

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

29 DECEMBER 2024

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

*We are a congregation where music, liturgy,  
and prayer reflect the richness of the global church.*

*We gather each week for worship that is both firmly rooted in the ancient forms and traditions of Christian liturgy and attuned to contemporary concerns. We encounter the good news of Jesus in scripture, in song, in the sacraments, and in the gathered community. The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle shapes our weekly worship, leading us to pray for and sing songs from different parts of the world.*

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:

*Guest preacher and presider:* Rev. Sarah Stephens

*Musician:* Terry MacArthur

*Reader:* Clarissa Balan, Caetano de Chassey

*Prayer leader:* Marc de Chassey

*Altar care:* Mee Ji

*Assisting ministers:* Marc and Eva de Chassey

*Ushers:* Caetano and Alessia de Chassey

*Offering counters:* Tom Taylor

*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:*  
<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>

***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**

**The First Sunday after Christmas + 29 December 2024, 11h00**

**Guest Preacher and Presider: Rev. Sarah Stephens**

**Guest musician: Terry MacArthur**

**Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Stateless peoples***

Welcome

Prelude

*Voluntary on Garton*

Terry MacArthur

Greeting

Compassion,  
***the gift of seeing through another's eyes,***  
kindness,  
***the gift of grace in a smile,***  
humility,  
***the gift of not worrying about oneself,***  
meekness,  
***the gift of serving others,***  
patience,  
***the gift of being able to wait,***  
bearing with one another,  
***the gift of valuing community,***  
forgiveness,  
***the gift of reconciliation,***  
gratitude,  
***the gift of knowing we receive more than our own effort,***  
peace,  
***the gift of trust,***  
love,  
***the gift of God,***  
***whose coming into our world binds us together.***  
Clothed in the gifts of Jesus Christ,  
***we worship in the name of the blessed Trinity,***  
***one God now and ever.***

## Hymn

## Love came down at Christmas

Christina G. Rossetti

Irish melody; harmony, David Evans

1. Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, Love di - vine;  
 2. Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;  
 3. Love shall be our to - ken, love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ-mas, star and an - gels gave the sign.  
 wor - ship we our Je - sus: but where - with for sa - cred sign?  
 Love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

## Call to Confession

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## Prayer of Confession

When there is more anger and less patience,  
*gracious God, forgive us.*

When there is more pride and less considering others as better than  
ourselves,  
*forgive us.*

When there is more self-serving and less self-giving,  
*forgive us.*

Clothe us in the warmth of your Spirit,  
*so we can shed the armors of position and status,*  
*to gain Christ ruling in our hearts.*

*Turn us to loving,*  
*so that what we do in word and deed,*  
*in thoughts and feelings,*  
*in long-term plans and everyday habits,*  
*honors the name, Jesus Christ,*  
*your presence in our midst. Amen.*

## Kyrie eleison

From the Mass of the Holy Family

Yusuf Khill: Palestine

Ky-ri - e e-le - i - son. Ya - Rab ya Ra - bur - ham ya Ra - bur -

ham. Chris - te e-le - i - son. E-yu-hal - Ma si - hur - ham e-yu-

hal - Ma-si - hur - ham. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -

e e - le - i - son ya Ra - bur - ham.

Music © Yusuf Khill.

## Words of Grace

# Hymn of Praise

## The snow lay on the ground

Anglo-Irish carol

England



1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, when
2. 'Twas gen - tle Ma - ry maid, so young and strong, who
3. And Jo - seph too was there to tend the Child, to
4. And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne, for



Christ our Lord was born on Christ - mas night. Ve -  
wel - comed here the Christ - child with a song. She  
guard him, and pro - tect his moth - er mild. The  
he whom Ma - ry bore was God, the Son. Oh



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do  
laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the ass and ox - en  
an - gels hov - ered round and sang this song; Ve - ni - te a - do  
come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host, to praise the Fa - ther,



re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus  
shared the roof with them.  
re - mus Do - mi - num.  
Son and Ho - ly Ghost.



Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

*Come, let us adore the Lord.*

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

## Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift

that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. . . Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

from Psalm 148

Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

***Let them praise the name of the Lord,***

for God commanded and they were created.

***God established them forever and ever;***

God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

***Praise the Lord from the earth,***

Reader: you sea monsters and all deeps,

*Women: fire and hail,*

*Men: snow and frost,*

All: ***stormy wind fulfilling God's command!***

*Women: Mountains and all hills,*

*Men: fruit trees and all cedars!*

*Women: Wild animals and all cattle,*

*Men: creeping things and flying birds!*

Reader: Kings and queens of the earth and all peoples,

***Governors and all rulers of the earth!***

*Women: Young men*

*Men: and women alike,*

All: ***old and young together!***

Reader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,

*Women: whose name alone is exalted;*

*Men: whose glory is above earth and heaven.*

Reader: God has raised up a horn for the people,

*Men: praise for all the faithful,*

*Women: for the people of Israel who are close to God.*

All: ***Praise the Lord!***

# Alleluia

Palestine



## Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 2.

