

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation
20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland
Telephone / Fax: 022 310 50 89

Emails: pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch www.genevalutheran.ch

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis Organist: Regine Kummer
Ministers of Music: Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost + 27 September, 2020

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela*

Guest Preacher and Presider: Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer

Welcome

Prelude

Prelude on Toplady
Otherwise known as Rock of Ages

Terry MacArthur

Opening Words

Journeying by stages,
questioning the authority of those who make pronouncements,
thirsting for truth
in a desert where lies seem more numerous than the sand,
aching for these stages to be past,
for the uncertainty swirling around us like a dust storm to settle,
nevertheless, we struggle to be faithful to our callings,
to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling,
trusting that God is at work in us, enabling us both to will and to work for God's good pleasure.
We come to drink from the rock that opens new streams,
so the healing waters might flow and our fears subside,
as we learn once more to trust that God is with us,
landing us safe on heaven's side,
where songs of praises abide in us
even though we pass through the wilderness of Sin.
We follow Jesus Christ, who died and was raised,
by whose Spirit we are made alive.

Hymn

Guide me, O my great Redeemer

Peter and Wiliam Williams

John Hughes: Wales



1. Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
2. O - pen now the cry - stal foun - tain, where the heal - ing wa - ters flow:
3. When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side.



I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your power - ful hand, bread of heav - en,
let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer,
Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
strong de - liv - erer, ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
songs of prais - es I will ev - er sing to you. I will ev - er sing to you.

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Nos presentamos

Eseario Sosa Rodríguez: Venezuela

Nos pre-sen - ta - mos hoy an - te ti, o Dios, con lo que so-mos y co-mo es - ta-mos.
 Now we are gath-ered be-fore you here, O God. Our-selves we of - fer, just as we are.

Nos pre-sen - ta - mos hoy an - te ti, o Dios, con lo que so-mos y co-mo es - ta-mos.
 Now we are gath-ered be-fore you here, O God. Our-selves we of - fer, just as we are.

Per-dón pe - di - mos por-que fal - ta - mos cuan-do de - ja-mos de ha-cer lo bue-no,
 We ask for - give-ness when we do no-thing to help the need-y, to help the sick.

cuando al en - fer - mo ya la que su - fre la a - ban - do - na - mos. Per-dón pe -
 When-e'er the help-less, all those who suf - fer, are left in mis - ery, we ask for -

di - mos, per-dón cla - ma - mos, per-dón pe - di - mos, per-dón cla - ma - mos.
 give-ness. We beg for - give-ness. We ask for - give-ness. We cry, "For - give us."

Music and Español © 1994 Eseario Sosa Rodríguez Apartado 1025 Barquisimeto Venezuela.
 English, Lois C. Kroehler

Before you, God,
we confess our selfish ambition and conceit,
our looking to our own interests instead of to the interests of others,
our lack of trust in your providence,
 our fears that in the mystifying wilderness,
 no water will flow from any rock to quench our thirst,
 nor manna to feed us.

We confess how far we are from the mind of Christ,
emptying ourselves of all but love,
making no claims except that we belong to you.

We confess how far we are from following Christ,
giving ourselves away,
taking up his cross,
denying ourselves,
learning to serve,
discovering the joy of lives worth living.

Sung Response

Nos presentamos

Eseario Sosa Rodríguez: Venezuela

Nos pre-sen - ta - mos hoy an - te ti, o Dios, con lo que so-mos y co-mo es - ta-mos.
 Now we are gath-ered be-fore you here, O God. Our-selves we of - fer, just as we are.

Nos pre-sen - ta - mos hoy an - te ti, o Dios, con lo que so-mos y co-mo es - ta-mos.
 Now we are gath-ered be-fore you here, O God. Our-selves we of - fer, just as we are.

Words of Assurance

Gloria

Luke 2:14

Pablo Sosa: Argentina

Cueca E ♩ = 72

La, la, la

Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios. Y en la tie - rra
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria glo - ry to God on high. And on earth

For the ending repeat 2 times each time softer

paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor. Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria.
 peace to the peo - ple in whom God is well pleased.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
 Let us pray. . .

