

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

5 SEPTEMBER 2021

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

***We are followers of Jesus, seeking God's justice, peace, and grace
in personal and common witness.***

Our hope each Sunday is to go out of God's house with good courage into our diverse jobs and obligations—with family, civil society, government, business and education. We pray for the peace and well-being of all peoples. The Gospel calls us wherever we are to use our time and talents for others and for the common good.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

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

Reader: Miriam Deffenbaugh

Prayer leader: Ralston Deffenbaugh

Ushers: Dorine van Teeseling and Jaap Schep

Musicians: Regina Kummer, Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor,

Magar Emmanuel Yayoune

Flowers: Nyambura and Njeri Njoroge

Offering counters: Ralston Deffenbaugh, Tom Taylor

Videography: Ray Woodcock

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis
Organist and Interim Worship Leader: Regine Kummer

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost + 5 September, 2021

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Cape Verde, Gambia,
Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal*

Welcome

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Opening Words

Because in Jesus Christ, mercy triumphs over judgment,
we assemble as Christ's body,
an open community, inviting, embracing,
breathing together the Spirit of humility and goodness.

Because Christ is risen from the dead,
we affirm with one another, and on behalf of one another,
that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Because Christ becomes one with our humanity,
the Word made flesh dwelling in our midst,
even though we succumb to helpless anger and distress,
we encourage one another to trust in God,
our help in time of need.

Whatever fears we face,
whatever wounds we sustain,
whatever uncertainties cloud our joy,
we worship the Blessed Trinity, one God, over all, in all,
who has chosen us by grace.

Hymn

If you but trust in God

Georg Neumark. English, Catherine Winkworth, alt.

Georg Neumark: Germany 1657

1. If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle hand through
 2. What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less an - ger
 3. The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and qui - et -
 4. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your ser - vice

all your ways, you'll find that God is there be - side you
 and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's keep - ing,
 ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un - fold - ing,
 faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de - serv - ing,

when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust, then, in God's un -
 in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who took for
 what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has cho - sen
 you'll find God's pro - mise true to be. This is our con - fi -

chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 you a cross will bring you safe through ev - ery loss.
 us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 dence in - deed: God ne - ver fails in time of need.

from Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

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

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark, chapter 7
Glory to you, O Lord.

From there [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child

lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Call to Prayer

Prayer

Merciful God,
we confess that we do not know how to pray as we ought.
In this pandemic, sometimes we don't have words for what is going on in us, in our community. The loss remains, eating away at some emptiness we don't know how to fill. Send your Spirit within us, with sighs too deep for words. Pray in us, even when we don't know how to pray.

Silence

We offer you the brokenness in our lives, gracious God,
the upended plans, which have upended our lives, many people's lives,
the moments missed, forever gone,
the continuing doubts and fears that haunt us
like demons keeping us bound.

We beg you to lay your hand on our friends,
on our community, in which many feel shattered,
on us.

Heal us so we might rise above what we had feared was lost

*to a new seeing, a new hearing,
freed from the hurts splitting us apart,
alive with the gift of a renewed spirit, a renewed heart
through the gift of Jesus Christ.*

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

Merciful God,
we confess that we do not know how to pray as we ought;
nevertheless, with the Syrophenician woman of old,
pleading that Jesus set her daughter free,
we pray for those in our families who are struggling to become well,
for those in our church who seek healing,
for the many who are grieving, often at a distance.

You may say the names silently or aloud.

God over all, in all,
we thank you that your healing does not depend upon the quality of
our prayers nor the intensity of our faith. But we trust you hear our
concerns, surrounding us and those for whom we pray with your
steadfast and abiding love.

*Lead us to a more profound trust
by which the Spirit prays in us, for us,
with the deepest sighs transforming our pleas,
giving us new understanding of our needs.*

*Hold our restless hearts
so we have moments content with peace and quietness
resting in your wisdom sent from on high
dwelling in us like a breath of fresh air
touching us with the presence of your Beloved, Jesus Christ,
so we might hear anew, speaking words of life, becoming free.*

Sung Response

Kyrie eleison

Gloria

Jacques Berthier: France

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

Glory to God in the highest. Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe.

