

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

17 DECEMBER 2023

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

*We are a parish of many cultures and traditions, with deep Lutheran roots and wide ecumenical branches.*

*Geneva is a crossroads city and our doors are open to people from all over the world. About half of our members come from Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Anglican and other traditions, and half have Lutheran links. The Lutheran Church of Geneva was started by German expatriates in the 18th century, and the English-Speaking Congregation was formed in the 1950s after the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World YWCA and United Nations agencies opened offices in Geneva.*

Read more about who we are at: [www.genevalutheran.church](http://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 sharing in worship leadership this evening:

*Readers:* Nanah Naing'Olah

*Prayers:* Confirmation students

*Altar care:* Clare Duran

*Assisting ministers:* Elisabeth Benn, Faith Fookes, Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti,  
Fulata Moyo

*Ushers:* Nashipai Naing'Olah, Queen King'ori

*Offering counter:* Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti, Njoroge Njuguna

*Flowers:* German Congregation

*Coffee hour:* Neighborhood Group C

*Videographers:* Breanna Ndwiga

*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*

20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland

Telephone / Fax: 022 310 50 89

pastor@genevalutheran.ch

office@genevalutheran.ch

www.genevalutheran.ch

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Third Sunday of Advent + 17 December 2023, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:

*People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau*

*Church School Christmas Pageant*

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

The assuring presence,  
*rising in us like a song,*  
the belonging  
*that seeks to draw others close,*  
the ancient words  
*that will not be silenced,*  
the feast  
*at which simple bread and wine*  
*become more than flour and fermentation,*  
the faces of those learning love  
*by love's divine command,*  
the prayers  
*that lift our cries beyond our own possibilities*  
and draw us toward the peace of God,  
*passing all understanding,*  
that clothes us in the garments of salvation,  
*and anoints us with the oil of gladness,*  
giving a garland instead of ashes,  
*a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.*

Hymn

Awake, awake and greet the new morn

Marty Haugen: USA



1. A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spir - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! The Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and



bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens wide the  
 hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness, the thun - der of his  
 lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be raised a -  
 love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill ev - ery



heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for ev - er.  
 an - thems roll to shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Sung Response

**Halelu**

Ms. Hlar Hay, Myanmar



Ha-le-lu, Ha-le-lu-ja, Ha-le-lu, Ha-le-lu-ja, Ha-le-lu, Ha-le-lu-ja!

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Epistle Reading

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
Do not quench the Spirit.  
Do not despise the words of prophets,  
but test everything; hold fast to what is good;  
abstain from every form of evil.  
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Sung Response

**Halelu**

Christmas Pageant

Hymn

**Joy to the world**

Isaac Watts 1719: England

Lowell Mason (1792-1872): USA

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-ceive its  
2. Joy to the world! The Sa-vior reigns: let us our songs em-  
3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions

King; let eve - ry heart pre - pare him room and  
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re -  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heaven and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing.

## 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

*During the prayers candles will be passed through the congregation.  
When a candle comes to you, pray with it in your hands for a moment,  
then pass it to your neighbor.*

Sung Response

Ososo, Ososo

Choir

*Music and Korean by Geonyong Lee. English by Marion Pope.*

*Come, now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*

*Come, now, O God of love, make us one body.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*

*Come, now, and set us free, O God, our Savior.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.*

*Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.*

*Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.*

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Gathering of Gifts

*Conditor alme siderum*

*Advent Hymn from the 9th Century*

*Choral Arrangement Johann Stadlmayr (1570-1648)*

*Verse 1 (choir):*

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light.*

*O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.*

*Verse 2 (all):*

Latin hymn, 9th century. English *Hymnal* 1940 altered

Plainsong mode IV

2. When this old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splen - dor bright,



not as a mo-narch, but the child of Mar-y, bless-ed moth-er mild.

English © 1940 Church Pension Fund

*Interlude (choir):*

*De castitatis thalamum, ventrem virginalem.  
 Pater dedit Filio vall[m] speciale[m]  
 Invenire poterat quis in mundo talem  
 ut portaret Filium, Patri coequalem?*

*That pure nuptial chamber, a virgin's womb,  
 is the special place provided by the Father for the Son.  
 In all the world, where could one find the like,  
 that could hold the Son, the equal of the Father.*

*Verse 3 (choir):*

*At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
 all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.*

*Verse 4 (all):*

Latin hymn, 9th century. English *Hymnal 1940* altered Plainsong mode IV

4. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 from all as - saults of our dread foe. A - men.

English © 1940 Church Pension Fund

Offertory

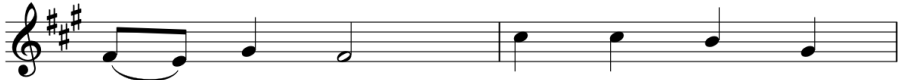
For the bread which you have broken

Louris F. Benson

I-to Loh, Taiwan



For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which  
By this pledge that you do love us, by your gift of  
With our saint - ed ones in glo - ry seat - ed at the



you have poured, for the words which  
peace re - stored, by your call to  
heav - enly board, may the church that



you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
heaven a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Pastor*

*People*

Sursum corda



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

*Pastor*

*People*



Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Pastor*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*



**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Preface

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Adapted by Terry MacArthur

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow - er. God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of you, full of your glo - ry.

