

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 17H30  
3 DECEMBER 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](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:* Olivia Anderson, Faith Fookes, Martin Leer, Fulata Moyo, Gilbert Mushi, Rodrigue Wete

*Prayers:* Rodrigue Wete

*Altar care:* Marian Frerichs

*Assisting ministers:* Martin Alilio, Nyambura Njoroge, Cristina Rendón, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi

*Ushers:* Samuel Mungure, Anastasia Shimakela

*Offering counter:* Ngoni Hove

*Flowers:* German Congregation

*Coffee hour:* Neighborhood Group A

*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***

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

First Sunday of Advent

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Myanmar, Thailand*

Prelude

Greeting

Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine,  
that we may be saved. Ps 80:3

Sung response

***O kindle, Lord most holy,  
your lamp within my breast.***

Call to prayer

Prayer blessing the candles

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Psalteriolum 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.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!  
Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine,  
that we may be saved.

***Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.  
***Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.  
Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life and we will call on your name.  
***Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

Alleluia

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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Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark chapter 13.  
***Glory to you, O Lord.***

[Jesus said] "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep

awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

Alleluia

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

O-so-so

Geonyong Lee: Korea

1. O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyŏng - hwa ũi - im - gŭm  
 1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bo - dy.  
 2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
 3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sa - vior.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.

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.*

Invitation to prayer



German, Paul Gerhardt

English Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Johann Crüger: Germany

3. Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4. Re - joice, then, you sad heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

O, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy,  
*hear our prayer.*

Sung Response

*O Lord, how shall I greet thee*

Choir

German, Paul Gerhardt

English *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Johann Crüger: Germany

I lay in fet-ters, groan - ing; you came, to set me free.

I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.

A glo-rious crown you give me, a trea-sure safe on high

that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.

Passing Our Prayers

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Gathering of Gifts

*Lei cung kan Boi*

Choir

*Words: Sang Maung: Myanmar*

*Music: Falam Chin traditional melody: Myanmar*

*Lei cung kan Boi le khamh tu toi dor in kan in nawl  
toi dor in thla kan cam Bawi Pa.*

*God of region and of world, for our land now we pray,  
humbly seek your blessing, our God.*

1. *Keep us in your peace, safe from foes and from tyrants' greed.  
Come, Lord, bless our leaders; may they act rightfully.*
2. *Make us one in love; knowledge, truth, wisdom be our guide.  
O Lord let all nations prize your way: people free.*
3. *Prosper this our land, only place we can call our home.  
O Lord may your reign be soon fulfilled in our midst.*

Offertory

**Prepare the way of the Lord**

Jacques Berthier: France

The musical notation is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Chord letters A, B, C, and D are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God." The piece ends with a double bar line.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France

Prayer over the gifts

The Great Thanksgiving



# Soon and very soon

André Crouch: African-American

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

The first system of music features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.'

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

The second system of music is identical to the first, with the same vocal and piano parts and lyrics.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

The third system of music is identical to the first two, with the same vocal and piano parts and lyrics.

Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. We're going to see the King.

The fourth system of music continues the piece with a new vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. We're going to see the King.'

© 1976 Budjohn Songs/Crouch Music, administered by the Sparrow Corp.

2. No more crying there. 3. No more dying there.

## Sending Forth

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

## Benediction

Announcements and Welcoming Visitors

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Advent Worship Schedule

### *First Sunday of Advent, 3 December, 17h30*

Receiving an Advent candle for lighting other candles

### *Second Sunday of Advent, 10 December, 10h00 at the Madeleine Church*

Joint service with the German congregation, the Madeleine congregation, and students of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey marking the 75th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights.

### *Third Sunday of Advent, 17 December 11h00*

Including this year's Sunday School pageant

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent, 24 December 11h00*

A procession of Christmas carols around the Old Town, starting on the steps of the Cathedral and ending in our church

### *Christmas Eve, 24 December, 17h30*

Candlelight and carols

### *Christmas Day, 25 December 11h00*

Carols and communion

## **Next Sunday, 10 December – Worship at 10h00, Temple de la Madeleine**

10 December is Human Rights Day, and this year's observance marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. On this day, our congregation will join a common worship service with the German-Speaking Congregation and the congregation of the Madeleine Church; students from the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey are also helping to plan and lead. The service will be bilingual (German and English) and will take place at 10h00 at the Temple de la Madeleine (just down the hill from the Lutheran Church).

Following the service, all are invited to join in an interfaith "Faith for Rights" walk. We begin at the Madeleine and continue first to the Dituria Mosque (Route de Saint-Julien 163, 1228 Plan-les-Ouates) and then to the Adventist campus (33 chemin du Péroutzet, F-74160 Collonges). Food and drinks will be offered along the way, and the day will conclude with a concert at the Adventist campus at 15h30.

*Please note: our congregation will not hold a worship service at the Lutheran Church on this day.*

## Have You Made Your 2024 Giving Estimate?

Over the past weeks, many members have made their estimates of giving for 2024. Have you made yours? If not, please fill out your giving forms as soon as possible. You'll find the forms here, on our website:

<https://genevalutheran.church/giving-season/>

*Please take this step of participating in our ministry in an intentional way this year—it's a great help to our community.*

## 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. Our next gathering will be a **Game Night on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>** from 18h to 21h in the Gemeindraum. If you're interested in joining this time or 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:

10 December – Group B

17 December – Group C

24 December – Group D

25 December – All

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

Cover Image:

Millereau, George. God's Shining Face,

from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56319>

**This Week's Schedule:**

<b>Thu, 7 Dec</b>	19h30	Choir practice
<b>Fri, 8 Dec</b>	18h00	Young Adults Group – Game Night
<b>Sun, 10 Dec</b>	10h00	Joint Worship at the Madeleine Church
	10h00	Christmas pageant rehearsal
	11h00	“Faith for Rights” walk begins
<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!*

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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.*

<b>ELCG Connection Card</b>	
Name	_____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
Comments	_____
New to Geneva? Y/N	Date _____