

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva
English-Speaking Congregation
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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis
Organist & Interim Worship Leader: Regine Kummer

Fifth Sunday in Lent + 21 March 2021

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Later in the worship this morning you will be invited to use a window in your home, along with some of the rainbows sent by the church. You may also choose to light a candle, making sure it is safe.

Welcome

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Opening Words

The days are surely coming when we will be free,
no longer bound to seeing through the window
but able to plant the seeds of love
that in their dying will bear much fruit.

The days are surely coming
when from the least to the greatest, we will all know the Lord,
discovering firsthand where Jesus wants us to be,
serving as he serves, following where he leads,
no longer watching from afar
but lost within his cause.

The days are surely coming
when the cross will be lifted high.
With his dying, despair will cease.
His peace will be written on our hearts and with our lives.

Hymn

Lift high the cross

verses 1-5

George William Kitchin revised by Michael Robert Newbolt alt.

Sir Sidney Hugo Nicholson: England

Refrain Fine

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim till all the world a - dore his sac - red name.

1. Come Chris - tians fol - low where our Sav - iour trod, the
 2. Led on their way - by this tri - um - phant sign, the
 3. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
 4. From north and south, from east and west they raise in
 5. Set up your throne, that earth's des - pair may cease be -

D.C. al Fine

Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.
 hosts of God - in the seal - i - ty com - bine.
 on the brow the of Christ who died.
 grow - ing un - i - son their song of praise.
 neath the sha - dow of its heal - ing peace.

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Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
*What do we do when the hurt doesn't heal,
 when forgiveness fails,
 when the divide becomes too great to bridge?
 Is there a 'dying' that would make us whole,
 and if not whole, at least better?*

Sung Response

God, when human bonds are broken

verses 1 and 2

Fred Kaan

Latvian Folk Song

1. God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the love or skill
 2. Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our world of stress,
 to re - store the hope of heal - ing, give us grace and make us still.
 for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing, all the fail - ures we con - fess.

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Sometimes, gracious God, the shame does not go away.
*The past piles up like plastic that poisons even far away fish.
 Is there a 'dying' by which we might start over,
 and if not be made brand new, at least less weighed down?*

Sung Response

God, when human bonds are broken

verse 3

Fred Kaan

Latvian Folk Song

3. You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we seek re - lease
 from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing; set us free and grant us peace.

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Write your love upon our hearts, compassionate God,
so what was closed off in us opens
like a window gathering in the morning light,
so that we die to all that would hold us bound
and blossom bright in the sunshine of your Beloved, Jesus Christ.

Sung Response

God, when human bonds are broken

verses 4 and 5

Fred Kaan

Latvian Folk Song

4. Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful in - to life;
 5. Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to be more true,
 use us as a means of bless - ing: make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 give us love to go on learn - ing: God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Open my eyes

Clara H. Scott

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the
 won - der - ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free. Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee,
 read - y, my God, thy will to see. O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Response

Lumière de Dieu

Communauté de Grandchamp: Switzerland



Lu - miè - re de Dieu, in - on - de la ter - re, vi - si - te nos cœurs et de-meure a - vec nous.
Come light, light of God, give light to cre - a - tion, en-light - en our hearts and re-main with your world.

© Communauté de Grandchamp.

Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

The Gospel according to John, chapter 12.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--' Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise

Fred Kaan

Erik Routley: UK

1. We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise; your im - age we see
 2. In mil - lions a - live, a - way and a - broad; in - volved in our life
 3. We hear you, O Man, in a - go - ny cry; for free - dom you march,
 4. You choose to be made at one with the earth; the dark of the grave

in sim - ple and wise. You live in a pal - ace, ex - ist in a shack;
 you live down the road. Im - pris - oned in sys - tems you long to be free;
 in ri - ots you die. Your face in the pa - pers we read and we see.
 pre - pares for your birth. Your death is your ris - ing, cre - a - tive your Word;

verses 1,2,3 | verse 4

we see you, the gar - dener, a tree on your back.
 we see you, Lord Je - sus, still bear - ing your tree.
 The tree must be plant - ed by hu - man de - cree.
 the tree springs to life and our hope is re - stored.

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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

The Passing of the Peace

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

Gathering of Gifts

Christ be all around me

*Words and Music by Leeland Mooring, Jack Mooring, Leslie Jordan, David Leonard
 adapted from St. Patrick's Breastplate
 adapted from a recording by All Sons & Daughters*

Violin, Greg Wierzynski. Singers, Natalie and Chad Rimmer

*As I rise, strength of God
 Go before, lift me up
 As I wake, eyes of God
 Look upon, be my sight*

*As I wait, heart of God
Satisfy and sustain
As I hear, voice of God
Lead me on, be my guide
Be my guide*

*Refrain: Above and below me
Before and behind me
In every eye that sees me
Christ be all around me*

*As I go, Hand of God
My defense, by my side
And as I rest, breath of God
Fall upon, bring me peace
Bring me peace*

*Your life, Your death
Your blood was shed
For every moment
Every moment*

Psalm 119:9-16

How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you;

do not let me stray from your commandments.

I treasure your word in my heart,

so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;

teach me your statutes.

With my lips I declare

all the ordinances of your mouth.

I delight in the way of your decrees

as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts,

and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes;

I will not forget your word.

