

# First Unitarian Church of Louisville

~ A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations ~

(502) 585-5110

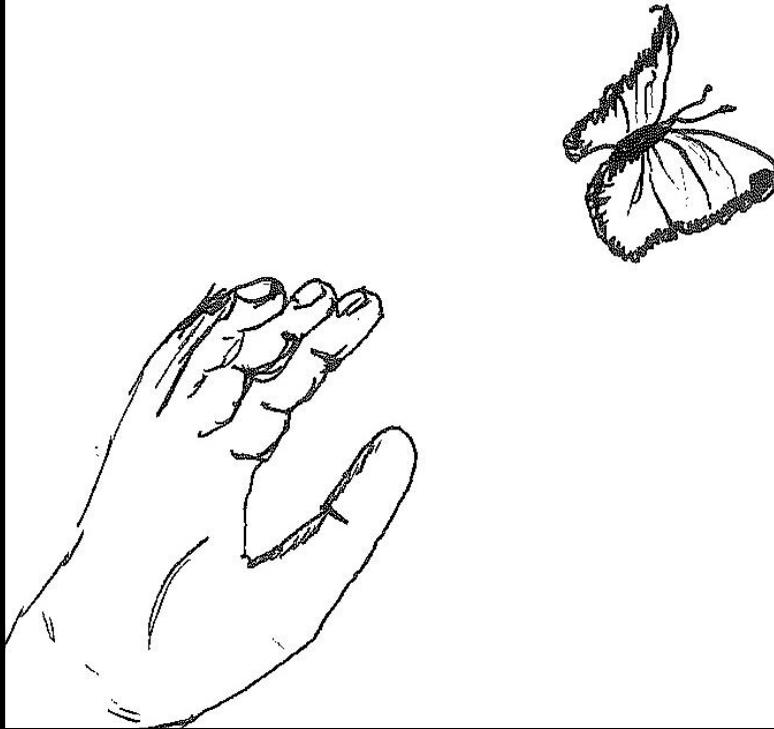
[www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org)

We are grateful for those who serve this morning, including:

Service Coordinator: Intern Committee

Worship Associate: Pat Triplett

Chancel Decoration: Rose Stevens



*Kathy Gapsis*

May 6, 2018

## CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF CHRISTE LUNSFORD



**Bell Sound**

**Welcome**

Clare Gervasi

**Prelude**

Solstice Singers

**Chalice Lighting**

Dianna Ott

**Call to Worship**

Rev. Kathy Hurt

+ **Hymn**

*Morning Has Come*

#1000

**Declaration of Mission and Covenant** (*unison*)

Pat Triplett

We are a church of reason and spirit that  
Witnesses for progressive faith,  
Nurtures our community and  
Transforms our world.

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.

**Music**

*We Are Here Together*

First U Choir

**Joys and Sorrows** (*unison*)

Rev. Kathy

When I breathe in, I breathe in peace.  
When I breathe out, I breathe out love.

**Moment of Prayer and Meditation**

**Sung Response**    (*unison*)

Make us aware we are a sanctuary.  
Each made holy loved right through  
With thanksgiving we are a living sanctuary anew.

There's a truth beyond our knowledge.  
There's compassion beyond our pain.  
There's a spirit burning brighter;  
There's a love to guide our way.

**Invitation to Generosity**

Clare

*With gratitude for the abundance in our lives, we give to the life of this  
congregation and to the life of the surrounding community.*

**Offertory**

*The Road Home*

First U Choir

**Moment for All Ages**

Linette Lowe

**Song for the Children**

Come and go with me to that land, Come and go with me to that land,  
Come and go with me to that land where I'm bound.  
Come and go with me to that land, Come and go with me to that land,  
Come and go with me to that land where I'm bound.

There'll be justice in that land, There'll be justice in that land,  
There'll be justice in that land where I'm bound.  
There'll be justice in that land, There'll be justice in that land,  
There'll be justice in that land where I'm bound.

+ **Hymn**

*Blue Boat Home*

#1064

**Homily**

*From Among Us*

Jill Sampson

+ **Music**

Solstice Singers

## Blessing and Release

Rev. Kathy

**Minister:** The life of our religious community is fluid, ever changing with new lives, new visions, new possibilities, and new ministries. In 2012, we welcomed Christe Lunsford as our choir director. Before long we asked Christe to take the position of music director. In September of 2016, Christe started serving as our student minister. And we have been changed. Today we say farewell to Christe, who has successfully filled the position of student minister and now will serve another Unitarian Universalist congregation as their ministerial intern.

