

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

26 DECEMBER 2021

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

***We are church with open arms, where each person is welcome
in God's all-inclusive love.***

Jesus shared God's gracious love with all people, and we seek to follow this example. People of any economic status, marital or family situation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability are welcome to full participation in our congregation. We honor the unique gifts of each.

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

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here this morning—welcome!

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

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Elaine Neuenfeldt

Worship leader: Terry MacArthur

Reader: Koko Taylor

Prayer leader: Dirk Lange

Usher: Valerie Marinoni

Flowers: Maryssa Camaddo

Offering counters: Tom Taylor, Ray Woodcock

Videography: Ray Woodcock

Hymn

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Köln 1599, English vs 1,2 Theodore Baker Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599
 vs 3 Harriet R. Krauth. vs 4, John C. Mattes. harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hathsprung!
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind;
 3. This flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,
 4. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man woe;

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as those of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious spen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.
 O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who dost our weak - ness know:

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a
 True man, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he
 bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us, and light - ens ev - ery load.
 heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Call to Prayer

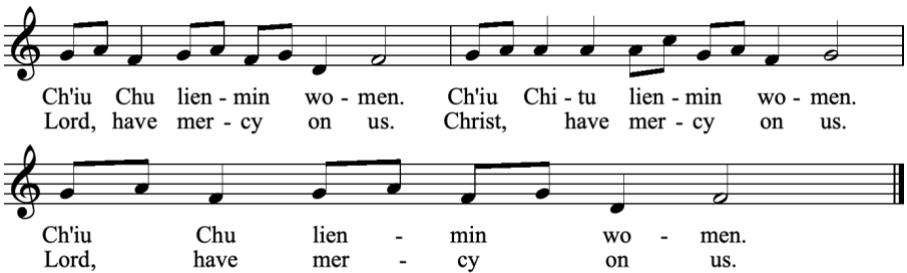
Prayer of Confession

Against the tide of resentment and rage,
lead us once more into the practice of forgiveness, gracious God.
In a tense time of slamming doors and noisy fights,
teach us to bear with one another,
a community constantly rediscovering love,
finding what binds us together,
what makes for harmony.

Sung Response Ch'iu Chu lienmin women

Slowly ♩ = 72

I-to Loh: Taiwan



Ch'iu Chu lien - min wo - men. Ch'iu Chi - tu lien - min wo - men.
Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us.

Ch'iu Chu lien - min wo - men.
Lord, have mer - cy on us.

© I-to Loh.

When all around us are stories of violence, hatred, and war,
tell us once more the possibilities of peace.
*Forgive us when the word of Christ does not dwell in us richly enough
to make us one body.*

Sung Response Ch'iu Chu lienmin women

Slowly ♩ = 72

I-to Loh: Taiwan



Ch'iu Chu lien - min wo - men. Ch'iu Chi - tu lien - min wo - men.
Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us.

Ch'iu Chu lien - min wo - men.
Lord, have mer - cy on us.

© I-to Loh.

Forgive us
*when we fail to side with the maltreated,
 when we balk at entering into the sorrow where wounds might be healed,
 when we remain aloof from the needs of others.*
*Free of from our fears,
 so kindness becomes our clothing
 and gratitude our song,
 through the gift of Jesus Christ,
 in whose name we find life. Amen.*

Sung Response

Ch'iu Chu lienmin women

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Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Hark! The herald angels sing

Charles Wesley

Felix Mendelssohn, arr. William H. Cummings

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heavn a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right eous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re-con - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings risen with heal - ing in His wings

Joy - ful all you na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, the in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by born that we no more may die

With the an - ge - lic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus our Em - ma - nu - el!
 Born to raise us all from earth born to give us sec - ond birth

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Glo - ry to the new - born King!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. . . Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

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

from Psalm 148

Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for God commanded and they were created.

God established them forever and ever;

God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

Women: *fire and hail,*

Men: *snow and frost,*

All: *stormy wind fulfilling God's command!*

Women: *Mountains and all hills,*

Men: *fruit trees and all cedars!*

Women: *Wild animals and all cattle,*

Men: *creeping things and flying birds!*

Kings and queens of the earth and all peoples,

Governors and all rulers of the earth!

