doors at 7 p.m.; ritual at 7:30 p.m.)

Christmas Pageants

Sunday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. each day

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, Dec. 24 at 9:30 p.m.

Singing Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 30 at 10 a.m. only



WELCOME

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 listen deeply to where love is calling us next; and we act with humility, bravery, and compassion in service to justice. 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.

Are You Visiting?

Come to First Step, a brief orientation to First Universalist Church and Unitarian Universalism. First Step is generally offered on first and third Sundays.

Our next orientation takes place: TODAY!

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. Childcare is provided during the session after the 11:15 a.m. service. **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.

CYCLE OF LIFE

If you are experiencing a crisis or transition, or celebrating a joy—please let us know. To be included in our Cycle of Life each Sunday in worship, contact Sandy DiNanni at sandy@firstuniv.org or 612-825-1701. If you would like support, contact the church office or Rev. Ruth MacKenzie at 612-825-1701 or any member of our Pastoral Visitor Team.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Hearing devices are available; please ask an usher. **Cushions** are available for the pews and are located next to the sound booth and at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Please return them to their home after the service. We also have **fragrance-free rows** marked in the balcony. **For more info**, stop by our Information Center in the Social Hall downstairs, call 612-825-1701, or visit our website: firstuniversalistchurch.org.

OFFERING PLATE

Recent offering plates from Sunday Service:

- 11/18 Simpson Housing \$1,181.74
- 11/25 Augsburg Fairview Academy \$1,085.88
- 12/2 Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \$1,861.40

Know a charitable organization that shares our commitment to justice and equity? Nominate an offering recipient: firstuniversalistchurch.org/offering-plate.

Text to Give

To make a donation to the offering plate via credit card, use your smartphone to text **firstuniv** to 73256. You'll receive a link to a secure form where you can enter your info. You may also use the Square Cash app using our cash tag, \$firstuniv.

GET OUR NEWSLETTER

The Weekly Liberal, our email newsletter, is published on Thursdays. Subscribe at: firstuniversalistchurch.org/the-weekly-

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

New Child Welcome

For a visit from our welcome team, contact Sara McMullen at saramcminneapolis@gmail.com or Sara McLoone at sjmclloone@gmail.com.



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



DECEMBER WORSHIP THEME: SANCTUARY

Image: "Coffee Klatch" by Ricardo Levins Morales (used with permission)

GLORIA, BY ANTONIO VIVALDI

CHOIR-LED WORSHIP

DECEMBER 16, 2018

We welcome, affirm, and protect the light in each human heart; we listen deeply to where love is calling us next; and we act with humility, bravery, and compassion in service to justice. We do all this as a faith community committed to racial justice.

Music for Gathering

Franco Holder

Words of Welcome

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Welcoming in Joy

Opening Hymn #226

People, Look East

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

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Musical Interlude

Story of Sanctuary

The Red Priest

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
First Universalist Choir and Orchestra
Dr. Randal Buikema

I. Gloria in excelsis (Chorus)
Glory to God in the highest

II. Et in terra pax (Chorus)
And peace on earth



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

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Gloria

III. Laudamus te (Soprano duet)

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you



Story of Sanctuary

A Stable Story

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Gloria

IV. Gratias animus tibi (Chorus)

We give you thanks

V. Propter magnam gloriam (Chorus)

For your great glory

VI. Domine Deus (Soprano solo)

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father

VII. Domine fili unigenite (Chorus)

Only begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ



Offering

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Gloria

VIII. Domine Deus (Baritone solo and Chorus)

Lord God, lamb of God, son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us

IX. Qui tollis (Chorus)

You take away the sins of the world, hear our prayers

X. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris (Bass solo)

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us

XI. Quoniam tu solus sanctus (Chorus)

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ

XII. Cum Sancto Spiritu (Chorus)

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen



Offering is collected during the opening movement of the section

Closing Words

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Blessing in Song #413

Go Now in Peace

Worship Leaders

Rev. Ruth MacKenzie

Minister

Rev. Justin Schroeder

Senior Co-Minister

Dr. Randal Buikema

Director of Choral Arts

Franco Holder

Pianist

Lucy Vokes-Ruffcorn

9:30 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Isla Meysenburg

11:15 A.M. Chalice Lighter

Holiday Decorations

The Visual Arts Committee has added holiday flourishes to our worship spaces—with best wishes to the congregation. Poinsettias, a plant native to Mexico and Central America, are a highlight.

Offering: ISAIAH/Sanctuary Efforts

In February of 2017, First Universalist re-affirmed our commitment to be a Sanctuary Congregation, offering to house those at risk of detention or deportation due to unjust immigration laws and practices. We were joined by a number of other faith communities in the Twin Cities area and were supported in our sanctuary efforts by ISAIAH, a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota. ISAIAH is now one of our Faithful Action Partners. Today's offering will support the ministry of our Sanctuary and Resistance Team as well as the work of ISAIAH. If you'd like to learn more about ISAIAH, please join other First Universalist members on January 19 at the Convention Center from 11 to 4 p.m. for their "Claiming our Voices" event (<https://isaiahmn.org/claiming-our-voices/>)

December Worship Theme: Sanctuary

In ancient times, finding an inn was more than finding a place to spend the night. Certainly, the inn was a place for the traveler to rest, but it also provided safety and healing to the wayfaring stranger. There were no hospitals in those times, so the inn functioned as one. It was a place to tend to the physical body, and to gather one's spiritual resources for the continuing journey. When we hear the story of the Nativity, when an innkeeper provided a place for the Christ child to be born, perhaps we could imagine ourselves as the innkeeper, and our church as the inn, a place of respite and healing. This is one of our strengths as a faith community. We are a sanctuary, a place one can go to find health, healing and community. When people ask, "What do you believe?" We might respond: "Come with me to a place on 34th and Dupont Avenue South. This is a place where people are nourished, where people begin ministries, where people invest in something beyond self interest, growing in community and ever widening circles of compassion." Theologian Gary Gunderson writes, "I may have trouble articulating *what* I believe; it is easy to say *where* I believe." This month we explore the *where* of what we believe.