

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

## CHRISTMAS EVE



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 17H30  
24 DECEMBER 2024

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

*We are followers of Jesus, seeking God's justice,  
peace, and grace in personal and common witness.*

*Our hope each Sunday is to go out of God's house with good courage into our diverse jobs and obligations—with family, civil society, government, business and education. We pray for the peace and well-being of all peoples. The Gospel calls us wherever we are to use our time and talents for others and for the common good.*

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:* Wenona Christie Arndt, Eva de Chassey,

Clare Duran, Terry MacArthur

*Prayer leader:* Marc de Chassey

*Ushers:* Christoph Benn, Elisabeth Benn,

Alessia and Caetano de Chassey

*Offering counters:* May Chin Long

*Flowers:* German-Speaking Congregation

*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:  
<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 2024, 17h30  
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Japan, North Korea, South Korea*

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Poem

*I want to hitch a ride*  
*By Morgan Gould*

Response

Hymn

**On Christmas night**

Sussex Carol



1. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing, to hear the news the  
2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re-deem-er  
3. From out of mys-tery came the Light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring; on Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing, to  
made us glad; then why should we on earth be sad, since  
sing this night; From out of mys-tery came the Light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring; news of great  
our Re-deem-er made us glad; when from our  
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to



joy, news of greatmirth, news of our gra-cious Rul-er's birth.  
sin Christ set us free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty.  
God and peace to all, for-ev-er-more, Al-le-lu-ia!"

Psalm 96

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.***

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,

***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 God, all the earth.***

Say among the nations, "The LORD rules!

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.***

Be glad,

***glad.***

Rejoice!

***Rejoice!***

Roar,

***roar.***

Exult!

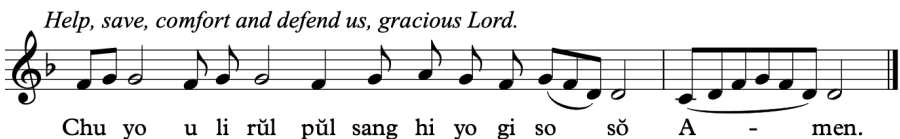
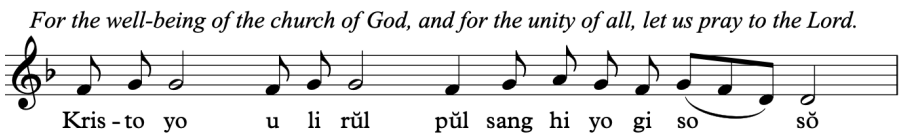
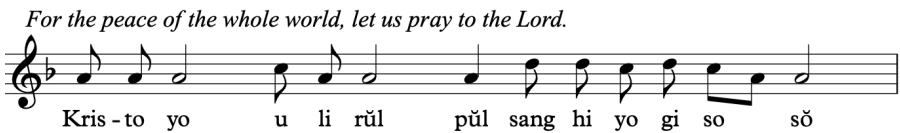
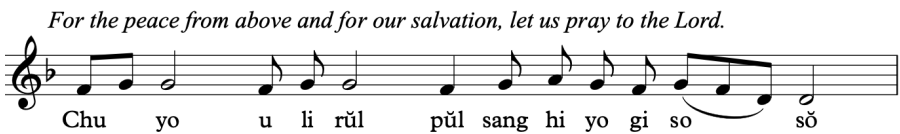
***Exult!***

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD;  
*sing for joy,*  
 for God is coming,  
*coming to judge the earth.*  
 God will judge the world with righteousness,  
*and the peoples with truth.*

## Response to the Word

### Litany

Geonyong Lee: Korea



© Geonyong Lee, Daewoo Apt. 104-303, Bangbae 3, Seocho-ku, Seoul, Korea.

## Gloria

## Angels we have heard on high

French carol. English H. F. Hemy

French carol

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ria

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo -

ria in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Prayer of the Day

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.

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.***

## Alleluia

Adapted by Terry MacArthur from a Polish Christmas carol

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with 'hmm' indicating vocalizations. The score is divided into three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu.'

