

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter + 2 May 2021

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia,
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan*

Welcome

Prelude

Where true love is present
Natalie Deffenbaugh and Regine Kummer
Lyrics by Hubert J. Richards. Music by Christopher Tambling

1. *Where true love is present, God is present there. When we meet together let all quarrels cease.*

Refrain:

Leave your gift, and make peace with each other. Leave your gift, and make peace with each other.

2. *God is loving kindness; those who love like God, live in God most truly and God lives in them.*

3. *Let us put behind us bitterness and strife, recognizing Jesus present in our midst.*

Opening Words

Keeping us connected, even if we remain physically apart,
pulsing with the breath of the Spirit, although we cannot touch,
casting out fear, regardless of the swirl of uncertainty,
love abides.

Love is our end; love, the means,
and when we feel lost, love intervenes to save us.

It is, even now, being perfected in us.

We are learning love, bearing the fruit of love, becoming love,
making known and believing the love that God has for us.

We sing love and praise love and dance love,
God abiding in us, through Jesus Christ,
as we worship the Blessed Trinity, one God now and ever.

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

Charles Wesley

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be.

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!
 Let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find that sec - ond rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 Let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way our bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing; serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning; set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

We would like to think that we were growing better at love, gracious God,
 that our selfishness would drain away and only love remain.

But we know too well how much we fail.

What keeps us ready to blame, bowed by shame, resistant to your claim upon us?

Forgive us. Turn us so we abide in you.

Kyrie eleison

Traditional Urdu

R.F. Liberius: Pakistan

1,3. Khu daa - yaa, rae-ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa, rae ham, Khu - daa - yaa, rae ham
 ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa, rae ham, Khu - daa - yaa, rae-ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa, rae-ham.
 Lord, have mercy.

The link is not always loving or for the sake of love.

The network does not always work for good,
 and often tries to catch us in its net.

Spectral suspicions distract us from what really matters.

*Branch us to your Beloved, Jesus Christ,
 who cuts the power of death*

and burns away the energy of vengeance and hate,

so we rise up free to bear the fruit that honors his name.

Christe eleison

2. Ma - sii - haa, rae-ham kar, Ma - sii - haa, rae ham. Ma - sii - haa, rae-ham kar, *D.C.*
 Ma - sii - haa, rae ham. Ma - sii - haa, rae-ham kar, Ma - sii - haa, rae ham.
Christ, have mercy.

Remind us, over and over again, that you love us, Spirit of God.
*Use us, bruised and broken though we may be, to heal,
 until compassion shines through unwithered.
 Abide in us, so that day by day we are re-made new in Jesus Christ.*

Kyrie eleison

Traditional Urdu

R.F. Liberius: Pakistan

1,3. Khu daa - yaa, rae-ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa, rae ham, Khu - daa - yaa, rae *fine*
 ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa, rae ham, Khu - daa - yaa, rae-ham kar, Khu - daa - yaa, rae-ham.
Lord, have mercy.

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Christ is risen from the dead

adapted from a Georgian Orthodox Easter Melody

Christ is ri - sen from the dead, tramp - ling down death by death
 and up - on those in the tombs be - stow - ing life.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a

sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:25-31

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

and God rules over the nations.

To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before God shall bow all who go down to the dust,

and I shall live for God.

and I shall live for God.

Posterity will serve God;

future generations will be told about the Lord,

and proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying that God has done it.

Epistle Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Armenian Orthodox



Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

The Gospel according to John, chapter 15.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Armenian Orthodox



Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

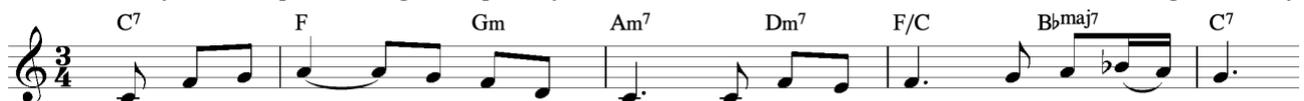
Jesus Christ the apple tree

The first and last verses are sung by Natalie Deffenbaugh to a melody by Elisabeth Poston

1. *The tree of life my soul hath seen laden with fruit, and always green:*
the tree of life my soul hath seen laden with fruit, and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the apple tree.