Ho san - na,

in the high - est. Ho -

san - na, in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembrance

As we gather around this table,  
how clearly we remember that this bread becomes Christ's body,  
and 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

O Lamb of God

Mabel Wu: Hong Kong



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.



O Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Melody, Mabel Wu © 1994 Taosheng Publishing House, Hong Kong.

## Communion

*Because this is the table of Jesus Christ, all people are welcome and invited to his feast. From the tray, take a light-colored cup if you wish to receive grape juice or a dark-colored one if you wish to receive wine. After being served, place your cup on the tray for used cups.*

## Songs during Communion

### Advent Litany

Bernadette Farrell: United Kingdom

Leader 1. Word of jus - tice, come to dwell here.

All Al - le - lu - ia, Ma - ra - na - tha!

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2. Word of mercy, **Alleluia**, live among us. **Maranatha.**
3. Word of power, **Alleluia**, live within us. **Maranatha.**
4. Word of freedom, **Alleluia**, save your people. **Maranatha.**
5. Word of healing, **Alleluia**, heal our sorrow. **Maranatha.**
6. Word of comfort, **Alleluia**, bring us hope now. **Maranatha.**
7. Word of gladness, **Alleluia**, fill our hearts now. **Maranatha.**
8. Word of wisdom, **Alleluia**, come renew us. **Maranatha.**

# O Come, O come Emmanuel

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum 1710

based on 15th-century French processional

Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers

English John Mason Neale 1852



O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,  
O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free  
Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer



and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
thine own from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny.  
our spir - its by your ad - vent here;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
From depths of hell thy peo - ple save  
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

**Comfort, comfort now my people**

1. "Com - fort, com - fort, now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So  
 2. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing, in the des - ert  
 3. Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er

says our God. Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
 far and near, call - ing us to true re - pen - tance,  
 pla - ces plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load. To God's peo - ple now pro - claim  
 since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 as be - fits God's ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord

that God's par - don waits for them! Tell them that their  
 Now pre - pare for God a way. Val - leys, rise to  
 now on earth is shed a - broad, and all flesh shall

war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
 greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.  
 see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Sending Forth

Benediction

Announcements and Welcoming Visitors

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Next Sunday – Worship at 11h00 and 17h30**

This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day; our congregation will hold two worship services on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

*At 11h00, we'll meet on the steps of the Cathédrale Saint-Pierre for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.* We'll begin by singing carols for the worshippers leaving the Cathedral and then continue singing our way through the Old Town, finally arriving at our church for the sermon, prayers, and communion.

*At 17h30, we'll gather for the Christmas Eve service at our church.* We'll sing carols, tell the Christmas story, and light candles.

Then on Christmas Day (25<sup>th</sup> December), we'll hold a simple service with carols and communion at 11h00.

*All are welcome!*

## **Christmas Carol Singalong – Today at 17h00**

Today at 17h00, the English- and German-Speaking Congregations will hold a Christmas carol singalong at the church. Weather permitting, we'll be in the church garden, singing for one another and for our neighbors in the Old Town—and if the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll be in the sanctuary. Refreshments will be provided afterward; all are warmly welcome.

## **Singing for Our Members – Saturday 23 December**

On Saturday 23 December, a group will visit the homes of some members of our congregation who are unable to join us for worship regularly—singing carols and bringing Christmas greetings. We'll meet at the church at 13h30. If you'd like to join, please contact Andy Willis: [pastor@genevalutheran.ch](mailto:pastor@genevalutheran.ch) so we can arrange transportation. (And if you're able to drive, that would be a help!)

## **Serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday 6 January**

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen Saturday, 6 January 2024. It takes place from 9h00 until about 13h00 at Le Jardin de Montbrillant (Rue de Montbrillant 3) just behind Geneva Cornavin train station. All are welcome to come and help serve. The sign up sheet is available after church announcements. Contact Elisabeth Benn ([chriselis\\_benn@bluewin.ch](mailto:chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch)) for more information.

## **Young Adults Group Invitation**

If you are between the ages of 18 to 30 years old (or slightly older), you're invited to join the young adults group! We will be meeting up at least once a month to share a time of fellowship together. If you're interested in joining future young adult activities, you may contact Olivia Anderson at 076 449 31 37, so you may be added to the young adults' group chat and be updated in real time on the young adults' group gatherings and outings.

## **Looking for Housing**

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg, our new music director, is looking for a reasonably-priced two-bedroom apartment for her and her family as of 1 January. If you know of any possibilities, please contact the church office or Katharina directly.

## **Serving Weekly Coffee Hour**

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

24 December – Group D

25 December – All

31 December – Group E

7 January – Group A

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

## This Week's Schedule:

<b>Thu, 21 Dec</b>	19h30	Choir practice
<b>Sat, 23 Dec</b>	13h30	Caroling for church members
<b>Sun, 24 Dec</b>	11h00	Worship on Fourth Sunday of Advent
	17h30	Worship on Christmas Eve
<b>Mon, 25 Dec</b>	11h00	Worship on Christmas Day

*Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30*

**Our church is entirely self-supporting.** Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

**By bank transfer:** Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève  
CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance  
CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

**By cash:** Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.

**By U.S. dollar check:** Make the check payable to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and on the memo portion, write “GMG 0858”.

*Thank you for your support of our ministry together!*

\*\*\*\*\*

**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	_____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
Comments	_____
New to Geneva? Y/N	Date _____