**Christe:** I thank the members and friends of First Unitarian Church for my experiences of the past two years. I thank you for your love, kindness, and support. I was challenged, stretched, and my experiences gave me good tools with which to do ministry. I was given freedom to create a ministry with you, and I thank you for your acceptance of my ministry among you. I celebrate the things we were able to do, and I have sadness there were things I could not achieve.

**Congregation:** Christe, we are grateful that you came to learn the practice of ministry among us, growing into the compassionate and visionary minister we know you to be. Though you will no longer be with us, your influence will not leave us. We bless you in completing your studies and look forward with great excitement to your ordination here next year.

**Minister:** Kathy, Pat, Ron, Doug, and Claudia— thank you so very much for mentoring Christe into ministry. Will you trust that the work you did together will serve Christe well in ministries to come?

**Committee:** We do.

**Minister:** Do you, the members and friends of First Unitarian Church, now release Christe Lunsford from the role of student minister?

**Congregation:** We do.

**Minister:** Do you, Christe, release this church from turning to you for ministry and guidance?

**Christe:** I do.

**Minister:** Will you join with me in blessing Christe?

**Congregation:** Spirit of Life and Love, we have been moved by Christe's presence and work. We are grateful for and have been changed by the special gifts which Christe has shared with us and will now share with other congregations. We bless Christe on the journey to being a fully fellowshiped and ordained minister. Spirit of Life and Love, we trust that whatever ministry Christe undertakes in the future will be done well with great love, compassion, and a heart open to learning. Christe, go with our blessings and love.

**Minister:** Christe, surrounded by our love and our hopes for your future in this wonderful faith we share, you are hereby released from your student ministry at First Unitarian in Louisville. Blessed be and Amen.

**CUUPs Farewell Presentation**

Ron Zorn

**A Gift From the Congregation**

Claudia Runge

**Extinguishing the Chalice** (*unison*)

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth,  
The warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.  
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

**Closing Words**

Rev. Kathy

**Benediction**

Rev. Kathy

Here, may you know that you are loveable, and that indeed, you are loved.  
And may you carry that love out into the world as a blessing.

**Postlude**

+ *Please Rise in Body or in Spirit*

**Infant and Toddler Care in the Nursery** is available in room 214. The service is piped in to the library (the door by the organ) if you need to step out with your child.

**"Busy Bags"** are available on the Usher Table or ask an Usher.

**Join Us Next Week: Sunday, May 13**

**Celebration of Life 11:00 am**

*I Think I Hear Your Mother Calling*

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

**Religious Exploration 9:45 – 10:45**

*See Class Descriptions at [firstulou.org/cre](http://firstulou.org/cre) (children) and [firstulou.org/lre](http://firstulou.org/lre) (adult)*

**Nursery care is available 9:30-12:00. Room 214**

### **Multigenerational One Room Schoolhouse**

On the second Sunday of the month, children, youth, and adults gather with Linette and friends in the Social Hall to explore the ministry theme through a song, story, mindfulness practice, and activity stations. Activities may include vision boards, crafting, writing, and music--there will be something for everyone! This is a great opportunity to get to know our community members of all ages--you never know when you will make a new friend. Join us at 9:45 on May 13 to share our ministry theme through religious exploration – together!

### **Christe's Graduation**

Christe graduates in Chicago on Sunday May 20th, at 3pm. If you are interested in riding up with First U members/friends, contact Kathy Gapsis ([kgapsis@gmail.com](mailto:kgapsis@gmail.com)) to join us.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting ~ June 3 at 12:45**

The meeting will be held in the church sanctuary and all members are encouraged to attend. Non-members may attend but are not allowed to vote on presented issues. A light lunch will be provided prior to the meeting. Childcare will be provided.

The stated business of this Annual Meeting will be election of members to the Nominating and Endowment Committees, and the Board. The church budget for the fiscal year of July 2018 - 2019 will also be presented for a vote. Members present will also hear an update from the Immigration Justice team formed at the last annual meeting and be given the opportunity to vote on their resolution.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to have a proxy be in attendance for you, contact the church office ([office@firstulou.org](mailto:office@firstulou.org)) for a proxy form. They are also available in the Volunteer area in the file of forms. This form should be filled out completely and sent back to the church, or given to Clare Gervasi anytime BEFORE June 2nd at 12:30PM. Late forms will not be accepted for any reason.