## 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

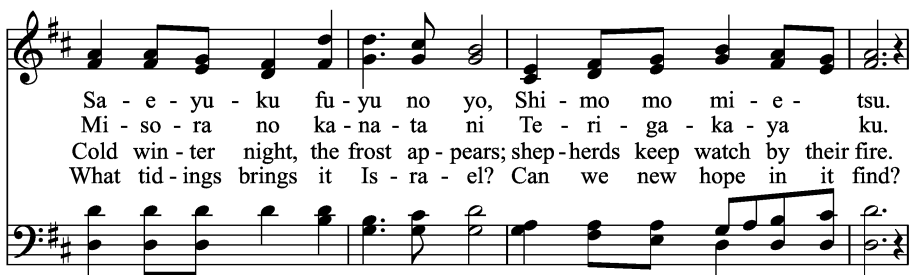


Genzo Miwa, translated by John Moss

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.

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.’

Carol

Hitsuji wa

verse 2

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 he favors!’

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.*

Alleluia

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 - ia. Al - le - lu.

Sermon

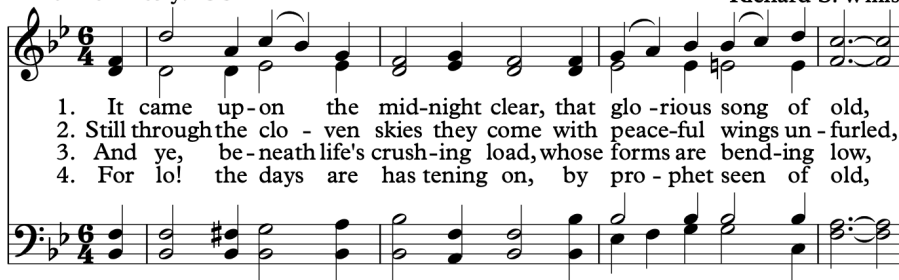
Andy Willis

## Hymn

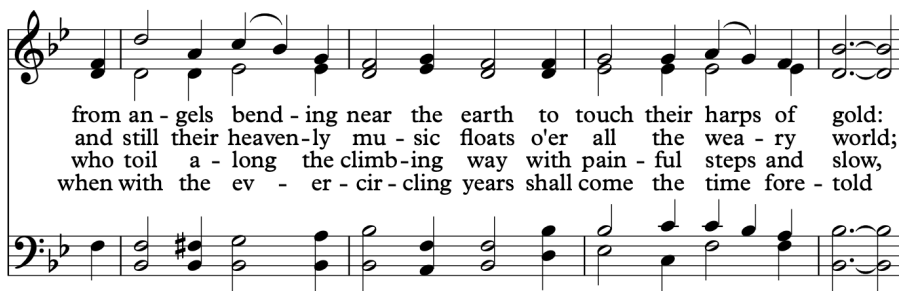
## It came upon a midnight clear

Anne McKinstry: USA

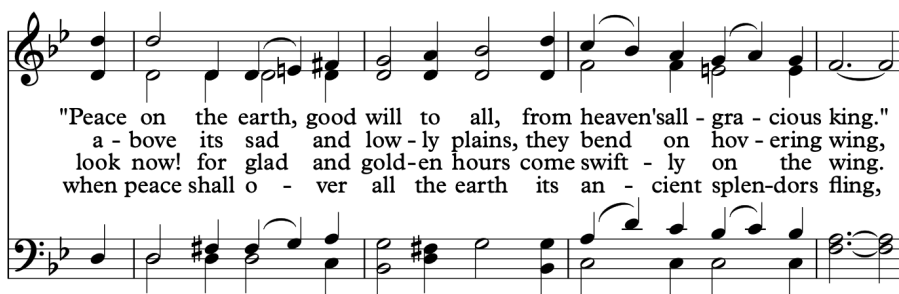
Richard S. Willis



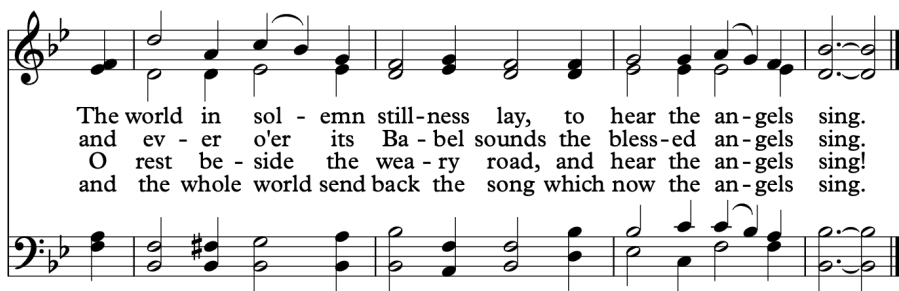
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by pro - phet seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all - gra - cious king."  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov - ering wing,  
 look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing.  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

English © 1986; rev. 1993, Anne McKinstry.

