

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

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

First Sunday of Advent + 29 November 2020

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Myanmar, Thailand*

Welcome

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Opening Words

Maybe God's face shines like a grandmother's
as she hands out freshly baked cookies to neighbor children.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Maybe God's face shines like a baby's,
recognizing the voice of her father hovering near.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Maybe God's face shines like a star,
capturing our imagination in the night.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Maybe God's face shines like the sun, unbearable to see,
reflecting, refracting, wave upon wave of violent, yet life-giving, energy.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We prepare to see God's face, shining on us even if we feel shut apart in the dark.
We prepare to be saved, to be set free, to be treasured.

We prepare for love's incarnation,
love beyond all telling,
embracing in love,
all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

Hymn

O Lord, how shall I meet you

German, Paul Gerhardt. English *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Johann Crüger: Germany

1. Wie soll ich dich emp - fan - gen und wie be - gegn ich dir, o al - ler Welt Ver -
 1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right? Your peo - ple long to
 2. I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came, to set me free. I stood, my shame be -
 3. Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me. Your thirst for my sal -
 4. Re - jice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom, who mourn your joys de -

lan - gen, o mei - ner See - len Zier? O Je - su, Je - su, set - ze mir
 greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light! O, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your
 moan - ing; you came to hon - or me. A glo - rious crown you give me, a
 va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty. O, love be - yond all tell - ing, that
 part - ed and trem - ble at your doom. All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O

selbst die Fak - kel bei, da - mit, was dich er - göt - ze, mir kund und wis - send sei.
 lamp with - in my breast to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 trea - sure safe on high that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 led you to em - brace in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 glo - rious Sun, now come, send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Call to Prayer

Isaiah 64:1-5

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
 as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
 you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
 From ages past no one has heard,
 no ear has perceived,
 no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
 You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
 But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.

Words of Assurance

Hymn of Praise

Maat hoed rao rong phleng na matsa kan

Ruth Srisuwan

Inchai Srisuwan: Thailand

$\text{♩} = 88$



Maa thoed rao rong phleng na mat - sa kan, poed jit jai san soen phra jao;
Come and wor - ship God with songs of praise; give our thanks and bless God's name.

phraw phra ong pen phra jao phuu ying - yai, jong hai jai rao nown long wan thaa.
God is great, full of mer - cy and love, in spir - it and truth, let's wor - ship God.

Melody MAT-SA KAAN © Inchai Srisuwan. Thai © Ruth Srisuwan. English paraphrase © I-to Loh.

*This song could be accompanied with a pair of concussion bells--
(ringing unaccented beat on the first beat of the first measure)
and chap (damped, accented on the first beat of the second measure) and so on throughout the piece.*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind--just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O LORD God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears,

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Prayer

We give you thanks for each other, merciful God,
for the gift of community,
for the grace of a phone call
for the peace of an encouraging word,
for the enrichment that comes when love abounds.
Restore us, as your church,
and make us new
so that your face might shine on those alone in the dark
waiting for a sign,
waiting that they might be saved,
waiting,
Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

O come, O come Emmanuel

Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers

based on 15th-century French processional

O, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your ad - vent here;
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark, chapter 13.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said] "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

Awake, awake

Marty Haugen: USA

1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing.
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u - el comes a sing - ing,
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the world is de - spair - ing,
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though dark the win - ter and cheer - less,

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, be - hold! The Child of our long - ing.
 his hum - ble song is qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 as morn - ing light so qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing;
 the ris - ing sun shall crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er,
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul, and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness,
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der,
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry;

he o - pens wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 the thun - der of his an - thems roll to shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 may God fill ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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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

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Gathering of Gifts

Veni, veni Emmanuel

1. *Veni, veni Emmanuel,
Captivum solve Israel,
Qui gemit in exilio
Privatus Dei Filio.*

Refrain: Gaude, gaude! Emmanuel nascetur pro te, Israel.

