

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

CHRISTMAS DAY



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

25 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 morning:

*Readers:* Vinita Manchala, Ritu Suna

*Prayers:* Dinesh Suna

*Altar care:* Penuel Kiondo Zanetti

*Ushers:* Suna family

*Offering counters:* Penuel Kiondo Zanetti, 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 Day + 25 December 2023**

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

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways by the prophets,  
***but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son,***  
whom God appointed heir of all things,  
***through whom God also created the worlds.***

He is the reflection of God's glory  
***and the exact imprint of God's very being,***  
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

*Hebrews 1:1-3a*

***We gather to worship the Word made flesh, dwelling among us,  
Jesus the Christ.***

Psalm 98

*interspersed with "O come, all ye faithful"*

Antiphon

O come, all ye faithful

verse 1

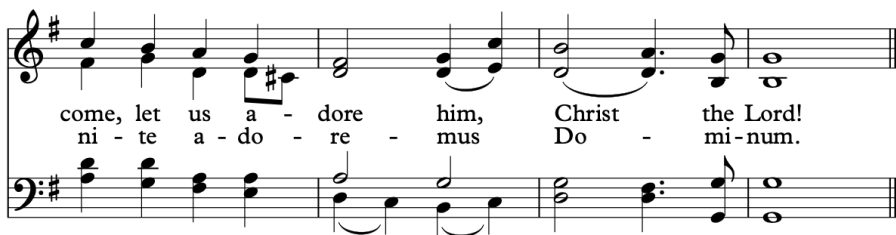
Latin John Francis Wade. English Federick Oakeley

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be -  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; Son of the  
 sing all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove! Glo - ry to  
 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry gi - ven! Word of the

hold him, born the King of an - gels: O come, let us a -  
 Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing! Ve - ni - te a - do -  
 God in the high - est!  
 Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O  
 re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve -



O sing to the Lord a new song, for doing marvelous things.  
***God's right hand and holy arm have gotten victory.***  
 The Lord has made known the victory;  
***God has revealed God's vindication in the sight of the nations,***  
 and remembered steadfast love and faithfulness  
 to the house of Israel.  
***All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.***

Antiphon

**O come, all ye faithful**

**verse 2**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
***break forth into joyous song and sing praises.***  
 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
***with the lyre and the sound of melody.***  
 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
***make a joyful noise before the Ruler, the Lord.***

Antiphon

**O come, all ye faithful**

**verse 3**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
***the world and those who live in it.***  
 Let the floods clap their hands;  
***let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord,***  
 for God is coming to judge the earth.  
***God will judge the world with righteousness,***  
***and the peoples with equity.***

Antiphon

**O come, all ye faithful**

**verse 4**

Litany

based on "Of the Father's love begotten"

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

*For this parish and city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.*

*For travelers by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives, let us pray to the Lord.*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

*For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.*

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.*



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. A - men.

Gloria

Luke 2:14

Pablo Sosa: Argentina



La, la, la

Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria  
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria

B<sup>7</sup> B E

en las al - tu - ras a Dios. Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos  
glo - ry to God on high. And on earth peace to the peo - ple in

B E For the ending repeat 2 times each time softer

que a - ma el Se - ñor. Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria.  
whom God is well pleased.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

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

Alleluia

Adapted by Terry MacArthur

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The first system begins with a half rest in the vocal line and a half note in the piano line, both marked 'hm'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le'. The third system contains the lyrics 'lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Gospel

John 1:1-14

The Gospel according to John, chapter 1.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.



He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

Alleluia

Musical score for Alleluia, consisting of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu. Al - le - lu. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu.

Sermon

Rev. Andy Willis



1. Let our glad-ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
2. Pro - phe - sied in days of old,
3. See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose,
4. In - to flesh is made the Word,



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia! On this day God  
 God has sent Him as fore - told,  
 From the branch of Jes - se grows,  
 He, our re - fuge and our Lord,



gave us Christ, the Son, to save us; Christ, the Son to save us.

### 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.*

Peace

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

Gathering of Gifts

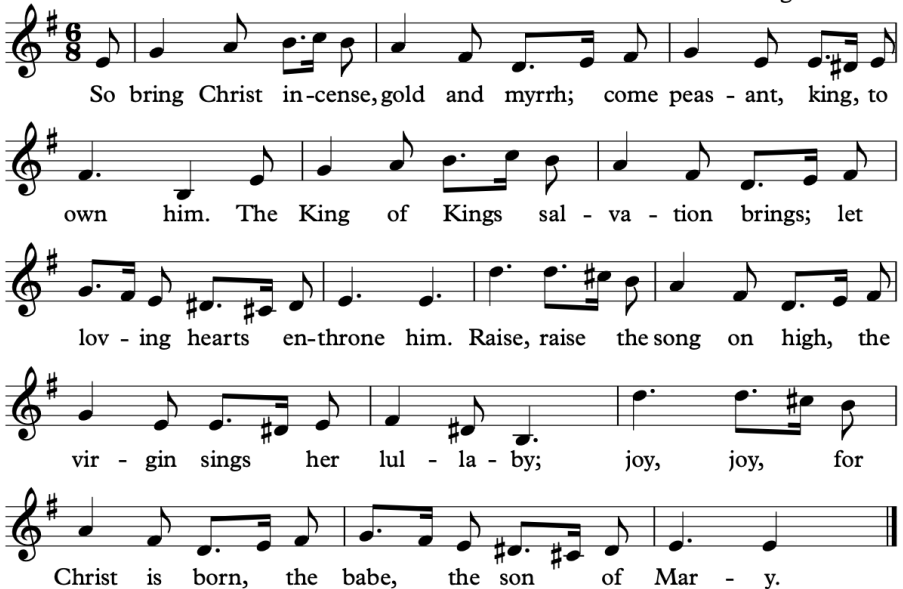
Offertory

**What child is this**

**verse 3**

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.



*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

**Infant holy, infant lowly**

English, Edith M. G. Reed

Polish carol



1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, for His bed a cat - tle stall;  
2. Flocks are sleep - ing shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing, Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing;  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all. Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## 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 of the tree which bears the flower.  
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gol - den light  
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its birth;



On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flower, on the tree blooms the  
brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
and its beau - ty 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.

# Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child

African-American spiritual

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful

child. Je - sus, Je - sus, so

ho - ly, meek, and mild; new life, new hope the

Child will bring. Lis - ten to the an - gels sing,

"Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Sending Forth

Benediction



Announcements and Welcoming Visitors

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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](mailto:chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch)) for more information.

## **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 Weekly Coffee Hour**

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

31 December – Group E

7 January – Group A

14 January – Group B

21 January – Group C

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

Cover Image:  
JESUS MAFA. Virgin and Child,  
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48380>

**This Week's Schedule:**

**Sun, 31 Dec 11h00**      Worship on New Year's Eve, Rev. Terry MacArthur preaching and presiding  
*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!*

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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 \_\_\_\_\_