

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva
Fifth Sunday of Easter

English-Speaking Congregation
Worship Service at 17h30
7 May 2023

**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

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—welcome!

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

Reader: Nina Kiderlin

Prayers: Dinesh Suna

Altar care: Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi

Assisting ministers: Elisabeth Benn, Penuel Kiondo Zanetti, Hiromi Yano

Ushers: Sam Mungure, Ana Shimakela

Offering counters: Penuel Kiondo Zanetti, Njoroge Njuguna

Flowers: Kieran O'Dowd

Coffee hour: Neighborhood Group A

Videography: Ray Woodcock

*Our congregation is committed to handling personal data in a responsible and transparent way and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:
<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation

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www.genevalutheran.ch

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Organist and Interim Worship Leader: Regine Kummer

Fifth Sunday of Easter + 7 May 2023, 17h30
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka*

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Nyambura Njoroge

Welcome

Prelude Regine Kummer

Greeting

We can disregard those selling the seven secrets on the way to success,
because we follow the way of Jesus Christ, the way of the cross.
Here we seek the realm of God,
in which Jesus, our Savior, guides our steps.

When we are overstuffed with information,
an endless sea of probabilities and possibilities,
we gather around the Word, Jesus Christ.
Jesus, the Teacher, dwells with us,
living before our eyes love's demands.

Constantly cornered by the corruptions of selfishness and pride,
here we are offered visions beyond the labors that do not satisfy.
In the midst of changes that never cease,
Jesus becomes our healing, our peace.

Hymn **Here, O Lord, your servants gather**

Invitation to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
when the ways of wealth are all shiny and bright,
and we ignore all the shoving, all the contempt,
all the waste they demand,
forgive us when we are not a blessing for the poor,
when our ways are not your ways, and our thoughts your thoughts.

Sung Response **Khudaayaa, raeham kar**

God, whose righteousness brings justice, and whose justice is right,
when integrity is sold as if it were a decrepit house,
when lies drown out facts, and big lies demand adulation,
when loud accusation gains more than conversations of compassion,
lead us past publicity to the truth where love can dwell,
to the wholeness that dares speak the good news of Jesus Christ.

Sung Response **Masihaa raiham kar**

God, in whom we have our being,
when the cost of living becomes a definition for the quality of life,
and price alone indicates value,
forgive us for forgetting your gifts,
for indulging the sin of covetousness rather than learning gratitude's
joys.

Lead us by your truth on the way that is life.

Sung Response **Khudaayaa, raeham kar**

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

First reading Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

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

Alleluia

Gospel Reading John 14:1-14

The holy Gospel according to John, chapter 14.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

- The Question about Paying Taxes
- Alleluia
-

Sermon

Rev. Nyambura Njoroge

Hymn

Njoo wketu, Roho Mwema

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
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace
Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Gathering of Gifts *Enfants du même Père* Choir
French, D. Rimaud Music, Jacques Berthier

Enfant du même Père, marqués du même sang,
revenons à l'unique Source; ne déchirons plus le Bien-Aimé!
Dieu nous convoque à l'Unité : prenons le chemin qu'il nous ouvre.
(2x)

1. Dieu nous a tous appelés des ténèbres à sa lumière.
Dieu nous a tous appelés à l'amour et au pardon.
2. Dieu nous a tous appelés à tenir la même espérance.
Dieu nous a tous appelés à la même sainteté.
3. Dieu nous a tous appelés à chanter sa libre louange.
Dieu nous a tous appelés à l'union avec son Fils.
4. Dieu nous a tous appelés à la paix que donne sa grâce.
Dieu nous a tous appelés sous la croix de Jésus Christ.
5. Dieu nous a tous appelés au salut par la connaissance.
Dieu nous a tous appelés au salut par l'Esprit Saint.
6. Dieu nous a tous appelés à la Gloire de son Royaume.
Dieu nous a tous appelés pour les noces de l'Agneau.

Ostinato: Pour former un seul corps habité par l'Esprit.
Children of the same Father, marked with the same blood,
let us return to the one Source; let us tear apart the Beloved no more!

God summons us to unity: let us take the path open to us. (2x)

1. God has called all of us out of darkness into his light.

God has called all of us to love and pardon.

2. God has called all of us to hold on to the same hope.

God has called all of us to the same holiness.

3. God has called all of us to sing freely his praise.

God has called all of us to unity with his Son.

4. God has called all of us to the peace that his grace gives.

God has called all of us to gather under the cross of Jesus Christ.

5. God has called all of us to salvation through knowledge.

God has called all of us to salvation through the Holy Spirit.