Women: *Young men*

Men: *and women alike,*

All: *old and young together!*

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

Women: *whose name alone is exalted;*
 Men: *whose glory is above earth and heaven.*
 God has raised up a horn for the people,
 Men: *praise for all the faithful,*
 Women: *for the people of Israel who are close to God.*
 All: ***Praise the Lord!***

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Alleluia

Unsu Kang, Korea

The musical score consists of three systems. The top system features a vocal line in G major with a 9/8 time signature. The lyrics are: Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Below the vocal line is a Korean drum accompaniment labeled 'Semachi' with a 9/8 time signature. The middle system continues the vocal line with lyrics: Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le hal - le - lu - jah, and the bottom system concludes with: Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel Reading Luke 2:41-52

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 2.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Elaine Neuenfeldt

Hymn

Cold December Flies Away

Catalonian carol. English Howard Hawhee

Catalonian carol



1. Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2. In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fal - len,
3. Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death, eyes were closed in sleep - ing
In the lil - y's pur - est flower dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen power
But, when all seemed lost in night,
And it spreads to all the earth



of the tree which bears the flower. On the bless - ed
came the sun whose gol - den light brings un - end - ing
from the mo - ment of its birth; and its beau - ty



tree blooms the red - dest flower, on the tree blooms the
joy, brings the end - less joy, of our hope, high - est
lives. In the flower it lives, in the flower, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - loved of heav - en.
spreads in its heaven - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

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The Nicene Creed

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.*

Prayers of Intercession

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Passing the Peace

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

Gathering of Gifts

A mother lined a basket

Choir

Words, Mary Nelson Keithahn. Music, Terry MacArthur

*1. A mother lined a basket to keep her baby dry,
then rocked him on a river, lest he awake and cry.
She let a princess name him her son that he might live.
God's people had a leader. She had such hope to give.*

*2. A mother sewed a jacket, lined in the softest wool,
then dressed her little boy-child, her cup of blessing full.*

*She brought him to the temple where he would serve and live.
God's people had a prophet. She had such faith to give.*

*3. A mother laid her baby in manger lined with straw,
then, in the shepherds' story, his call from God foresaw.
She nurtured him and taught him the way that he must live.
God's people had a savior. She had such love to give.*

*4. Like Jochebed and Hannah, and Mary too, we know
the hardest part of loving is learning to let go,
so when we send our children out in the world to live,
grant us such hope and faith, God, and love enough to give.*

Offertory

What child is this

William C. Dix

English ballad

So bring Christ in - cense, gold and myrrh; come peas - ant, king, to
own him. The King of Kings sal - va - tion brings; let
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the song on high, the
vir - gin sings her lul - la - by; joy, joy, for
Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We praise you God, with the highest heavens,
with the angels and shepherds,
with teachers and mothers and fathers, with saints and sinners, too,
we praise your name, O Lord.

For you commanded and by your word created all things,
sea monsters lurking in the deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, mountains and hills,
the apple trees on the plains of Nyon,

and the magnificent cedars in the Parc de la Grange.

Fill us with your praise.

so everything we do, and all that we are, honors your name.

In your realm, you make us kings and queens,
a royal people.

In your church, you make us sisters and brothers,
a blessed community,
old and young rejoicing together because of your love.

Unite us so we sing Alleluia,

and dance Alleluia,

and work as if our work were an Alleluia,

and run and learn and create Alleluias,

Alleluias circling us as if they were angels leading us ever higher,

becoming more and more people who are close to you,

through the gift of your Beloved, Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

In our many languages

***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.

Song

Amezaliwa Bwana

Edwardi Kabuka: Tanzania



1. A - me - za - li - wa Bwa - na a - me - za - li - wa Ye - su
2. Ye - su mwa - na wa Mun - gu Ye - su mwa - na wa Mun - gu
3. U - le u - ku - ta sa - sa U - le u - ku - ta sa - sa