Please make plans to attend!

~ **About Today's Homily** ~

Long time minister of All Souls in New York City, Dr. Forrest Church died of cancer September 24, 2009. This meant his partner minister of nearly 18 years, Rev. Galen Guengerich had the responsibility to himself and to his congregation to say goodbye from the pulpit and he did so the next Sunday morning in a sermon called, Amen. I Love You. God Bless You All. In that sermon, what he asks his congregation is about what we have left when someone beloved is gone and he ponders if what is left is ever enough. I haven't forgotten that sermon in all these years and asked All Souls for a copy of it as inspiration for today's sermon about loving and leaving. ~Jill

**FYI**

**First Sunday Lunch Menu** Pulled pork or vegan BBQ sandwiches, Macaroni and cheese, Marinated cucumbers and onions with three kinds of cupcakes: carrot, chocolate, and banana cake.

**Annual Meeting Reports** All ministry and group leaders should have received a template for this year's report. If you did not, please contact the church office (office@firstulou.org). The deadline is Wednesday, May 9.

**Worship Associate Training** We will be training "Worship Associates" from 11-1 on Saturday, May 12. The training will include pizza - it is lunchtime on a Saturday! Please RSVP to Pam (pamiddleton1@gmail.com). If you have been a worship associate, but want a refresher course and lunch - please join us! See the Midweek Update for more information.

**Church Recycling Tip** Thanks to everyone who puts their recycling in the containers around the church building and the city's big orange carts outside the kitchen door. If your recycling is in a bag, please empty the contents in the cart or else the city will think it's trash and skip emptying it. Happy recycling from your friends in House and Grounds

**Concert at TJ** *"Music for UUs and Progressives"* Thomas Jefferson invites all UUs to attend Roy Zimmerman's "ReZist" performance on May 8th at TJ Unitarian. 7:00-9:30pm. It is hosted by their Social Justice Committee.

**All-Church Picnic May 27 from 12:15-3:00** in the church courtyard and social hall. Come celebrate together with **Food** (picnic food, vegetables, and sides), **Fun** (bounce house, tarot readings, cotton candy, face painting, bubbles, henna tattoos, and more) and **Friends** (church folk). Sponsored by the RE Ministry. Donations will be accepted.

## Welcome to First Unitarian!

If you are a visitor to our congregation today, we trust you will find meaning in our service. First Unitarian Church is a liberal, self-governing, self-supporting church in covenant with the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Children** of all ages are welcome to remain with their caregivers. Childcare is also available upstairs in room 214. If you find you need to step out of the service with your child, the service is piped into the library (the door by the organ).

**Free Parking:** The lot off 4th Street next to the church is free all day Sunday. The lot off York Street, across from the library, is free until 1:30pm.

**Calendar of Events** <http://firstulou.org/calendar>

### *~ We Are a Welcoming Congregation ~*

We welcome all persons to participate fully, openly, and equally, in all aspects of our congregational life, in ever-widening circles of inclusion. We respect and affirm diversity and its gifts in race, ethnicity, national origin, affectional or sexual orientation, family or relationship structure, gender identity, gender expression, sex, abilities, neurodiversity, age, socio-economic class, political views, religious belief, creed, or interpretation of religion.

### **Our Ministry Staff**

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, Interim Minister

Linette Lowe, Dir. Religious Exploration    Christe Lunsford, Student Minister

### **Support Staff**

Ethan McCollum, Choir Director	Brytner Evangelista, Accompanist
Barbara Creasy, Office Administrator	Elena Meeks, Childcare staff
Earl Reynolds, Building Supervisor	NaQueesha Puckett, Childcare/RE Asst.
Michael Purintun, Bookkeeper	Vantreasea Jones, Custodian

### **ZOOM Into First U**

Members and friends can sign into Zoom and access the service in real time. Go to the website [www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org). Click on the “Worship” tab. Then select “Livestreaming our Sunday Service” and follow the directions. You can also go to [firstulou.org/online-service](http://firstulou.org/online-service). Enjoy the service.