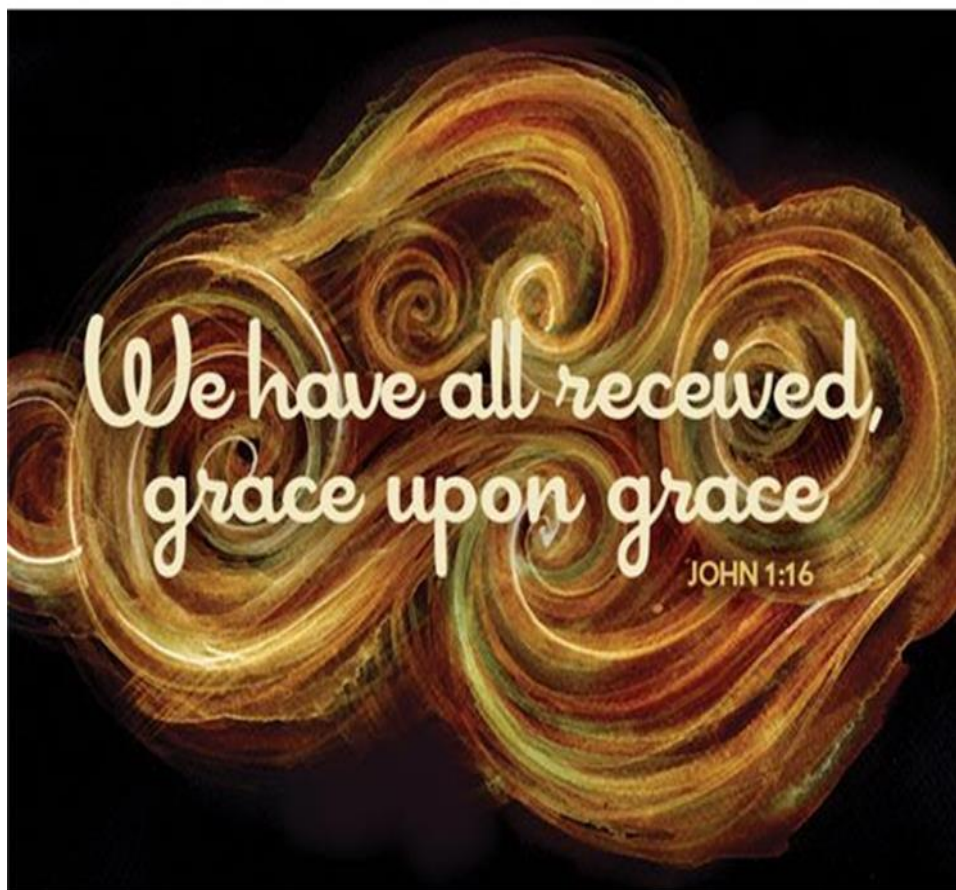


# *First United Lutheran Church*

3481 Campus Loop Road  
Kennesaw, GA. 30144  
770-427-0325 • [www.fulc.org](http://www.fulc.org)



**SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, YEAR C**

9:30 am Worship Service

January 5, 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](http://fulc.org) and select the worship button on the homepage.

**PRELUDE** “Nocturne in E Minor” by F. Chopin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*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.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, you are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN “*The First Noel*” (ELW 300)

### 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 are mighty God and Prince of peace: Lord have mercy.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus, you are the Son of God and Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.