- a - me - za - li - wa. a - me - za - li - wa.
a - me - ji - to - a, a - me - ji - to - a,
a - me - bo - mo - a, a - me - bo - mo - a,

a - me - za - li - wa. a - me - za - li - wa. Bwa - na wa Ma - bwa - na a - me -
 a - me - ji - to - a, a - me - ji - to - a, A - me - ku - ja ku - tu - ko - mbo -
 a - me - bo - mo - a, a - me - bo - mo - a, Ye - su ni u - pa - ta - ni - sho

tenor only *bass only*

Refrain

za - li - wa le - o sa - sa na tu - pi - ge vi - ge - le - ge - le
 a we - nye dha - mbi.
 we - tu na Mun - gu.

na tu - pe - ge ma - ko - fi ma - ra ta - tu.

1 2

Tum - tu - ku - ze Bwa - na Mwo - ko - zi we - tu.

3

Tum - tu - ku - ze Bwa - na Mwo - ko - zi we - tu.

1. *The Lord is born. Jesus is born. The Lord of Lords is born.*

*Refrain: Let us now trill (special sound produced with the tongue in a half-closed mouth.)
and clap our hands three times. Let's adore the Lord our Savior.*

2. *Jesus, the Son of God, has dedicated himself. He has come to redeem sinners.*

3. *The wall now has been destroyed. Jesus is our reconciliation with God.*

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Announcements and Welcoming Visitors

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Closing song

Go, tell it on the mountain

Afro-American spiritual



Go, tell it on themoun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.



Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!.



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep - herds feared and tem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Worship – Up to 50 Each Sunday, Covid Pass Required

At the moment, the sanctuary can accommodate up to 50 people at a time. A Covid pass is required for each person attending (age 16 and over), and masks must be worn at all times in the building (age 8 and over).

Please be sure to sign up for worship when you're intending to come. You can sign up by visiting our website and clicking on “Worship Options”:

<https://genevalutheran.church>

If you sign up and then realize you won't make it to church, please remove your name from the list by 9h00 Sunday to make room for others to attend.

Sign Up to Assist in Leading Worship

A number of volunteers are needed in our worship service each week—reading scripture, leading prayers, welcoming worshippers, preparing and serving Communion. How might you serve in an upcoming worship service? You can sign up using the link in the church's weekly email. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions.

An Update from Our Treasurer

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your continued support of our church ministries. During the month of December, our total undesignated income stands at a total of 278,833.39CHF. This means we need around 43,230CHF in December to meet our budget goal. Although December has traditionally been a strong giving month for our congregation, we can only make our target budget working together. We thank you for your continued and gracious giving throughout this challenging year.

*Thank you and God bless,
Samuel Mungure*

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/>

Sandwiches for the Soup Kitchen – 10 January

On one day each month, our congregation prepares 200 sandwiches for the Jardin Montbillant soup kitchen. Our next date to service is Monday, 10 January, and we are looking for 10 households who can each prepare 20 sandwiches. Might you be able to help? Contact the church office or Christoph and Elisabeth Benn: chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch.

Choir Taking a Break

Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, 13 January. Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join—no previous experience necessary! Please note that masks will be required. Come and sing!

To help Regine know how to plan, please indicate which rehearsals and worship services you will participate in by signing up here:
<https://signup.zone/mJbtE3dPymSwuQbNJ>.

Online Centering Prayer – Taking a Break

The online Centering Prayer group is taking a break for the coming weeks and will resume in the new year.

Office Closed During the Holidays

Donna Phillips will be on vacation until 11 January. The office will be closed during this time but email and phone messages will be checked regularly. If you have a message of an urgent nature, please contact Pastor Andy directly at 079 544 70 12.

Andy Willis Away from 1-8 January

From 1-8 January, Andy will be out of town on vacation. For pastoral support during this time, please contact Rev. Dr. Sivin Kit: 078 789 85 29.

Cover image:
JESUS MAFA. Jesus among the teachers, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**,
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This Week's Schedule:

Sunday, 2 Jan. 11h00 Worship on the Second Sunday after Christmas, Rev. Sarah Stephens preaching

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	_____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
Comments	_____

New to Geneva? Y/N	Date _____