## 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

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

## 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.*

## Peace


The peace of Christ be with you.  
*And also with you.*


## Gathering of Gifts

*Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.*


*You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag, by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.*

**Donate now with  
TWINT!**





Scan the QR code with the  
TWINT app



Confirm amount and  
donation

*Gläns över sjö och strand*

*Swedish, Viktor Rydberg. English, Mark Safstrom.*

*Music, Ivar Wideen: Sweden 1916*

Choir

*1. Sunlight on sea and sand, distant reflection.*

*Light who, at God's command, heralds redemption,  
shines forth from heaven's dome, leads not away but home.*

*Shepherds and children see,  
follow you joyfully brilliantly shining star, brilliantly shining star.*

*2. Stars in the midnight sky glide over Zion,  
arching unceasingly toward the horizon.*

*Shepherds and slumbers deep, infant and gentle sleep  
wake to a glorious sound angels in choir resound.  
Look to the east, a star, Bethlehem's shining star!*

*3. Leaving their fields and flock, paradise-seeking  
shepherds in darkness walk, starlight them leading.  
Star, up in heaven's dome, leads not away, but home.*

*Shepherds and children see,  
follow you joyfully, brilliantly shining star, brilliantly shining star.*

# Offertory

## In the bleak midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti

Gustav Holst: England

1. In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2. An - gels and arch-an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
 3. What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron wa - ter like a stone;  
 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,  
 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.  
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending forth

# Recessional

## Go, tell it on the mountain

Afro-American spiritual



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.



Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!.



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,

2. The shep - herds feared and tem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth

3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.

rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

# Carol

## Silent Night

*If you wish, sing in your own language*

**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.**

Poem

*I want to hitch a ride  
By Morgan Gould*

Hymn

**Joy to the world**

**1. Joy to the world the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive its King;  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven,  
and heaven and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the world the Savior reigns!**

**Let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;**

**he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove**

**the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Christmas Worship Services**

Our congregation will gather for worship several times in the coming week. All are welcome to join in the celebration of Christmas.

*Christmas Day, 25 December 11h00*

Communion and carols celebrate the presence of Christ.

*First Sunday of Christmas, 29 December 11h00*

The celebration continues! Rev. Sarah Stephens preaching and presiding.

## **Serving at the Soup Kitchen**

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 18 January 2025. It takes place from 8h30 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](mailto:chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch)) for more information.

## **Administrative Assistant on Vacation**

Riza Le Geyt will be on vacation until 3 January. The office will be closed during this time, but emails and phone messages will be checked regularly. For any urgent matters, please contact Pastor Andy directly at 079 544 70 12.

## **Consider a Year-End Gift to the Congregation**

For many, Christmas is a time for giving thanks and expressing generosity. Please consider a gift to the congregation as the year comes to a close, perhaps in thanks for the role it has played in your life or your family's life this year. It is possible to give via bank or post transfer, PayPal, TWINT, or in cash during an upcoming worship service. All the details are on our website, and any gift is meaningful and a great help: <https://genevalutheran.church/giving/>

*Thank you for generosity and your part in our community's life!*

Cover Image:  
Swanson, John August. Shepherds, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the  
Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-  
image/act-image-link.pl?RC=58575](https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=58575)

**This Week's Schedule:**

<b>Wed, 25 Dec</b>	<b>11h00</b>	Worship on Christmas Day
<b>Sun, 29 Dec</b>	<b>11h00</b>	Worship on the First Sunday of Christmas, Rev. Sarah Stephens preaching and presiding
<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:



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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Comments \_\_\_\_\_

New to Geneva? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_