

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00  
12 SEPTEMBER 2021

# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

***We are a community on the move, discovering Christ together  
on the journey of faith.***

*We see Christianity as a path to be walked together—learning, serving, praying, sharing, and growing alongside sisters and brothers. As we live and practice our faith, we not only encounter a new community; we also find the presence of God.*

Read more about who we are at: [www.genevalutheran.church](http://www.genevalutheran.church)

**Thank you** to those who shared in worship leadership this morning:

*Readers:* Morais family

*Prayer leader:* Kiki Lawal

*Ushers:* Elisabeth and Christoph Benn

*Musicians:* Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor

*Flowers:* Maureen Gumbe

*Church school teachers:* André du Plessis, Tim Fieldsend, Natalie Rimmer

*Offering counters:* Ralston Deffenbaugh, Ngoni Hove

*Videography:* Ray Woodcock

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva**  
**English-Speaking Congregation**  
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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis  
Organist and Interim Worship Leader: Regine Kummer  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost + 12 September, 2021

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Ghana, Nigeria*

Welcome

Prelude            *There is a spirit that delights to do no evil* Terry MacArthur  
*from the Quaker Reader (1976) by Ned Rorem: USA*

Opening Words

To sustain the weary with just a word,  
***we open our ears to be taught by the Word made flesh,***  
who awakens within us the life that is full of love,  
***who teaches us the love that gives life in its fullness.***  
We hear, as well, the hard words,  
***so that in the face of difficulty, we might stand together without shame,***  
learning, over and over again, the losing that is saving,  
***telling, over and over again, the story of Jesus Christ,***  
lifted high upon the cross for all to see,  
***raised up, from death set free,***  
sustaining the weary  
***within the fullness of the Blessed Trinity,***  
in whom we rest,  
***one God, our wisdom, our glory, our joy.***

# Hymn

# Lord, speak to me

Frances Ridley Havergal

Arranged from Robert Schumann



1. Lord, speak to me that I may speak In liv - ing e - choes
2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wan - dering and the
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The pre - cious things Thou
4. O fill me with Thy full - ness, Lord, Un - til my very heart
5. O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, Just as Thou wilt, and



of Thy tone; As Thou has sought, so  
wa - vering feet; O feed me, Lord, that  
dost im - part; And wing my words, that  
ov - er - flow In kind - ling thought and  
when, and where, Un - til Thy bless - ed



let me seek Thine er - ring chil - dren lost and lone.  
I may feed Thy hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.  
they may reach The hid - den depths of many a heart.  
glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.  
face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glo - ry share.

## Call to Prayer

### Prayer

God, whose word sustains,  
*we confess all the words that are less than your love,  
more judgment than mercy,  
more making our case than understanding the others',  
more self-aggrandizing than supportive,  
more cutting than healing,  
more destructive than building up,  
more incitement to anger than paving the path to peace.  
Forgive us our broken words.*

Sung Response

Kyrie eleison

Dinah Reindorf: Ghana

*Lento, espressivo*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

*Lord have mercy*

God, whose gift is life,  
*teach us other words,*  
*so that we might learn how to sustain the weary,*  
*how to reach the hidden depths of many a heart,*  
*how our words might show your love to tell, your praise to show,*  
*through the grace of Jesus Christ, your Beloved,*  
*word for all time. Amen.*

Sung Response

Kyrie eleison

Dinah Reindorf: Ghana

*Lento, espressivo*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Words of Assurance

Hymn of Praise

Ensemble louons le Seigneur

Cameroun

En - sem - ble lou - ons le Sei - gneur, il est vi - vant

En - sem - ble lou - ons le Sei - gneur, il est vi - vant

En - sem - ble lou - Soloist All Ee ee ee a

a lou - ons le Sei - gneur, il est vi - vant.

*Together we praise the Lord. He is living.*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
***And also with you.***

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens—  
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backwards.  
I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.  
The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.  
This is the word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 116:1-9

I love the Lord,  
***because the Lord has heard my voice and my supplications.***  
Because God inclined God's ear to me,  
***therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live.***  
The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
***I suffered distress and anguish.***  
Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
***O Lord, I pray, save my life!***  
Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;  
***our God is merciful.***  
The Lord protects the simple;  
***when I was brought low, God saved me.***  
Return, O my soul, to your rest,  
***for God has dealt bountifully with you.***  
For you have delivered my soul from death,  
***my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.***  
***I walk before God in the land of the living.***

Epistle Reading

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no

mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue--a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### Alleluia

Traditional Yoruba

$\text{♩} = 126$

as taught by Emmanuel Badejo: Nigeria

A - le - lu - ya    Y'in O - lu - wa    A - le - lu - ya  
 Al - le - lu - ia,    praise the Lord.    Al - le - lu - ia,

Y'in O - lu - wa    O seun, o seun, o seun,  
 praise the Lord.    Prais - es, high prais - es, now

o seun ba - ba bring to the Lord. A - le - lu - ya Al - le - lu - ia, Y'in O - lu - wa praise the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-38

The Gospel according to Mark, chapter 8.

*Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

Alleluia

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

Sometimes a healing word is comfort

*We sing verse 4 quietly.*

Patrick Michaels

Georg Neumark: Germany 1657

1. Some - times a heal - ing word is com - fort: eas - ing thegrieved or  
 2. Some - times a heal - ing word re - mem - bers: call - ing up days of  
 3. Some - times a heal - ing word is an - gry: giv - ing a name to  
 4. Some - times a heal - ing word will lis - ten: hear - ing the voice - less

anx - ious heart, giv - ing as - sur - ance of our car - ing, treas - ur - ing  
 joy or pain, let - ting the past re - new the pres - ent, till hope can  
 dis - con - tent, shin - ing a light on sin or griev - ance, cal - ling a  
 in - to speech, let - ting the pat - tern of the sto - ry move us to

each and ev - ery part. Come, break the si - lence!  
 mend and move a - gain.  
 peo - ple to re - pent.  
 learn what it can teach.