2. *Veni, veni, o Oriens
Solare nos adveniens;
Noctis depele nebulas
Dirasque noctis tenebras.*

Refrain

*O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
who mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

Prayer

Blessed be the light of Christ
that shines forth and lifts our spirits.

Blessed be the Shepherd of Israel,
*who leads us like a flock to where the life is worth the living,
and gathers us into his peace.*

Blessed be the God of hosts,
*whose name binds us into one,
and whose hand guides us toward the love that does not die.*

Blessed be the Spirit who warms our hearts,
so that we might sing as if we were golden yarn piercing the gloom.

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

Now, we welcome Advent into all our homes by lighting the candle.

Its warmth will bless us each day as we pray:

O God, let your face shine that we may be saved.

Benediction

Announcements

Closing Song

O Lord, how shall I meet you

German, Paul Gerhardt. English *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Johann Crüger: Germany

4. Re - jice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom, who mourn your joys de -
 part - ed and trem - ble at your doom. All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing!
 O glo - rious Sun, now come, send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you to those assisting with leadership in today's worship service:

Readers: Ana Villanueva

Prayers: Seng Ra Marit

Videography: Ray Woodcock

Flowers: Maryssa Mapanao-Camaddo

Singers: Rena Igarashi, Koko Taylor, Terry MacArthur, Andy Willis

Church School teachers: Gladys Yegon, Aneta Wierzynska

Birthdays Lefika Noko, Duane Dickinson, Monica Halil Lövblad, María Lucía Uribe Torres, Ana Villanueva, Lillian Fleury, Ella Bathija, Nyambura Njoroge, Sylvia Gray, Moses Wangui Kihia, Anita Bathija.

Anniversaries Simangaliso & Ngoni Hove.

This Week's Schedule:*

Tuesday, 1 Dec.	12h00	Bible study
	19h00	Bible study
Thursday, 3 Dec.	12h00	Centering Prayer
Saturday, 5 Dec.	10h00	Confirmation class
Sunday, 6 Dec.	10h00	Church school
	11h00	Worship on Second Sunday of Advent
	12h15	Coffee hour

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9h00–17h00; Fridays, noon–16h00

**(all activities take place online, unless otherwise noted)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the Season of Advent

We face an unusual Advent together this year—and yet we trust in the promise that Jesus continues to come to our world just as it is. Members should have received an envelope this past week with four colored cords—these are for your Advent candle (or candles) at home, one for each Sunday.

In addition to our Sunday worship services, we have another way to continue praying together through this season this year. Daily video devotionals are being produced, led by various members of the community—a new video will be uploaded to view on our website each day:

<https://genevalutheran.church>

On we go into Advent, remembering that we are woven together as a church community even if we are physically apart.

Congregational Assembly – 13 December

Members, please save the date for our annual assembly, which will be held online using Zoom on Sunday, 13 December, at 13h00. We will be voting on a budget for the coming year and electing a nominations committee for 2021. Please plan to attend!

Two important notes regarding the assembly:

- Assembly materials will be sent to all members by email this week. If you would like a hard copy of the assembly reports sent by post, please contact the church office.
- If you have not used Zoom before and would like some help connecting to the assembly, please contact the church office, and we will gladly walk you through it. We do not want the technology to be a barrier for anyone.

Make Your 2021 Estimate of Giving Now

Every autumn, members of the congregation are asked to reflect on how we will each support the church with our time, talents, and money in the year ahead. These offerings are all essential to our congregation's ministry, and as we look toward 2021, all are encouraged to offer estimates of giving for the new year. There are two ways to fill out your giving forms: you can complete them online, or you can complete paper forms and send them by post or email to the church office. You'll find links to both options here: <https://genevalutheran.church/2021-giving/>

Please submit your estimate of giving today or by early this week.

Thank you for your support for a new year of ministry!

Online Bible Study – “Waiting”

This November and December, there is an online Bible study on the topic of "waiting"—we will read several narratives of biblical characters waiting (for an answer, for a promise, for justice) and lay them alongside our own experiences. If you have not yet signed up and would like to join, please contact Andy Willis or the church office.

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](#).

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. *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.