6. God has called all of us to the glory of his realm.

God has called all of us for the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Ostinato: To form one body we are clothed by the Spirit.

Offertory

Joy Probhu tomari joy

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Preface

Sanctus

You are holy

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

Jesus invites us to this table. For us this bread becomes Christ's body.
This wine becomes Christ's blood.
We proclaim the mystery of our faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

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.

Agnus Dei

Oi Jumalan Karitsa

Communion

Because this is the table of Jesus Christ, all people are welcome and invited to his feast. Take a light-colored cup if you wish to receive grape juice or a dark-colored one if you wish to receive wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Songs **Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life**

Eat this bread

Margam, Satyam, Jivam Nive

Sending Forth

Benediction

May the road Choir

Irish blessing. Irish melody arranged by James E. Moore

1. May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields.

Refrain: And until we meet again, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

2. May the sun make your days bright. May the stars illuminate your nights.

May the flowers bloom along your path,
your house stand firm against the storm.

Announcements and Welcoming Visitors

Dismissal

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

Announcements

In Remembrance of Her – A Presentation by Nyambura Njoroge

Earlier this year, our own Rev. Dr. Nyambura Njoroge published a new book entitled *In Remembrance of Her*. Nyambura was the first woman ordained by the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, and the book, written to mark the 40th anniversary of that event, draws on her personal story and the rich story of faith and witness by women in her church more broadly.

Nyambura will offer a presentation on the book after worship on Sunday 14 May. All are welcome to join!

Women's Circle Invitation

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We will gather at our church – our village – one Saturday each month for coffee and croissants, and share in discussion and fellowship. Come gather with us in our caring circle – let us join together our hands and minds, seeking to learn and laugh and grow, because it takes a village... We plan to meet on the following dates: **20 May, 24 June, 15 July, 12 August**. Contact Marit Bauer-Moore or Cynthia Wilbers for more information.

Study Trip to Poland this September

Once every six to seven years, the Lutheran World Federation holds an Assembly, bringing together representatives of member churches from around the world. The next LWF Assembly will take place in Krakow, Poland this September; the local Lutheran church is offering a program for visitors connected to the Assembly, and a group from our congregation is planning to attend. This would be an opportunity to learn about the local church's history and its work with Ukrainian refugees today, as well as to see some of the sights in this beautiful city and surrounding area.

The trip takes place from 9-12 September. The approximate cost of the 4 days will be around 550 – 600€, and includes overnights in a simple hotel, breakfast and dinner, admission tickets, bus, airport transfers, and English-speaking guide. This doesn't include your travel costs or an optional visit to Auschwitz – Birkenau. You can register by completing a paper form available at the church or the online form here: <https://forms.gle/KcMvD7ba6gfxDEDZ7>

Contact Valerie Marinoni with any questions.

Nursery Attendant During Worship

Nursery care for young children is now available on Sunday mornings. Ms. Kudzie Binari is originally from Zimbabwe; she is a university student in Geneva and worked in this same capacity for our congregation prior to the pandemic. Please join in welcoming her back to our congregation. Kudzie will be working each Sunday from 11h00 to 13h00 (except the first Sunday of each month, when worship is in the evening). Parents of children under age 4 are welcome to leave them with her in the nursery during the service and coffee hour time.

Choir Rehearsal – Thursdays at 19h30

The choir of the English-Speaking Congregation is open to anyone—we practice each week on Thursdays at 19h30 and prepare music for the coming Sunday. You are free to come and sing whenever you are available—no experience necessary!

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday.

Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

14 May – Group B 21 May – Group C

28 May – Group D 4 June – Group E

*If you can help on a week when your group is assigned,
please let your group's coordinator know.*

Masks Now Optional in Worship

For those worshipping at the church, masks remain welcome, but they are no longer mandatory. Please do use common sense. If you are not feeling well, please consider worshipping from home—the livestream remains a great way to connect to the service from afar.

Cover image:
Photo by Sean Stratton on Unsplash

This Week's Schedule:

Thurs, 11 May 19h30 Choir practice
Sun, 14 May 10h00 Church school
11h00 Worship on the Sixth
Sunday of Easter
12h30 Book talk with Nyambura
Njoroge

Office hours this week:

Tuesday, 9h00-17h00, Thursday, 9h00-17h00; Friday, 12h00 - 16h00

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 payment slips at the back of the church if you would like to offer your support through our PostFinance or Credit Suisse accounts. Thank you very much! Bank details below:

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| 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.*

ELCG Connection Card

Name _____

Phone

Email

Comments

New to Geneva? Y/N

Date