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

# Alleluia

## Hymn

**Born in the night**

Geoffrey Ainger: England

1. Born in the night, Mar-y's child, a long way from your home;  
 2. Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's child, your face lights up our way;  
 3. Truth of our life, Mar-y's child, you tell us God is good,  
 4. Hope of the world, Mar-y's child, you're com-ing soon to reign;  
 com-ing in need, Mar-y's child, born in a bor-rowed room.  
 Light of the world, Mar-y's child, dawn on our shad-owed day.  
 prove it is true, Mar-y's child, go to your cross of wood.  
 Sov-ereign of earth, Mar-y's child, walk in our streets a-gain.

English and Music Geoffrey Ainger © 1972 Stainer &amp; Bell.

## 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.*


### The Passing of the 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



### Anthem

*A mother lined a basket*  
*English, Mary Nelson Keithahn, USA. Music Terry MacArthur.*

- 1. A mother lined a basket to keep her baby dry,  
then rocked him on a river, lest he awake and cry.  
She let a princess name him her son that he might live.  
God's people had a leader. She had such hope to give.*
- 2. A mother sewed a jacket, lined in the softest wool,  
then dressed her little boychild, her cup of blessing full.  
She brought him to the temple where he would serve and live.  
God's people had a prophet. She had such faith to give.*
- 3. A mother laid her baby in manger lined with straw;  
then, in the shepherds' story, his call from God foresaw.  
She nurtured him and taught him the way that he must live.  
God's people had a savior. She had such love to give.*

4. Like Jochebed and Hannah, and Mary too,  
 we know the hardest part of loving is learning to let go,  
 so when we send our children out in the world to live,  
 grant us such hope and faith, God, and love enough to give.

## Offertory

## 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.

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

*It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

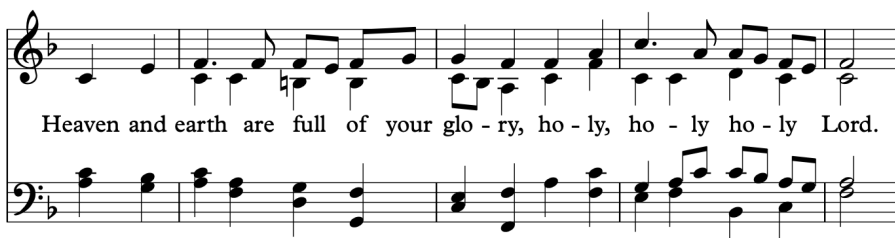
## Preface

### Sanctus

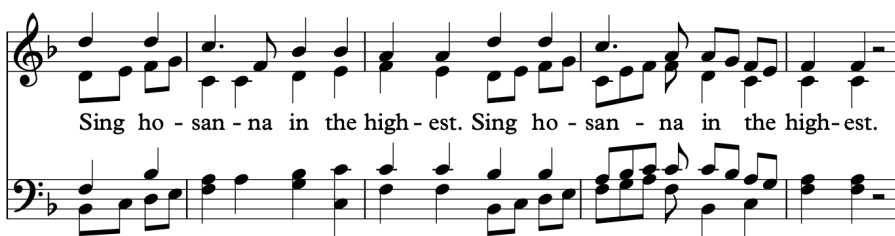
Henry J. Gauntlett



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er God of might.

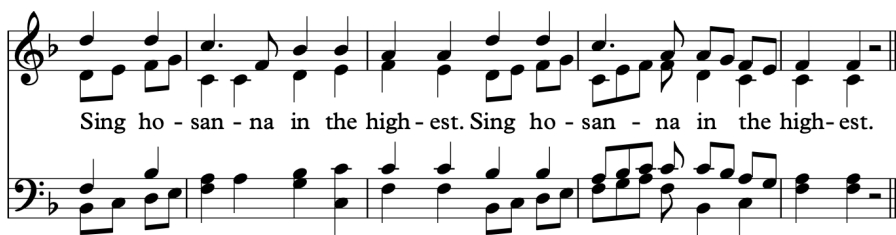


Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord.



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est. Sing ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.



Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

None of us is wearing the right clothing to earn our place at the table. But as we gather round, Christ clothes us in his grace.

We remember what he means to us.

In his name, we eat love and drink love,  
the body and blood of Christ.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith.

***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

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.***

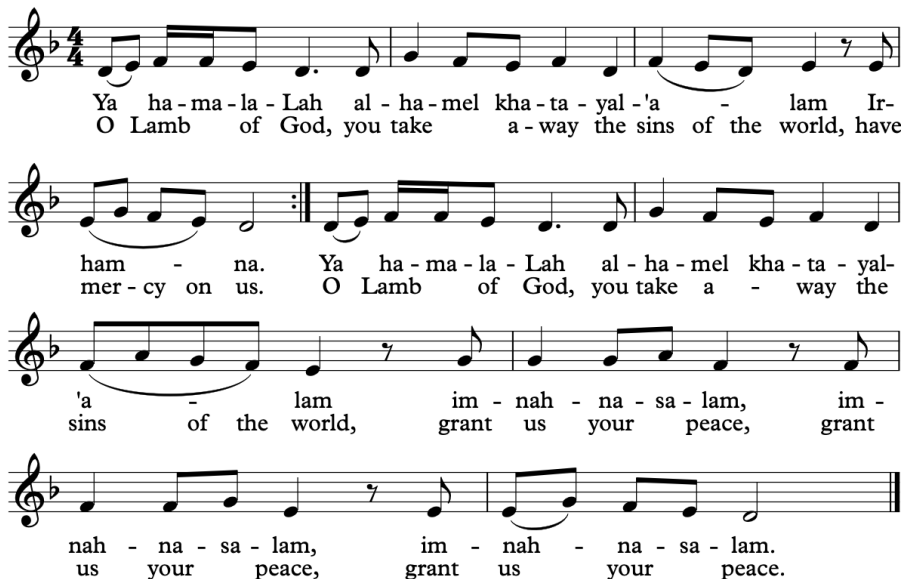
***For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.***

