

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

CHRISTMAS EVE



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 17H30

24 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

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: Clare Duran, Marc, Eva, and Caetano de Chassey

Prayers: Sarah Stephens

Ushers: Maryssa Mapanao-Camaddo and Johnny Camaddo

Offering counters: Johnny Camaddo, Tom Taylor

Flowers: German Congregation

Videographer: 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

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Christmas Eve + 24 December 2023

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Japan, North Korea, South Korea*

Welcome

Prelude Voluntary on “Lo, how a rose e’er blooming”
Terry MacArthur

Greeting

Seeing a tree we call evergreen,

we open ourselves to an ancient story.

Singing words we learned as a child,

we contemplate an eternal peace.

Hearing words that tumble into angels’ song,

we remember God’s favor and the grace of goodwill.

We speak the name of the Blessed Trinity,

rejoicing in the love of God,

celebrating the coming of Christ Jesus into our world,

musings as the Holy Spirit prays in us,

with sighs too deep for words.

Hymn

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we

Danish: Hans A. Brorson

English: Harriet Krauth Spaeth

Johann A.P. Schulz: Germany

1. Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
 2. With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
 3. Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
 4. Un - til at last we, too, pro - claim, with

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - ery
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
 sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

Prayer:

Holy Child, the yokes lay heavy still.
The bar weighs hard digging into the shoulders.
The rods of oppression have not been stilled;
the boots of the warriors have been replaced by drones and bombs.
***This night, when we celebrate your birth, we pray for peace,
a peace that burns away the fuel of hurt and revenge,
a just peace more secure than the legacy of garments rolled in blood,
a righteous peace that looks to you,
Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace,
Holy Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

The reading continues:

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

3. *And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!*

4. *For lo!, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.
You have done great things for us,
and we rejoice.
Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
God is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

Prayer:

God of salvation,
the false gods of wealth and power are all around us.
*Save us from the idols that demand our sacrifices,
and then laugh with scorn at the many who can never measure up.*
*Deliver us with your strength and beauty,
given freely to all who would see.*
*Rescue us with your righteousness and truth
from dishonesties that do not lead to life,
through the gift Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The psalm continues:

but the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before God;
strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;

bring an offering, and come into God's courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Say among the nations,

"The LORD is Sovereign!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

God will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult,

and everything in it.

then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD; who is coming,

who is coming to judge the earth,

who will judge the world with righteousness,

and the peoples with the truth.

Hymn

It came upon the midnight clear

verses 1 and 2

*1. It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:*

"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven's all-gracious King."

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

*2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

Epistle Reading

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

God bringing salvation to all,
train us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,
so that we reflect the glory of your self-giving,
living lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly.

*Fill us not only with hope, but with blessed hope
that flows from the depths of your love.*

*Spare us from thorny despair,
so that we might leave behind our fears
and blossom with good deeds
following your Beloved, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The reading continues:

He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all
iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous
for good deeds.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

The holly and the ivy

verse 1

Traditional English carol



1. The hol - ly and the i - vy when they are both full grown, of
2. The hol - ly bears a blos - som, white as the li - ly flower, and
3. The hol - ly bears a ber - ry, as red as a - ny blood, and
4. The hol - ly bears a prick - le, as sharp as a - ny thorn, and
5. The hol - ly bears a bark, as bit - ter as a - ny gall, and



all the trees that are in the wood the hol - ly bears the crown.
Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ, to be our sweet sav - ior.
Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ to do poor sin - ners good.
Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ on Christ - mas day in the morn.
Ma - ry bore sweet Je - sus Christ for to re - deem us all.

Refrain

The ris - ing of the sun and the run - ning of the deer,



Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 2.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Prayer:

Child of Mary, we do not know how to pray as we ought,
how to create space for the unexpected,
how to make room for the grace of your cries.
Wrap us this night in the bands of swaddling love,
disordered swathes of compassion, understanding, healing,
indecorously arrayed by mercy and grace.

*We rejoice with the merry organ, and sing along with the choir,
imagining that, filled with your Spirit,
we might run with the deer toward your arising light.*

Amen.