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

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

We're gonna open the window

Terry MacArthur

♩ = 116

with a swing feel

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score includes dynamic markings such as 'Clap' and 'x' for clapping. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

We're gon-na o-pen, o-pen the win - dow, o-pen the win-dow
 wide. We're gon-na o-pen, o-pen the win - dow, noth-ing left to hide. The grace of God keeps
 shin-ing through wheth-er the sky be gray or blue. The light of love keeps mak-ing all things new.
 We're gon-na knock, knock, knock on the win - dow; some-one will turn a - round. We're gon-na
 knock, knock, knock on the win - dow; we point where hope is found. The giv-ing is the
 liv-ing sound. The los-ing means that we're not bound. If we get lost, we trust we will be found.
 We're gon-na light, light up the win - dow. We light it with a smile. We're gon-na
 light, light up the win - dow. go-ing the sec-ond mile. The cross we bear be-
 comes our joy. The more we care, the more em - ploy the love of God that death can-not de - stroy.
 We're gon-na o-pen the win-dow, o-pen the win-dow, o - pen the win - dow wide.

Words and Music, Terry MacArthur © 2021, English speaking congregation, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva.

* * *

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

Reader: Fulata Moyo

Prayers: Ivars Kupcis

Liturgist: Terry MacArthur

Flowers: Nyambura Njoroge

Videography: Ray Woodcock

Musicians: Corin Jorgenson, Regine Kummer, Koko Taylor

Church School teachers: Tim Fieldsend, May Chin Long, Chad & Natalie Rimmer

This Week's Schedule: *

Wednesday, 24 March	10h00	Worship Committee meeting
Thursday, 25 March	12h00	Centering Prayer
Sunday, 28 March	10h00	Church school
	11h00	Worship on Palm Sunday
	12h15	Coffee hour
	13h15	Congregation Council meeting

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week begins next Sunday. The worship services of this week follow the events of the last week of Jesus's life, from his entrance into Jerusalem, to his final evening with his disciples, to his betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection. This year we are hoping to provide a variety of worship experiences during the week, including some outdoor in-person gatherings.

Palm Sunday, 28 March – Worship this Sunday will be livestreamed from the sanctuary at 11h00. It will include a retelling of the Palm Sunday story using puppets, especially appropriate for young children. Be on the lookout for a palm cross in the mail to all our members, which you can wave during the service.

Maundy Thursday, 1 April – There will be two options for worship on Maundy Thursday.

- **Option 1:** We plan to gather for an outdoor in-person worship service at 19h00 at the [John Knox Center](#) in Grand Saconnex. This service will include Holy Communion, for which everyone is asked to bring their own bread and a cup into which wine or grape juice can be poured.
- **Option 2:** For those unable to join the in-person service (or for everyone if the weather is bad), there will be an online service broadcast to our YouTube channel.

Good Friday, 2 April – There will be two options for worship on Good Friday.

- **Option 1:** The church building will be open for a portion of the afternoon/evening for people to come in small groups and visit several prayer stations recalling the events of Good Friday. We are paying close attention to making sure we do this both safely and prayerfully. The procession through the church will take about a half hour—for many, it will provide the first opportunity to be in our building after a long time. The window you have been seeing on your screen is even more lovely in person.
- **Option 2:** Materials will be available online for a self-guided time of listening to the passion narrative from the Gospel of Mark with prompts for prayer and reflection throughout.

Easter Vigil, 3 April – There will be two options for worship on Holy Saturday.

- **Option 1:** We will hold an outdoor Easter Vigil at a farm in [Croix de Rozon](#). We'll gather around a bonfire in the field and hear stories of God bringing light from darkness and life from death. We will also celebrate Holy Communion, again with everyone bringing their own bread and a cup into which wine or grape juice can be poured.
- **Option 2:** For those unable to join the in-person service (or for everyone if the weather is bad), there will be an Easter Vigil audio recording available, featuring music, prayers, and members of the congregation reading biblical texts for this night.

Easter Sunday, 4 April – Worship this Sunday will be livestreamed from the sanctuary at 11h00. The children have been preparing a dazzling Alleluia to set our spirits soaring.

More details will be sent this week, including information on how to sign up for the in-person gatherings.

Weekly Devotions for Lent

Each week this season, a written devotion is being prepared by Judy Davis and Nina Kiderlin, including meditations on the readings from the past Sunday and prompts for further prayer and reflection through the week. Devotions are sent to the congregation's email list early in the week—if you're not currently receiving emails from the church and would like to be, please contact the church office.

Small Group Study for Lent and Beyond: *We Make the Road by Walking*

This Lent, members of the congregation are meeting for weekly online gatherings to discuss [We Make the Road by Walking](#), by Brian McLaren. The book is an invitation to renewed engagement with the Christian faith. Groups have now begun meeting online at a variety of times. Whether you're relatively new to the Christian faith and looking for an introduction or have been around a while and are looking to go deeper, this book and the conversation with others should be an enriching experience. All are welcome to join—if you'd like to sign up, please contact Andy Willis or the church office.

Sign Up to Read Lessons or Lead Prayers in Worship

Would you be willing to read scripture lessons or lead the prayers of intercession for an upcoming live-streamed worship service? These portions of the service are typically led by members recording themselves from home, and we are currently looking for volunteers for the months of April and May. You can sign up [using this form](#). Feel free to contact the church office with any questions.

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.

Online Centering Prayer – Thursdays at 12h00

A group meets every Thursday at 12h00 for Centering Prayer 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 are [here](#).

Thank You for Your Generosity

Generous contributions from members and friends have enabled our community to continue worshipping, serving, and sharing the good news of God's love near and far over the past year. Your support remains essential to our ministry together. Please continue to give as you are able this season—details are on our website:

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