Gloire à Dieu au plus haut des cieux. Gloria a Dios en los cielos.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, be strong, do not fear!
Your God will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
God will come and save you. The eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped; the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break
forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand
shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acclamation

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 E e e e All Ee ee ee a

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

Together we praise the Lord. He is living.

Epistle Reading

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to

be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Frederick William Faber

Calvin Hampton

Instrumental



1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness
2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
3. For the love of God is broad - er than the meas - ure



of the sea; there's a kind - ness in God's jus -
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more grac - es for the good; there is mer - cy
ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
but more faith - ful, we should glad - ly trust God's word; and our life would



with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in this blood.
all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Music, Calvin Hampton © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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.

The Gathering of Gifts *Dakpè né Mawu* Magar Emmanuel Yayoune

Ewe $\text{♩} = 120$

as taught by Magar Emmanuel Yayoune: Togo



Dak - pè né dak - pè né Dak - pè né Ma - wu.



Dak - pè né dak - pè né dak - pè na Ma - wu. E - la -



bé é - nyon yè - pé lon-lon sɔg - bɔ na mi. Dakpè né dak -



- pè né dak - pè na Ma - wu. E - la -



bé é - nyon yè - pé lon - lon sɔg - bɔ na mi.



Dak - pè né dak - pè né dak - pè na Ma - wu.

Give thanks, give thanks to God because God is good, and God's love for us is great.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We praise you, God of life,
we sing praises to you as long as we live.
You are our hope.

All around us we witness your creativity,
the intimation of the day with the reddening sky,
the flying birds, the trees bending to the wind.

You keep faith forever.

Blessed are we to be in your company.

We thank you for every sign of healing,
for the doctors and nurses who practice their art,

Alleluia.

We honor you for every gesture of caring,

Alleluia.

for those resisting oppression,

Alleluia.

lifting up those bowed down,

Alleluia.

watching over strangers,

Alleluia.

upholding orphans and widows,

Alleluia.

feeding the hungry,

Alleluia.

following the way of your Beloved, Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit, reigns forever,
unto all generations.

Alleluia. 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

Comment ne pas te louer

Cameroon traditional
English adaptation, Andrew Donaldson

Com-ment ne pas te lou - er, com-ment ne pas te lou-
How can we not praise your name, how can we not praise your

er? name? Com-ment ne pas te lou - er, Sei-gneur Jé- sus?
How can we not praise your name, Je - sus our Lord?

Quand je re-garde au-tour de moi, je vois mes soeurs. A - lors je
Quand je re-garde au-tour de moi, je vois mes frères. A - lors je
I look a-round me and I see all gath-ered here; we heard your

dis mer- ci, Sei- gneur. Com-ment ne pas te lou - er,
dis mer- ci, Sei- gneur. Com-ment ne pas te lou - er,
call, and we came near. How can we not praise your name,

Sei - gneur Jé - sus?
Sei - gneur Jé - sus? (*Com - ment et pour- quoi?*)
Je - sus our Lord?

Public Domain

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.

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.

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.

Memorial Service for Kiki Lawal's Mother, Ruth Lawal

At 13h00 this afternoon, our congregation will hold a memorial service for Kiki Lawal's mother Ruth. Ruth died in Nigeria in August; Kiki is now in Geneva for a visit, and we will gather with her to remember her mother and to recall the promise of eternal life in Christ. Up to 50 can join in person, and the service will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Memorial Service for Hae Kyung Bang

At 15h00 on Tuesday, 7 September, our congregation will hold a funeral for Hae Kyung Bang, a member of our congregation who died this past week. Up to 50 people can join in person (please sign up using the form available at <https://genevalutheran.church/live-stream-link/>).

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>.

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 12th 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.

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: Lucinda Naylor, *Icon Two*

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This Week's Schedule:

Tuesday, 7 Sept.	15h00	Funeral for Hae Kyung Bang
Thursday, 9 Sept.	12h00	Centering Prayer*
Sunday, 12 Sept.	10h00	Church school*
	11h00	Worship on the Sixteenth 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.

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.

ELCG Connection Card	
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 _____