From Divine Hymns and Spiritual Songs, Compiled by Joshua Smith Exeter, 1784

Traditional English melody



2. His beau - ty doth all things ex - cel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
 3. For hap - pi - ness I long have sought, and plea - sure dear - ly I have bought:
 4. I'm wea - ry with my for - mer toil. Here I will sit and rest a - while.
 5. I'll sit and eat this truth di - vine. It cheers my heart like spirit - ual wine;



the glo - ry which I now can see in Je - sus Christ, the ap - ple tree.
 I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the ap - ple tree.
 Un - der the sha - dow I will be of Je - sus Christ, the ap - ple tree.
 and now this fruit is sweet to me that grows on Christ, the ap - ple tree.

6. *This fruit doth make my soul to thrive. It keeps my dying faith alive.*
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive. It keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

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

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Gathering of Gifts

*Brian Boru's March
Irish traditional
Kerstin Ludwig, harp*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of love, God whose very nature is love,
we thank you that you have put love at the center.
Every act of kindness becomes a sign of your presence;
every urge toward compassion, a confirmation of your Spirit breathing within;
every hand reaching out to mend and forgive, a mark of your work.
*Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord.
For love belongs to the Lord,
and God's love shall become the rule of the nations.*

We praise you for abiding in us,
for our beautiful feet bearing the good news of peace,
for our welcoming arms embracing the stranger,
for our shining eyes, intent on perceiving the hidden gifts of which others are unaware,
for our attentive ears, listening for the stories that others need to share,
for our willing hands, ready to do what love requires.
*We shall live for you, God,
so that posterity will serve you
and that future generations will be told about you.*

We rise up singing,
depending not on how much we love you,
but on how much you love us,
sending your only Son into the world
so that we might live through him,
so that we might love like him,
giving him honor and praise,
this day and all our days.
*We proclaim your deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that God has done it.*

Antiphon

Christ is risen from the dead

adapted from a Georgian Orthodox Easter Melody

Christ is ri - sen from the dead, tramp - ling down death by death
and up - on those in the tombs be - stow - - ing life.

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

Hymn

Now all the vault of heaven resounds

Paul Z. Strodach

Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln 1623, Germany

1. Now all the vault of heaven re - sounds in praise of love that still a - bounds:
2. E - ter - nal is the gift he brings. There - fore our heart with rap - ture sings:
3. O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on things a - bove
4. A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring, and with the heaven - ly bless - ed sing:
"Christ has tri - umphed!" He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear!
"Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he comes to give us life,
that we con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day,
"Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our Lord,
Re - peat their song of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
and by his pre - sence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
that by our lives we tru - ly say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

English © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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

Reader: Laurel Borisenko

Liturgist: Terry MacArthur

Flowers: German-Speaking Congregation

Musicians: Natalie Deffenbaugh, Regine Kummer, Kerstin Ludwig, Koko Taylor

Church school teachers: Tim Fieldsend, Natalie & Chad Rimmer, Gladys Yegon

Prayers: Paul du Plessis

Videography: Ray Woodcock

Usher: Elisabeth Benn

This Week's Schedule: *

Thursday, 6 May	12h00	Centering Prayer
Sunday, 9 May	10h00	Church school
	11h00	Worship on the Sixth Sunday of Easter
	12h15	Coffee hour

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday 13 May – Picnic at Parc de la Grange

On Thursday, 13 May (Ascension Day) from 11h00 until 15h00, our congregation is planning to gather outdoors at Parc de la Grange for a picnic—time to rest, play, eat, and reconnect with one another. More specific details will follow shortly—for now, please mark the day on your calendar, and plan to attend!

Opportunity to Attend Worship in Person

At its meeting on 25 April, the Congregation Council voted to once again allow up to 20 people to attend worship in person each Sunday. In making this decision, the Council took into account federal and local guidelines, our church's protection plan, and the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers—we feel it's a reasonable move at this time. This means we are returning to a "hybrid" model, where most are still worshipping online via the livestream each week, with a small number present in the sanctuary. If you'd like to attend a service in person, you're very welcome to register for an upcoming Sunday. [Sign up here.](#)

Small Group Study - Opportunity to Join

Since the start of Lent, members of the congregation have been 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 will continue meeting through the Easter season—now would be a great time to join a group if you haven't already. Please contact Andy Willis with any questions or to sign up: pastor@genevalutheran.ch

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/>