

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva**

*English Speaking Congregation*

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Ministers of Music: Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor, Andrew Donaldson

Last Sunday after Epiphany 2 March 2014

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:

*Andorra, Austria, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, Switzerland*

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Roswitha Golder

Welcome

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Greeting

Attentive as to a lamp shining in a dark place

***until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our hearts.***

Attentive to the law and the prophets,

***coming nor from human will but from women and men moved by the Holy Spirit.***

Attentive to the voice from the cloud,

***This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.***

Attentive, we worship the one who speaks,

***the one affirmed,***

the one present in the bright cloud,

***and give thanks to the Trinity,***

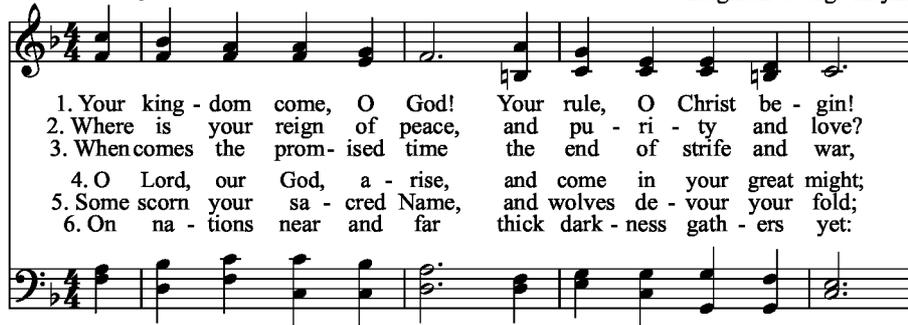
one God, now and forever.

***Amen.***

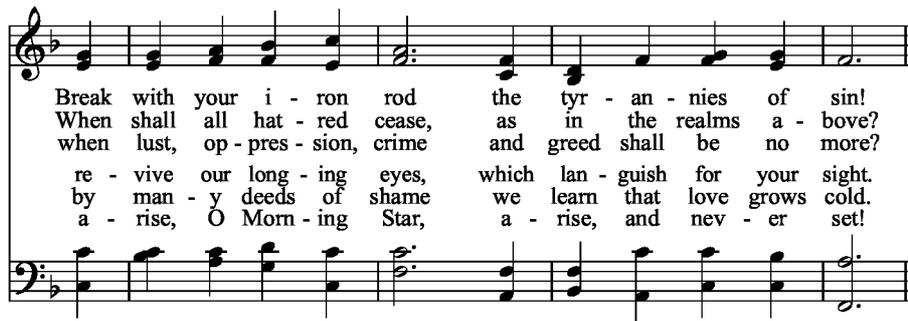
Hymn **Your kingdom come, O God**

Lewis Hensley alt.

Leighton George Hayne



1. Your king - dom come, O God! Your rule, O Christ be - gin!  
2. Where is your reign of peace, and pu - ri - ty and love?  
3. When comes the prom - ised time the end of strife and war,  
4. O Lord, our God, a - rise, and come in your great might;  
5. Some scorn your sa - cred Name, and wolves de - vour your fold;  
6. On na - tions near and far thick dark - ness gath - ers yet:



Break with your i - ron rod the tyr - an - nies of sin!  
When shall all hat - red cease, as in the realms a - bove?  
when lust, op - pres - sion, crime and greed shall be no more?  
re - vive our long - ing eyes, which lan - guish for your sight.  
by man - y deeds of shame we learn that love grows cold.  
a - rise, O Morn - ing Star, a - rise, and nev - er set!

## Psalm 2

Why do the nations conspire,  
**and the peoples plot in vain?**

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and the Lord's anointed, saying,

"Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us."

**God who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision.**

Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror,

**"I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."**

I will tell of the decree of the Lord who said to me,

**"You are my son; today I have begotten you.**

**Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,**

**and the ends of the earth your possession.**

**You shall break them with a rod of iron,**

**and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

**be warned, O rulers of the earth.**

Serve the Lord with fear,

**and with trembling bow in worship**

lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.

**Happy are all who take refuge in him.**

## Call to confession

Does this Psalm sound like a manifesto for the Taliban,

full of wrath and fury, violence and empire,

breaking with a rod of iron,

dashing into pieces like broken dishes?

Could it not be a description of Homs or Aleppo?

Does God laugh at the Muslims loosing their homes, their livelihoods, their lives to the so-called Christian militias in the Central African Republic or at the tribal warfare of South Sudan?

In Geneva we can feel far from the violence,

and globally the rate of violence over-all is decreasing.

Should we just dismiss this Psalm as the left-overs of a violent age,

with the image of a conquering, violent God?

Or can these ancient words remind us of human propensities, sometimes left behind, sometimes lurking just beneath the surface. The revenge others seek is not unconnected to our own sense of wrong. The fear that puts whole peoples on the move, is not far from our own fear of disruption. The wish for a God who will destroy the evil-doers, is not far from our own wish for power to subdue others. So we pray.

