

First United Lutheran Church

3481 Campus Loop Road
Kennesaw, GA. 30144
770-427-0325 • www.fulc.org

I am
the vine,
you are the
branches

JOHN 15:5



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

9:30 am Worship Service

April 28, 2024

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all who have chosen to worship at First United Lutheran Church today. On your way in you may have received a “Welcome Card” to place in the offering plate. If not, you can find those, along with our guest book, on the left in the hallway exiting the sanctuary.

REMINDERS

Your children are welcome in our worship! At the entrance to the sanctuary, we have tool kits with age-appropriate items to help children participate in worship. Please help your child take a drawer, with supplies and instructions, to your pew and return it to the drawer unit after the service. At the front of the sanctuary there is a quiet play space for younger children. If needed, we also have an unstaffed nursery room located in the hallway to the sanctuary.

As we prepare for worship: Please respect those who are in the sanctuary for meditation and the prelude with silence.

Online worship: To view the service online visit fulc.org and select the worship button on the homepage.

PRELUDE “*Ballade*” by F. Chopin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Silence for reflection

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden’s verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom’s land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus’ death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

Bless this water as we rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “*There in God’s Garden*” (ELW 342)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

P: Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord have mercy.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ have mercy.

C: Christ have mercy.

P: You bring light to those in darkness: Lord have mercy.

C: Lord have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE “*Gloria*” (ELW page 121)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMS Psalm 22:25-31

R: *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord. (Ps. 22:27)*

C: ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD. ²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God. ²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD. ³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come. ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (page 142)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL TEXT John 15:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

After the reading of the Gospel:

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SERMON HYMN “*We Know That Christ is Raised*” (ELW 449)

CREED *Nicene Creed*

A: God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in ac-

cordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:

A: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: and also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING *“The Power of the Cross”* by K. Getty, S. Townend, and M. Hayes

(Please place your offering in the offering plate as you enter the nave)

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the true presence of Jesus Christ.

LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name, in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

OUR FATHER

P: And now we are bold to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

P: Behold the Lamb of God who bears away the sin of the world.

C: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE *"Lamb of God"* (ELW page 135)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please be seated.

The Communion follows. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. If you are visiting us today, please know that as baptized members of the body of Christ, you are welcome at the Eucharistic Feast.

COMMUNION HYMN “By Your Hand You Feed Your People” (ELW 469)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace to eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, † and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Let All Things Now Living” (ELW 881)

SENDING

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “Carillon de Westminster” by L. Vierne

April 21, 2023 Attendance and Giving

Attendance: 46

Offering: \$

Simply Giving & E giving: 04/15/24 – 04/19/24 = \$

<u>Month of March 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>75K Capital Campaign</u>	
Actual Expenses	\$23,432	\$71,645	Pledged \$81,457
Actual Giving	\$24,838	\$68,543	Received \$91,658
Variance	+\$1,406	-\$3,102	

Pastor: Randy Jones
Vicar: Kat Folk
Sunday Servants
Serving Today April 28th

Head Counter: David Werner

Counters: Lucy Denzin

Assisting Minister: David Werner

Reader: Julie Caslow

Acolyte: TBA

Musician: Ben Wadsworth

Altar Guild: Tracey Boyer, David Werner

Ushers: Ed Einert, Dave Gustafson, Peder Fagerholm, Frank Hull (as available)

Serving Next Service May 5th

Head Counter: David Werner

Counters: Lucy Denzin

Assisting Minister: Norm Kendrick

Reader: Assata Kendrick

Acolyte: TBA

Musician: Ben Wadsworth

Altar Guild: Brenda Hextell, Pat Warner

Ushers: Ed Einert, Dave Gustafson, Peder Fagerholm, Frank Hull (as available)