Carol

The holly and the ivy

verses 2 and 3

The reading continues:

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Response

Hitsuji wa

verse 1

Genzo Miwa, translated by John Moss

Chugoro Torii 1941: Japan

1. Hi - tsu - ji wa ne - mu - re ri, Ku - sa - no, to - ko - ni,
 2. Ma - hi - ru ni o - to - ra - nu Ku - shi - ki hi - ka - ri,
 1. Sheep fast a - sleep, there on a hill, grass for their bed; all is still.
 2. Star in the sky, shin - ing so bright, si - lent and pure, won - drous light!

Sa - e - yu - ku fu - yu no yo, Shi - mo mo mi - e - tsu.
 Mi - so - ra no ka - na - ta ni Te - ri - ga - ka - ya ku.
 Cold win - ter night, the frost ap - pears; shep - herds keep watch by their fire.
 What tid - ings brings it Is - ra - el? Can we new hope in it find?

Ha - ru - ka ni, hi - bi - ku wa Ka - ze - ka, mi - zu ka,
 Su - ku - i wo mo - ta - ra - su Ka - mi no mi - ko no
 Soft there a sound, far, far a - way. Is it the stream? Winds at play?
 Good news it brings! "Fear not, I pray! Born is God's Son, born to - day!

I - na - to yo mi - tsu - ka - i U - ta - u mi - u - ta.
 U - ma - re - shi yo - ro - ko - bi Tsu - gu - ru ho - shi ka.
 Nay, friend, it is the heaven - ly choir, Sing - ing through - out the spheres.
 God's gift of love to all the earth, our Lord, Im - man - u - el."

Japanese, Genzo Miwa. Music, Chūgoro Torii © United Church of Christ in Japan, 2-3-18 Nishi Waseda Room 31,
 Japan Christian Centre, Shinjuku-ku Tokyo, Japan, 169. Arrangement © 1995 David Kai.
 English © John A. Moss, 101 Amherst Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, USA.

The reading continues:

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom God favors.’

Response

Hitsuji wa

verse 2

The reading continues:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Carol

The holly and the ivy
see pages 6-7

verses 4 and 5

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

In the bleak midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti

Gustav Holst: England

1. In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed,
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God Al - might - y Je - susChrist.
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gathering of gifts

Child of Christmas story

Choir

Words, Shirley Murray: Aoteroa/New Zealand. Music, I-to Loh: Taiwan

- 1. Child of Christmas story, stable straw and star,
small and sweet and gentle, tell us who you are.*
- 2. Child whose baby finger, round our own is curled,
come to melt our hearts, and come to change the world.*
- 3. Child of Jew and Gentile, child of white and black,
tell us how to love you, teach us what we lack.*
- 4. Child of Mary's courage, birthed in human pain,
tell us what your name is, be our hope again.*

Offering the Gifts ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime

Huron carol by Jean de Brébeuf, 1643: Canada

French folk tune



1. 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time, when all the birds had fled,
 2. With - in the lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found;
 3. The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair
 4. O chil - dren of the for - est free, O seed of Man - i - tou,



that might - y Git - chi Man - i - tou sent an - gel choirs in - stead;
 a rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round;
 as was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there.
 the ho - ly Child of earth and heaven is born to - day for you.



be - fore their light the stars grew dim,
 but as the hun - ter braves drew nigh,
 The chiefs from far be - fore him knelt
 Come kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy,



and won - dering hun - ters heard the hymn:
 the an - gel song rang loud and high:
 with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
 who brings you beau - ty, peace and joy.



Je - sus Em - man - u - el, Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

English, Jesse Middleton, 1926

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn

Silent night

*1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild.
 Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

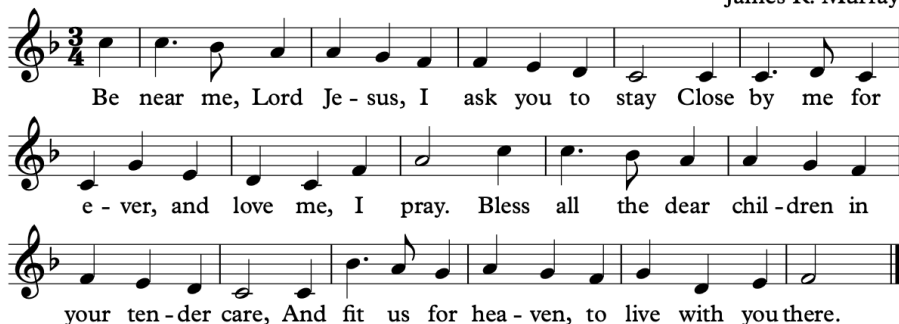
*3. Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from your holy face bring the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ as your birth.*

Sung prayers

Away in a manger

verse 3

James R. Murray



Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask you to stay Close by me for
e - ver, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in
your ten - der care, And fit us for hea - ven, to live with you there.