#### Prayer of Confession

The rules of the earth are no longer warned to serve you, God.  
Rather than justice, they learn manipulation,  
the fragmentation of truth,  
the foment of fear.

*Too often, we learn with them.*

*We benefit from the suffering of others,  
even when we are self-giving.*

*We are taken in by the falsehoods around us,  
even if we are personally honest.*

*We exploit the earth,  
even if we watch not to be wasteful.*

*We fall short of your glory,  
conspiring and plotting in vain,  
not really listening to the voice of your Beloved,  
not really communicating the good news of your love,  
not really giving ourselves away for the sake of your realm.*

*Forgive us when we break our bonds with you,  
when we cast away the cords of the covenant you offer.*

*In your mercy, pull us back to that grace  
which saves, heals, restores, revives, through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

#### Sung Kyrie eleison

#### Words of Assurance

Some people are on the mountains this morning taking in the glory of the Alps.

With our common imagination let us join them.

I invite you to close your eyes.

Imagine for a moment the sun shining on the snow,  
the sense of being on top of a world reverberating in light.

Imagine for a moment a voice calling your name,  
claiming your energy, your willpower, the center of your life.

Imagine for a moment the strong affirmation that you are beloved of God,  
known, wanted, held.

Imagine a forgiveness that would make you whole,  
the new day dawning, the morning star rising in your heart.

You may open your eyes.

Is it harder to imagine being able to start new, than it is to imagine the sun on the alps?

Sisters and brothers,

in Christ we are free.

It is not just our imagination.

In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven, named, beloved of God. Amen.

#### Hymn of praise

*Children may go to church school and Sunday play.*

#### Prayer of the day

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us pray:

Not like a tycoon with golden faucets,  
not like a drug baron signaling death with a raised eyebrow,  
not like a despot with a private zoo and a restaurant in the shape of a ship,  
your glory, gracious God, is as ephemeral as a cloud,  
as personal as a voice,  
as costly as a cross:  
reveal to us your glory  
which sets us kneeling not just at an altar in church,  
but before those you love,  
washing their feet,  
honoring your Beloved,  
in whom you are well-pleased, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.’ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, ‘Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.’ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Antiphon

Epistle reading

2 Peter 1:16-21

A reading from the second letter of Peter:

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Alleluia

Gospel reading

Matthew 17:1-9

The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 17.

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Roswitha Golder

Hymn

The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

We stand and offer one another signs of Christ's peace.

Gathering of Gifts *Hallelujah Amen*

choir

*from Judas Maccabeus by Georg F. Handel  
Hallelujah, Amen,  
Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine,  
with cherubim and seraphim harmonious join,*

Setting the table **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

Thomas Ken: England, 1627-1711

Louis Bourgeois: Geneva

Musical score for 'The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving' in G major, 2/2 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.'

### The Great Prayer of 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 God thanks and praise.***

### Preface

A light,

a cloud,

a mountain,

a devouring fire,

a voice:

Where are you?

Build an ark.

Count the stars.

Take off your shoes.

You are the man.

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by

Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’

Now I have put my words in your mouth.

Go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’

You shall conceive and bear a son.

Your glory keeps calling your people to worship and obey you,  
to give you thanks.

So with those of every time and place, we sing the everlasting hymn of praise.

### Sanctus

#### Eucharistic Prayer

A light,

a cloud,

a mountain,

a devouring fire,

a voice:

‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’

Blessed this One,

healing, teaching, lifting up the broken, giving himself until the end.

### Words of Institution

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new

covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Glory—a piece of bread  
glory—some shared wine,  
glory—a body broken,  
glory—blood spilled,  
glory—life transfigured, raised up, shining,  
glory—remembering all that Christ offers us,  
all that Christ makes of us,  
all that Christ calls us to.

***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Come Holy Spirit,  
we have no bright cloud,  
no visitation by Moses and Elijah,  
no shining clothes,  
nevertheless, reveal to us Christ Jesus  
as we gather round his table.  
In our eating and drinking, make us one,  
celebrating the vital presence of the one we serve,  
through Christ, with Christ and in Christ  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and praise are yours, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Lord's Prayer *in our many languages*

We say the Lord's Prayer in our many languages  
***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Agnus Dei

Communion

*(Because this is the table of Jesus Christ, all people are welcome and invited to his feast. Communion is continuous. Please come forward and gather around the altar. Receive the bread in your hands. Glutenfree wafers are available from the server. Take the chalice from the server or help yourself to one of the small, individual glasses. Please return to your seat after receiving communion.)*

Communion Songs

Burying of the Alleluia

Sending forth

Let us pray:  
Glorious God,  
not impressed with gold and riches  
you dwell among the simple and poor.  
not content with power and majesty  
you give yourself away,  
not bound by earthly rules,  
you set us free to love without fear.  
Throughout this coming week,  
may all we do and say glorify you,

with the compassion and kindness  
which is your good news in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements