# **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA** FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00 28 April 2024

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

We are a home away-from-home, with people from different places becoming sisters and brothers in Christ.

Our members come from 40 countries and six continents. Some are in Geneva for decades, others for only a few months. All help the parish to be a community of shared beliefs, experiences and concerns. Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth and recreation bring families, friends and acquaintances together. Such bonds are precious in a city of so many welcomes and farewells.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

# If you are worshipping with us for the first time ${ m or}~{ m if}$

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: Reader: Adela Bevan Prayer leader: Thomas Wilson Altar care: Clare Duran Assisting ministers: Eva de Chassey, Marc de Chassey, Maureen Gumbe, Nyambura Njoroge Ushers: Alessia de Chassey, Caetano de Chassey Offering counters: Johnny Camaddo, Fulata Moyo Church school: Marc de Chassey, Nina Kiderlin, Grete Willis, Thomas Wilson Flowers: German-Speaking Congregation Coffee hour: Neighborhood Group B Videographers: Breanna Ndwiga, 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: <u>https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/</u> 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

Fifth Sunday of Easter + 28 April 2024, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

## Welcome

#### Prelude

## Greeting

Love is the goal, and love is the gift. Love is the means. and love is the prize. Love is the measure, and love feeds the soul. Love casts out fear, and love makes new friends. Love serves without price, and love bends to wash feet. Love calls us here, and this love bears fruit. God is love. In Christ's love we become whole. With the spirit we rise, hearing love, tasting love, sharing love, singing love, speaking love, rejoicing in love, becoming love.

#### Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling





Invitation to Prayer

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. Prayer of Confession

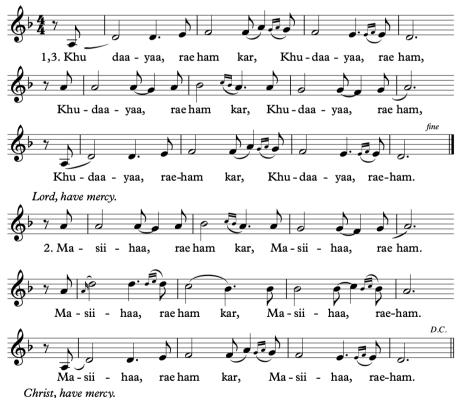
God of love, from all the fears that enclose us, *release us.* From all the selfishness that keeps us bound, *heal us.* For all that is less than love, *forgive us.* By your Holy Spirit, *open in us new wells of generosity, humility, and grace, leading us on the path of love, so we become branches of the vine that is Christ, and your realm grows in us and through us.* 

Response

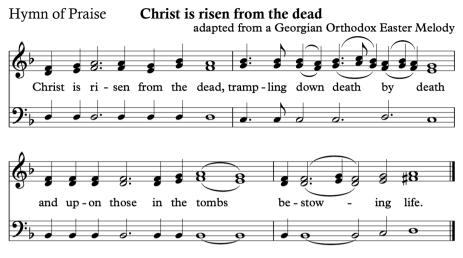
Khudaayaa rae ham kar

Traditional Urdu

R.F. Liberius: Pakistan



## Words of Assurance



Prayer of the Day

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

# First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Alleluia



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#### Gospel

John 15:1-8

The Gospel according to John, chapter 15. *Glory to you, O Lord.* 

[Jesus said] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.* 

Alleluia

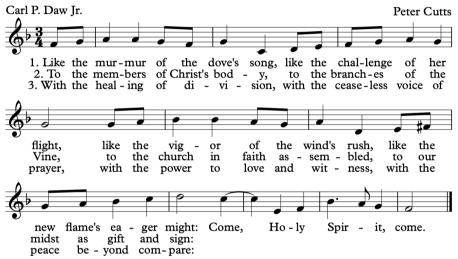
Sermon

Andy Willis

## Hymn

## Like the murmur of the dove's song

During the last verse, the new members are invited to go to the front



English, © 1982 The Hymn Society. Music © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Spring, IL. USA.

# Welcoming New Members

# Affirmation of Faith

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. 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.

Sisters and brothers, you have made public profession of your faith. I ask you, together with the people of God gathered in this place: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ

through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

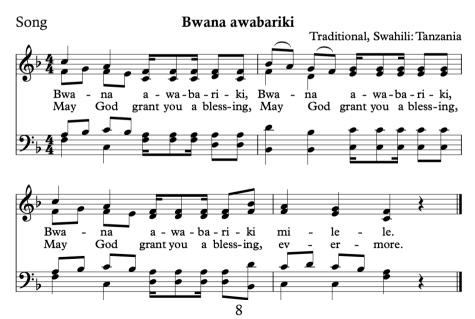
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. . . *Amen.* 



Prayers of Intercession God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.* 

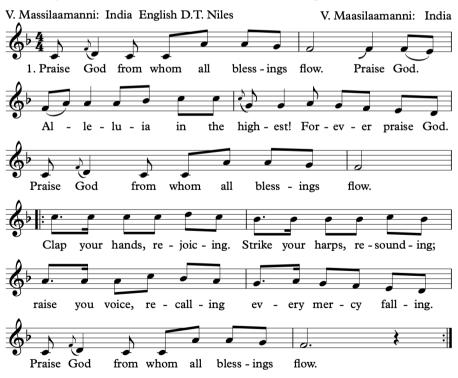
Peace Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!* 

Gathering of Gifts Ubi caritas Latin text: Paulinus of Aquileia, 8<sup>th</sup> century Music: Carlotta Ferrari, 2018

> Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.

Where there is charity and love, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together.

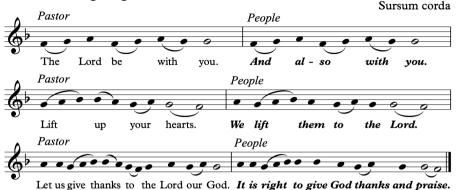
Offertory Praise God, from whom all blessings flow



Thamil and Music © V. maasilaamanni. English © D.T. Niles.

# Service of Communion

# Great Thanksgiving



Preface

With each ray of light,

love,

with each blossom making seed

love,

with each child offering a helping hand

love,

within each struggle to discover anew how to be free

love,

with each dance celebrating an end to slavery

love,

with each word of a prophet's inspired phrase

love,

with each baptism enlarging your family,

love,

with the gift of Jesus Christ, offering himself that all the world might see

love,

we bless and thank you, God of love,

as we join the choirs of your lively lovers,

of every time and place,

sinners becoming saints,

singing the un-ending hymn of praise to you.

You are holy

Per Harling: Sweden



Swedish, English and Music © Per Harling, Sweden

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

## Words of Institution

Remembrance

Love invites us to this table where bread becomes Christ's body and wine becomes Christ's blood. We remember all that his presence offers us.

With love he taught us and gave his life for us. With love he is raised on high. With love he will come again in glory.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

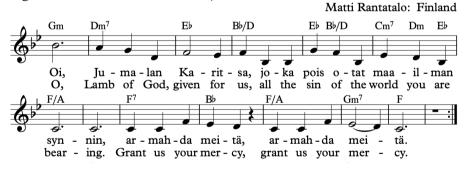
Lord's Prayer

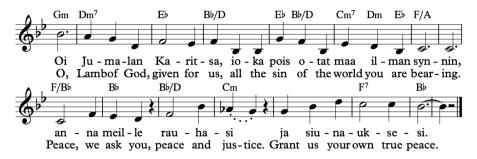
In our many languages

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

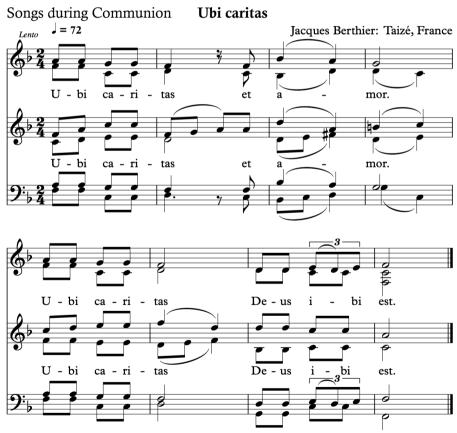




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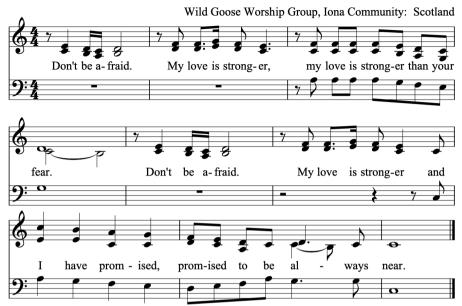
#### Communion

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.



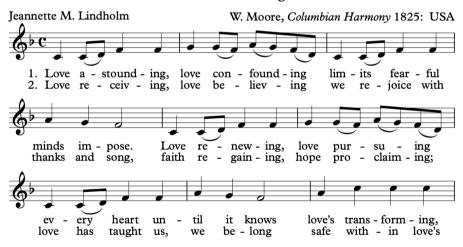
Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

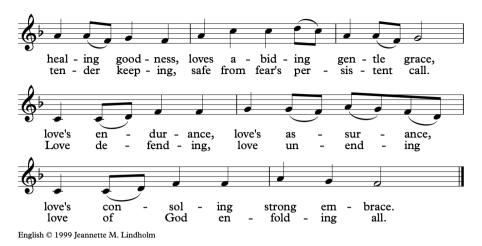
# Don't be afraid



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#### Love astounding





# Sending Forth

# Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Next Sunday, 5 May – Worship at 17h30

On the first Sunday of each month, our congregation holds its worship service at 17h30 instead of 11h00. So please remember that next Sunday, 5 May, worship will take place in the evening. Please note that there is no church school this week.

# Easter Season Small Group Study – Getting Involved with God

During Lent, several groups met weekly to discuss portions of the book *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*, by Ellen Davis. Some existing groups will be continuing, and new ones may be forming—so whether you participated during Lent or not, you're welcome to join a group this season. The book is a collection of freestanding essays and sermons on a variety of Old Testament themes--so it won't be a problem to join midway.

If you didn't participate in the Lent study and are interested in joining a group now, please contact Andy Willis: <u>pastor@genevalutheran.ch</u>.

# Interested in Joining the English-Speaking Congregation?

The ESC will be receiving new members during the Easter season. Becoming a member means claiming this congregation as your church community in Geneva. You can be a member here and still maintain your membership in another congregation in your home country. If you are interested in joining our congregation in the coming weeks, please contact Andy Willis.

## Writing Prayers with Terry MacArthur – Today

After worship today, Terry MacArthur will conduct a writing workshop focused on the Prayer of the Day. This follows an ancient form called the Collect. It is usually one sentence long (although often a long sentence). We will take the Biblical texts from the next Sunday as a starting point and then work toward a prayer for the day for the congregation.

# Fellowship Group – Meeting Today

Following worship, the fellowship group will meet to work on preparations for several important events in the congregation, including a retreat in the fall. All are welcome to participate--please join if you can!

# Worship Committee – Meeting Monday 29 April at 19h00

The worship committee is an open group that helps to plan and support our community's worship life. We meet several times a year to discuss themes and prepare for seasons and special services. Our next meeting is this Monday, 29 April, at 19h00 at the church. We'll share a meal, discuss the experience of Lent and Easter this year, and look ahead to Pentecost. Whether you've joined a worship committee meeting before or not, you're welcome to attend on Monday! Additional voices and input are always appreciated. Contact Terry MacArthur or Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg with questions.

# Serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday 4 May

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 4 May 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 sign up and help prepare and serve a warm meal. Contact the church office or Elisabeth Benn (chriselis\_benn@bluewin.ch) for more information.

# Spring Congregational Assembly – 26 May

Our congregation will hold its annual spring assembly on Sunday 26 May, immediately following the worship service at the church. Please mark your calendar—all members are encouraged to attend.

# Can You Host a Visiting University Student from 29 May to 2 June?

From 29 May to 2 June, a group of twelve university students from College Park, Maryland in the U.S. will be visiting Geneva. They are part of the Lutheran campus ministry at the University of Maryland and will be spending some days in Geneva for meetings with ecumenical and humanitarian organizations before going to Taizé for a week. We have been asked to help house the students for their three nights here. Housing a student would mean giving him/her a place to sleep, and possibly sharing dinner with him/her. Can you host one or more students? Contact the church office or sign up on the sheet this morning.

## Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

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

5 May – Group C 19 May – Group E 12 May – Group D 26 May – Group A

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

## **Music Camp this Summer**

From Sunday, 11 August to Friday, 16 August 2024; there will be a summer camp organized by our music director Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg at La Lécherette in Vaud. The camp is for children ages 7 to 13, and previous musical knowledge is not required. The whole team together with the children will create a musical with a Circus theme, and the performance of the musical will be held on Sunday, 18 August at 16h00 at the ELCG. The cost for the week is CHF 400 per child (all-inclusive) with a discount for multiple children from the same family. Contact Katharina (<u>katharina@genevalutheran.ch</u>) to sign up or for more information.

# This Week's Schedule:

| Mon, 29 April | 19h00 | Worship committee                     |  |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Thu, 2 May    | 19h30 | Choir rehearsal                       |  |
| Sat, 4 May    | 9h00  | Serving at the soup kitchen           |  |
|               | 16h00 | Confirmation retreat                  |  |
| Sun,5 May     | 17h30 | Worship on the Sixth Sunday of Easter |  |
|               |       |                                       |  |

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



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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 today,** 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 be in touch and answer any questions you might have about our congregation.

|                    | ELCG Connection Card |      |
|--------------------|----------------------|------|
| Name               |                      |      |
| Phone              |                      |      |
| Email              |                      |      |
| Comme              | nts                  |      |
| New to Geneva? Y/N |                      | Date |
|                    |                      |      |