# Agnus Dei

## Ya hamalaLah

From the Mass of the Holy Family

Yusuf Khill: Palestine



Ya ha - ma - la - Lah al - ha - mel kha - ta - yal - 'a - lam Ir-  
 O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have  
 ham - na. Ya ha - ma - la - Lah al - ha - mel kha - ta - yal-  
 mer - cy on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 'a - lam im - nah - na - sa - lam, im -  
 sins of the world, grant us your peace, grant  
 nah - na - sa - lam, im - nah - na - sa - lam.  
 us your peace, grant us your peace.

Music ©Yusuf Khill.

## Invitation to Communion

*All are welcome for communion.*

*Come and take any empty space around the altar. You will receive the bread.*

*Then choose a cup: a dark cup for wine, a lighter cup for grape juice.*

*Place the used cup on the next tray before returning to your seat.*

# Songs during Communion

## Away in a manger

William Kirkpatrick

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray.

the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

# Do you hear what I hear

Noël Regney

Gloria Shayne: USA

1. Said the night wind to the lit - tle lamb,  
 2. Said the lit - tle lamb to the shep - herd boy,  
 3. Said the shep - herd boy to the might - y king,  
 4. Said the king to the peo - ple ev - ery - where,

'Do you see what I see? Way up in the sky, lit - tle lamb,  
 'Do you hear what I hear? Ring-ing through the sky, shep-herd boy,  
 'Do you know what I know? In your pal - ace warm, might-y king,  
 'Lis-ten to what I say. Pray for peace, peo - ple ev - ery where.

Do you see what I see? A star, a star,  
 Do you hear what I hear? A song, a song,  
 Do you know what I know? A child, a child,  
 Lis - ten to what I say. The child, the child,

danc - ing in the night with a tail as big as a  
 high a - bove the trees with a voice as big as the  
 shiv - ers in the cold. Let us bring him sil - ver and  
 sleep - ing in the night He will bring us good - ness and

kite, with a tail as big as a kite.'  
 sea, with a voice as big as the sea.'  
 gold. Let us bring Him sil - ver and gold.'  
 light He will bring us good - ness and light.'

English and Music © 1962 by Gloria Shayne and Noël Ragney

## The virgin Mary had a baby boy

West Indian carol

The vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, the vir - gin Ma - ry had a  
ba - by boy, the vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, and they  
say that his name is Je - sus. He come from the glo - ry,  
he come from the glo - rious king - dom. He come from the  
glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom. Oh,  
yes! be - liev - er! Oh, yes! be - liev - er! He come from the  
glo - ry, he come from the glo - rious king - dom.

2. The angels sang when the baby was born.
3. The shepherds came where the baby was born.
4. The Wise Men came where the baby was born.

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Next Sunday, 5 January – Worship at 17h30**

On the first Sunday of the month we meet in the evening for worship. We will celebrate the eve of Epiphany, Twelfth Night by the old counting. Maybe the stars will point to a Gateau des Rois after the service. Terry MacArthur will be preaching.

## **Women's Circle Invitation – Saturday 11 January**

Ladies! You're invited to come to our Church Women's Circle! We will gather in our church, which is our village, on one Saturday each month for coffee and croissants and to share in fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome in the Circle. We plan to meet next on Saturday **11 January from 10h00 to 12h00**. Contact Marit Bauer-Moore (079 320 3046; [maritbmoore@hotmail.com](mailto:maritbmoore@hotmail.com)) or Cynthia Wilbers (079 409 8503; [cwilbers@gmail.com](mailto:cwilbers@gmail.com)) for more information.

## **Serving at the Soup Kitchen – 18 January**

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.

## **Choir Rehearsals Resume 9 January**

The choir is taking a short break over the holidays. Regular Thursday evening rehearsals will resume on 9 January.

## **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

29 December – Group B

5 January – Group C

12 January – Groupm D

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

## 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/> Any gold, frankincense or myrrh will be deeply appreciated by the wise folk on their way to Bethlehem for Epiphany.

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

Cover Image:

JESUS MAFA. Jesus among the teachers,  
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48280>

## This Week's Schedule:

**Sun, 5 Jan      17h30**    Worship on Epiphany Sunday,  
Rev. Terry MacArthur preaching

*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:



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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!*

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

New to Geneva? Y/N

Date \_\_\_\_\_