**C: Christ have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father: Lord have mercy.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” (ELW 270)

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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** Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALMS** Psalm 147: 12-20

R: *Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

**C: <sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, <sup>13</sup>who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you. <sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. <sup>15</sup>God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly. <sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes. <sup>17</sup>God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold? <sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow. <sup>19</sup>God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel. <sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!**

### **SECOND READING** Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he

chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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 1:[1-9] 10-18

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his

glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*After the reading of the Gospel:*

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

SERMON HYMN "*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*" (ELW 510)

### 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 accordance 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: receive our prayer.**

*The prayers are concluded with these words:*

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: and also with you.**

## OFFERING

**OFFERING** “O Word of God Incarnate” by W. How and Felix Mendelssohn

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

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC 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 “Bread of Life from Heaven” (ELW 474)**

### **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: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**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: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *“Toccata”* by T. Dubois

# December 29, 2024 Attendance and Giving

Attendance: 33

Offering: \$

Simply Giving & E giving: 12/23/24 – 12/27/24 = \$

<u>Month of November 2024</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>
Actual Expenses	\$26,042	\$260,790
Actual Giving	\$26,235	\$257,821
Variance	+ \$192.25	- \$2,970

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## Pastor: Randy Jones & Vicar Kat Folk

### Sunday Servants

### Serving Today January 5th

**Head Counter:** David Werner

**Counters:** TBA

**Assisting Minister:** Sophie Wadsworth

**Reader:** Kelly Wadsworth

**Acolyte:** Peter Wadsworth

**Musician:** Ben Wadsworth

**Altar Guild:** Lois Gilbert, Lindsay Harris

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

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## Serving Next Service January 12th

**Head Counter:** David Werner

**Counters:** TBA

**Assisting Minister:** TBA

**Reader:** Debbie Maclin

**Acolyte:** TBA

**Musician:** Ben Wadsworth

**Altar Guild:** Lois Gilbert, Lindsay Harris

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

## 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](http://www.fulc.org) or contact us at [office@fulc.org](mailto:office@fulc.org)

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### **SUNDAY: January 5th**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Worship Service

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Kenyan Baraka Church (FH)

### **MONDAY: January 6th**

10:00 AM

Dorcas Circle Quilting Club

### **TUESDAY: January 7th**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Levites Group (TC)

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Ewe Are Loved (116)

### **WEDNESDAY: January 8th**

10:00 AM

McCarthy Bible Study

11:45 AM

Choir Rehearsal

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Worship & Music Meeting

### **THURSDAY: January 9th**

### **FRIDAY: January 10th**

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The Depot AA Meeting (FH)

### **SATURDAY: January 11th**

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Bell Choir

### **SUNDAY: January 12th**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Worship Service

11:00 AM

Children's Sunday School

11:00 AM

Finance Committee Meeting

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 a **friend** of Tracy Boyer; D Ellsworth & D Moulton's mother, **Ruth**, & their brother, **Mike**, mom's caretaker; **Joanne** Einert; **Lisa** Byrn; **Jim & Janet** Rooks; **Frank** Hull; **Ginny** Frederick; Anthony Ward's twin brother, **Timothy**; N Boccadoro's friends, **Clay & Brian**; **Sharon** Moe & **Sherry** Quitter; **Nuru** Emmanuel Ronnenberg & family; **Elsie** Howard 99; B Woods' friend **Marsha** & her son, **David**; **Ron** Emberg; **Kay & Harry** Grubb; **Pat** Warner; **Janet** Stover & neighbor, **Chris**; **Hunter** Smith; K. Moran's friend **Jamie**; **Steve** Hoge; **Lou & Ardy** Boyer; B Newton's family & friends **Terry & Lee, Betty, Brian, Tom & Billie**; **Molly** Werner; **Megan** Mosholder; 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 aircraft carrier; Great grandson of Evelyn Tennis, **Casey Peterson**, Army in Germany; & Brandau-Shirley family, **Marshall Wish** currently stationed with his family in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

### **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 D Ellsworth & D Moulton's father, **Roy**; T Bryan's father, **Larry**; M Stahlman's cousin, **Jeanne**; Sonja Link's nephew, **Erik**; P Merriman's brother, **Barry**. Uphold her family 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 in Kenya. The audio New Testament and JESUS Film in Samburu language has opened the minds and hearts of all who hear. Since July, God has gathered 589 men, women, and children into the church through Baptism! **ILAG** The Augustinian Lutheran Church in Guatemala & for their pastor, **Karen** Castillo, & her son, **Diego** Gil.