O little town of Bethlehem

verse 4

Phillips Brooks

Louis Henry Redner: USA



O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.
We hear the Chris - tmas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Star-maker God

Ancient Hungarian translation of "Conditor alme siderum"

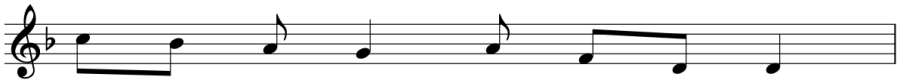
Hungarian melody



1. Csil - la - gok - nak	te - rem - tö je		
1. Star - mak - er God,	shin - ing your light		
2. Know - ing our grief,	fac - ing the void,		
3. Je - sus, to you	all knees shall bend,		
4. Fa - ther of all,	Spir - it and Son,		



és hi - vek - nek	Fé - nyes - sé - ge:		
in - to the dark,	in - to our night,		
dy - ing for us,	death you de - stroyed.		
prais - ing your name,	praise with - out end.		
Trin - i - ty Blessed,	God Three - in - One,		



Krisz - tus, min - den	Meg - vál - tó - ja		
Je - sus our hope,	Je - sus our friend,		
Mer - cy un - bound,	wound - ed you heal.		
All at your throne,	hea - ven and earth		
Moth - er - ing God,	lov - ing and strong,		



légy ké - ré - sünk	hall - ga - tó - ja!		
hear now our prayers,	Love with - out end.		
Sin ov - er - turned,	love you re - veal.		
sing your ac - claim,	bow to your worth.		
You we a - dore.	You are our song.		

English Terry MacArthur © 2007

2. Ki világon könyörülvén,
örök halált eltérítvén
meggyógyítád e világot,
hozván neki orvosságot.

3. A te erős hatalmadnak
minden térdek meghajolnak,
mennyeiek és földiek Urnak
vallják fölségedet.

4. Hálát adjunk az Istennek,
Atya, Fiú, Szentléleknek,
három személy fölségének,
egymivoltú Istenségnek.

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.

Hymn

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

St. 1,2 vorreformatorisch, Köln 1599 Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599
St. 3 Berlin 1853 harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609
English, Vs 1,2 Theodore Baker, Vs 3 Harriet R. Krauth, Vs.4 John C. Mattes

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2. I - sa - iah had fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3. O 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 seers of old have sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with 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
 Hu - 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 ligh - tens ev - ery load.
 heav - en and in - to end - less day.

1. *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen, von Jesse kam die Art
und hat ein Blümlein 'bracht mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

2. *Das Röslein, das ich meine, davon Jesaja sagt,
hat uns gebracht alleine Marie, die reine Magd;
aus Gottes ew'gem Rat hat sie ein Kind geboren
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

3. *Das Blümelein so kleine, das duftet uns so süß;
mit seinem hellen Scheine vertreibt's die Finsternis.
Wahr' Mensch und wahrer Gott, hilft uns aus allem Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.*

4. *So singen wir all' Amen, das heißt: Nun wird' es wahr,
das wir begeh'r'n allzusammen: O Jesu, hilf uns dar
in deines Vaters Reich! Darin woll'n wir dich loben:
O Gott, uns das verleih!*

Benediction

Dismissal

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship on Christmas Day

Our celebration of Christmas continues tomorrow, with a Christmas Day worship service at 11h00. All are welcome.

No Choir Rehearsal this Week

There will be no choir rehearsal this week or next. Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, 11 January at 19h30.

Serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday 6 January

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on 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. Contact the church office or Elisabeth Benn (chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch) for more information.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

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

25 December – All

31 December – Group E

7 January – Group A

14 January – Group B

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

Cover Image:

Nativity scene 2023, Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Bethlehem

This Week's Schedule:

Mon, 25 Dec	11h00	Worship on Christmas Day
Sun, 31 Dec	11h00	Worship on New Year's Eve
<i>Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30</i>		

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 evening, *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 _____