Let us tell the Word that makes us free and well.

English © 1992 Patrick Michaels.

## 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

### Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*And also with you.*



You speak plainly all the languages of love,  
*so that even the simple are protected and the humble raised.*  
*We praise you for all your goodness.*

Each morning we arise blessed with another beginning,  
*delivered from death.*

We look to the new day,  
*when our eyes no longer need tears*  
and our feet walk without fear,  
*when even the losing becomes saving*  
*and we dance in the land of life, through Jesus Christ. 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

Sending Song

Sing them over again to me

Philip P. Bliss: USA



- 1. Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;
- 2. Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;
- 3. Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;



let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life;  
 sin - ner, wake to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life;  
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life;



words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.  
 all so free - ly giv - en, our sure hope of heav - en.  
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, keep me with you for - ev - er.



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.

Dismissal

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Church School Back in Session**

Church school resumed today following a break for the summer months. For the moment, two classes (ages 3–8 and 9 and up) continue to meet online each Sunday, from 10h00 to 10h45. Information about joining the online class each Sunday is sent out by email. If you have any questions about the class or about how to join, please contact the church office or Chad and Natalie Rimmer.

*We are also looking for teachers and assistants for the coming year!* If you might be interested in joining this group of caring, creative folks working with our congregation's children, please contact Chad and Natalie Rimmer.

## **Choir Rehearsals to Resume this Thursday, 16 September**

After a long period with a reduced music program, we are pleased to announce that choir rehearsals will resume this Thursday at 19h30 (a bit earlier than previous years) with Regine Kummer. Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join! Please note that masks will be required.

## **Confirmation Classes Beginning Shortly**

During the academic year, our congregation offers confirmation classes for young people—an opportunity to study key topics of the Bible and Christian faith and to begin claiming the faith as one's own. Students typically begin classes at around 13 or 14 years old, though there is room for flexibility when it comes to ages. This year's classes will be beginning shortly—if your son or daughter is interested in joining this year, please contact Andy Willis.

## **Small Group Study this Fall – *We Make the Road by Walking***

This past spring, several groups met weekly online to read and discuss Brian McLaren's book *We Make the Road by Walking*, a thoughtful and engaging reimagining of the Christian faith. The book is divided into quarters, and we'll be starting the first quarter shortly (running from mid-September through Advent). So whether you participated in the spring or not, now is a great time to join! If you'd like to join the study this fall and aren't currently connected with a study group, please contact the church office.

## **Save the Date – Congregational Retreat on 2 October**

On Saturday 2 October, our congregation will gather for a day-retreat to visit the ruins of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Carthusian monastery of Oujon. The ruins are located near Arzier (not far from St-Cergue). The day will involve group time at a picnic and playground area, plus a walk through the ruins—all ages welcome! More information will follow—for now, please note the date and plan to join.

## **Opportunity to Attend Worship in Person**

It is possible for up to 50 people to attend worship in the sanctuary each week, and those in attendance can sing. We still wear masks at all times, we still keep distance between family groups, and we still refrain from celebrating Communion indoors. Livestreaming will also continue for regular Sunday services. If you're ready to come back to the sanctuary and sing together, you are very welcome. Sign up here:

<https://genevalutheran.church/in-person-worship/>

## **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 worship service? Prayers and scripture readings are all being done in-person these days (due to technical limitations, prerecording is no longer an option). You can sign up using the link in the church's weekly email. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions.

## **Online Centering Prayer – Thursdays at 12h00**

The online Centering Prayer group will resume meeting via Zoom this Thursday, 5 August at 12h00. 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:

<https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/>

## **“Voices of Faith” Summer 2021 Devotions**

Over the past several weeks, a number of members of the congregation have contributed to a devotional series drawing on voices of faith that offer wisdom and insight for our spiritual journey. The last contributions were sent to the congregation by email this past week; you can find the complete set on our website: <http://genevalutheran.church>.

## **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/>

Cover image: Photo by [Eric Muhr](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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**This Week's Schedule:**

<b>Thursday, 16 Sept.</b>	12h00	Centering Prayer*
<b>Saturday, 18 Sept.</b>		BELK study day in Basel
<b>Sunday, 19 Sept.</b>	10h00	Church school*
	11h00	Worship on the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

\* denotes online-only activities

**Our church is entirely self-supporting.** We count on our members and visitors to give generously to support our congregation. You may contribute in cash through the offering bags. We can also accept your check in US dollars made out to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”. On the memo portion, please write GMG 0858. There are post transfer slips at the back of the church if you would like to offer your support through our Post Account. Thank you very much! Bank and PostFinance details below:

Credit Suisse CH-1211 Geneva 70 (0251) Account Number 226749-71 Clearing Number 4835 IBAN CH15 0483 5022 6749 7 100 0 BIC/SWIFT CRESCHZZ12A	PostFinance The English-Speaking Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva Account Number 12-9677-6 IBAN CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6 BIC POFICHBEXXX
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**For Geneva taxpayers,** contributions to the ELCG can be deducted from the "cantonal et communal" tax. For more information, please contact the church office.

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**If you are a guest in our congregation this morning,** please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We would love to learn more of your story and answer any questions you might have about our congregation.

<b>ELCG Connection Card</b>	
Name _____	
Address _____	
Postal Code _____	City/Commune _____
Home Phone _____	Work Phone _____
Email Address _____	
I/we request prayer for the following joys or concerns: _____	
New to Geneva? Y/N _____	Date _____