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people,
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times--
 things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD,
and the wonderful works God has done.
 God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors

in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan,
 splitting open the sea and letting them pass through,
making the waters stand up like walls;
 leading them through with a cloud by day,
and all night with a glow of fire;
 splitting the rocks in the wilderness,
and giving them drink as from the deep,
 bringing streams out of the rock,
making them flow down like a river.

from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Baiao $\text{♩} = 100$ Simei Monteiro: Brazil

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia.

Music © Simei Monteiro

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

The Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 21.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin,” we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax

collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Simei Monteiro: Brazil

Baiao D G D C D C D

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia.

Music © Simei Monteiro

Sermon

Chad Rimmer

Hymn

Rock of ages

Augustus M. Toplady

Thomas Hastings

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee; let the
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands: could my
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring; simp - ly to thy cross I cling. Na - ked,
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death, when I

wa - ter and the blood, from the riv - en side which flowed, be of
 zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow, all for
 come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace; stained, I
 soar to worlds un - known, see thee on they judg - ment throne, Rock of

sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

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 Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of freedom and hope,
even when we wonder where you have brought us,
with all its hardships and uncertainties,
we remember your grace breaking through our lives,
responding to our deepest needs.

*We bless you that rocks keep on splitting in the wilderness,
opening up for us streams of living water.*

God of rivers and seas,
creating pools in the desert so your people could return home,
we thank you for the clean water that we in Geneva have in our taps,
(otherwise known as Evian, unbound from its plastic bottle.)

We bless you that you give us drink as from the deep.

God of life,
calling us to do your will
following Jesus Christ,
who in giving up his life, gives life,
*we bless you for the love that never dies,
and declare the mysteries of ancient times,
recounting for generations to come your praiseworthy deeds.
Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Option to Attend Worship in Person

While we are still far from returning to our “normal” practices around worship, our church has decided that with proper precautions in place, we can now begin welcoming 20 people to attend worship in person each Sunday. Those attending will keep distance from one another in the sanctuary, will wear masks, and will be asked not to sing. Music will continue to be provided by a small ensemble.

The service will continue to be live-streamed each Sunday—so most weeks, that is how each of us will worship. But now it will be possible—from time to time, or on a Sunday when you would particularly like to be physically present in the sanctuary—to come to the church and join the service in person.

You can sign up for the next several Sundays using [this online form](#). Feel free to contact Andy Willis with any questions about this new arrangement.

Help Needed for Soup/Sandwich Kitchen 5 October

Our next contribution for the Soup/Sandwich Kitchen is on 5 October, and Neighborhood Group C is in charge this month. Volunteers each prepare 20 sandwiches and bring them to the soup kitchen behind Gare Cornavin that morning by 10h00. If you are willing to provide sandwiches this month, please contact Maryssa Camaddo.

Church School Now in Session – Sundays at 10h00

Following a pause over the summer months, church school is now back in session. As in the spring, two classes (ages 3-8, and 9 and up) will meet online each Sunday. One important change, however: this fall, church school will be from 10h00 until 10h45, before the worship service. Contact Chad and Natalie Rimmer with any questions about registration or connecting to the class.

Online Coffee Hour

An online coffee hour is being held regularly after worship—it's a great opportunity to connect with one another, and all are welcome to participate. In order to keep the space secure, we can't widely share a Zoom link, so we are keeping a list of people who would like to receive links to upcoming online coffee hours.

- *If you have already joined one of these online coffee hours*, you don't need to do anything more; we will automatically add your email address to the list.
- *If you have not yet joined one of the online coffee hours and would like to be added to the list* for future Sundays, please send an email to office@genevalutheran.ch and we will gladly add you to the list.

Online Centering Prayer – Thursdays at 12h00

For the past several months, a group has been meeting online for Centering Prayer on a daily basis. We are now shifting to once (or possibly twice) each week. For now, a group will meet every Thursday at 12h00 via Zoom. Here's the link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86798266012>

Centering Prayer is silent prayer for around 20 minutes, often done in a group setting. More details about Centering Prayer [here](#).

Thank You for Your Generosity

While the shape of our congregation's ministry has changed in many ways over the past months, here are two things that have remained constant: **your generosity** and **its importance**. Members and friends of the community have continued to support the congregation through online giving, and this support is enabling us to continue our ministry of worship, service, and sharing God's love at this crucial time. Keep it up! Please give as you are able this season. Details are on our website:

<https://genevalutheran.church/giving/>