Birthdays for the Month of April

Cathy Hairston, Carmen Soto, Barbara Schwanebeck, Helen Norman, Kelly Francis-Wadsworth, Erich Moran, Barbara Kennell, Bishop Gustafson, Shirley Olney, Julie Caslow, Laurie Solano, Kenny Ellsworth, Helen Gustafson, Sophie Wadsworth, Evelyn Green, Susan Lyke, Jackie Smith

Weekly Calendar Office is Open:

Mon.-Thur., 8:30am - 1:30pm

3481 Campus Loop Rd ~ Kennesaw, GA 30144

770-427-0325

You can always visit us at www.fulc.org or contact us at office@fulc.org

SUNDAY: April 28th

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Worship Service

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Presentation by Vicar Kat

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Kenyan Baraka Church (FH)

MONDAY: April 29th

TUESDAY: April 30th

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Levites Group (TC)

WEDNESDAY: May 1st

THURSDAY: May 2nd

10:30 AM

Thursday Morning Bible Study

FRIDAY: May 3rd

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

First Friday Game Night

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The Depot AA Meeting (FH)

SATURDAY: May 4th

SUNDAY: May 5th

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Guatemalan Coffee Hour

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Worship Service

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Kenyan Baraka Church (FH)

Visit <https://www.fulc.org/> and select the worship button on the home page for our online service.



**TO REQUEST PRAYERS OR JOIN THE
PRAYER TEAM CONTACT:
LINDA GEORGE AT
PRAYERCHAIN@FULC.ORG**

WE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF FIRST UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Those in need of healing, comfort and strength:

Pour out your Spirit of comfort, gracious God. Heal your children in need. We pray especially for **Duane** Thewlis; **Janet** Stover & neighbor, **Chris**; **Marty** Stahlmann & her brother, **John**; D Ellsworth & D Moulton's parents, **Roy & Ruth** & friends **Ken & Cindy**; Anthony Ward's brother, **Timothy**; K-S Jones' friends, **Ellen & Bill**; Vicar Kat's friends, **Jim & Joselyn**, **Annie**, **Bob & Becky**; **John** Beyer; **Hunter** Smith; **Elsie Howard**, 99; B Woods grandson, **Arthit** Grodek 9, & friends **Marsha** & her son, **David**; **Sharon** Moe & **Sherry** Quitter; N Boccadoro's friend, **Brian**; **Vi Tatz**; K Moran's friend, **Jamie**; **Lisa** Byrn; **Gene** Douglass; **Steve** Hoge; **Mark** Brandau-Shirley; **Harry** Grubb; **Lou & Ardy** Boyer; B Newton's family & friends **Terry & Lee**, **Betty**, **Brian**, **Tom & Billie**; **Molly** Werner; **Megan** Mosholder; **Jim & Janet** Rooks; **Joanne** Einert; E Tennis' daughter, **Diane**.

Those serving in our military:

Pour out your Spirit of love, glorious God. We pray for your blessings upon the **students, staff & faculty of KSU** and for those bravely serving our country at home and around the world especially Bock Lyke son-in-law in Washington D.C., **Officer Huck Sarin**; Hextell nephew, Illinois **K9 Officer Tyler Post**, **Brian Uncapher**, Navy; Great grandson of Evelyn Tennis, **Casey Peterson**, Army; & Brandau-Shirley family, **Marshall Wish** currently stationed with his family in South Korea.

Thanksgiving for those who have gone before us:

Pour out your Spirit of peace, resurrecting God. Bring all who grieve into a community rooted in you. We pray especially for **Dot** McDonough; B Newton's friend, **Charleen**; D Fischer's mother, **Anne**. Uphold their families with your grace and keep us all grounded in your promise of life eternal.

Those in Mission for Christ Overseas:

JULIA & VINCENT Leiyoole & their Church among the Samburu in Kenya. Pray, also, for **AK** & his ministry, established by and for, a nomadic people group of shepherd/warriors. **ILAG** The Augustinian Lutheran Church in Guatemala & for their pastor, **Karen** Castillo, & her son, **Diego** Gil.