

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

12 JANUARY 2025

# 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 morning:

*Reader:* Kiki Lawal

*Prayer leader:* Jonathan Mtata

*Altar care:* Aleida Auld

*Assisting ministers:* Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti,  
Vivien Liu

*Ushers:* Ngoni Hove, Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti

*Offering counters:* Fulata Moyo, Sam Mungure

*Church school:* May Chin Long, Gladys Yegon

*Flowers:* Rumiko Jaussi

*Coffee hour:* Neighborhood Group D

*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/>*

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***English-Speaking Congregation***  
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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

The Baptism of Christ + 12 January 2025, 11h00  
First Sunday after Epiphany

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Iran, Iraq, Syria*

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

Standing in the river,  
we hear that Jesus of Nazareth is the Beloved of God.  
***Watching in the river, we see the Spirit descending like a dove.***  
Waiting in the river,  
we sense the presence of saints, old and new, standing by.  
***Bathing in the river, our fears flow away,  
released by the current of love.***  
Splashing in the river, we rejoice, renewed in the sun.  
***Standing in the river, we behold the First-born One,  
creation's splendor,  
who names us Beloved by the God we worship.***

# Hymn

## Come, beloved of the Maker

*During the last verse the children are invited to gather around the font.*

Susan Palo Cherwien

David Cherwien: USA



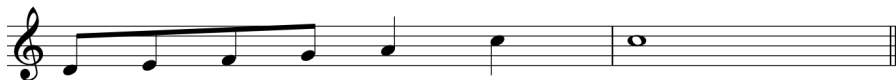
1. Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er,  
 2. See the Mor - ning - star now beck - on  
 3. Fol - low to the birth of new - ness;  
 4. There we too will burn of and bright - en,  
 5. Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er,



come, be - hold the First - born One;  
 to those bound to the doubt and night;  
 to fol - low to the life of peace;  
 God's re - splen - dent work be - gun;  
 God, whose glo - ry none may pass,



see re - vealed cre - a - tion's splen - dor  
 "Fol - low me," Christ calls in wel - come,  
 fol - low to the hill of an - guish;  
 glo - ry will as - cend and height - en,  
 Spir - it, sun of love and splen - dor,



crowned in glo - ry like the sun.  
 "come from dark - ness in - to light."  
 fol - low to the gar - den bliss.  
 crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.  
 bear us in - to light at last.

English © 2001 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin by Augsburg Fortress. Music, David Cherwien © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

# Litany

Syriac

as taught by Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim: Syria

*In peace let us pray to the Lord.*



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



*For the peace of the whole world, let us pray to the Lord.*



*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.*



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



## Hymn of Praise

## Children of the light

Nejat Productions

Farsi

1. Ay far - zan - da - ne nur, ger - de ham bi - ya - eid  
 1. Oh chil - dren of the light, lift up your voice in praise,  
 Ba sha - di o so - rood, oo raa be sa - ra - eid  
 with glad-ness and with songs come sing his high - est praise.  
 Aan - dar ho - zo - re vey, das - tha ba - ra - fra - zid Mon-  
 In the pre-sence of the Lord lift up your hands to praise the  
 gee ye a - lam ra - sho - kroo se - pas go - eid. Mon-  
 Sav - ior of the world. Give high - est thanks and praise. To the  
 gee ye a - lam ra - sho - kroo se - pas go - eid.  
 Sav - ior of the world give high - est thanks and praise.

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## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

## Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

***ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.***

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;

***worship the Lord in holy splendor.***

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

***the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.***

The voice of the Lord is powerful;

***the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.***

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
*the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.*  
 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
 and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
*The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.*  
 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
*the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*  
 The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
*and strips the forest bare;*  
 and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
*Glory!*  
 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
*the Lord sits enthroned as ruler forever.*  
 May the Lord give strength to the people!  
*May the Lord bless the people with peace!*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord,  
     he who created you, O Jacob,  
     he who formed you, O Israel:  
 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
     I have called you by name, you are mine.  
 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
     and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
 when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
     and the flame shall not consume you.  
 For I am the Lord your God,  
     the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
 I give Egypt as your ransom,  
     Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
 Because you are precious in my sight,  
     and honoured, and I love you,  
 I give people in return for you,  
     nations in exchange for your life.  
 Do not fear, for I am with you;  
     I will bring your offspring from the east,  
     and from the west I will gather you;  
 I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
     and to the south, 'Do not withhold;  
 bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
 everyone who is called by my name,  
 whom I created for my glory,  
 whom I formed and made.’  
 This is the word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Alleluia

♩ = 108                      as taught by Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim: Syria

Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

As taught by Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim © PO Box 4194, Aleppo, Syria.

## Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 3.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



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

Alleluia

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

**When Jesus came to Jordan**

Fred Pratt Green

English folk tune



1. When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,  
2. He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,  
3. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make,  
he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.  
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.  
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - ery bond - age break.  
He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,  
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him the Son of Man,  
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most;  
to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.  
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.  
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

English © 1980 Hope Publishing Company.

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.*


## 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

*Wade in the water*

Choir

*Traditional, arranged by Sigrid Schultz-Kokerbeck*

*Refrain: Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,  
wade in the water, God's goin' to trouble the water.*

*See that band all dressed in white,  
God's goin' to trouble the water.  
The leader looks like the Israelite,  
God's goin' to trouble the water.*

*See that band all dressed in red,  
God's goin' to trouble the water.  
It looks like the band that Moses led.  
God's goin' to trouble the water.*

*See that host all dressed in green,  
God's goin' to trouble the water.  
Wade in the water to wash us clean,  
God's goin' to trouble the water.*

# Offertory

## We give you thanks

Greek Orthodox

*Bass G*

We give you thanks, Christ, our God,

*Bass D*

for your earth - ly gifts!

*Bass E* *Bass D*

Do not de - prive us of your hea - ven - ly king - dom,

but as you came a - mong your dis - ci - ples, O Sav - ior,

*Bass G*

giv - ing them your peace, come al - so a - mong us and save us.

# Great Thanksgiving

Sursum corda

*Pastor* *People*

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

*Pastor* *People*

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Pastor*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

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

## Preface

### Sanctus

### Quduson

From the Mass of the Holy Family

Yusuf Khill: Palestine

Qu - du - son qu - du - son qu - du - so - ni - Ra - bul - qa  
Most Ho - ly, Most Ho - ly, Most Ho - ly Lord God of

wi - yu I - la - hu - sa - ba - 'ot a - sa -  
power and might, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth. All of

ma - 'u - wal - 'ar - du mam lu - 'a - 'ta - ni min maj - di - ka Hu -  
hea - ven and all of the earth are full of your ma - jes - ty. Ho -

sha' - na fil - 'a - 'a - li, hu - sha' - na fil - 'a - 'a - li, hu sha' - na fil - 'a - 'a -  
sa - na in the high - est. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Ho - sa - na in the high

li, Mu - ba - ra - kon al - 'a - ti mu -  
est. Most bless - ed is the one who comes, the

ba - ra kon - al - 'a - ti bis - mi - Rab. Hu - sha' - na fil - 'a - 'a - li, hu -  
one who comes to us in our Lord's name. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Ho -

sha' - na fil - 'a - 'a - li, hu - sha' - na fil - 'a - 'a - li.  
sa - na in the high - est. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.

Music © Yusuf Khill. English paraphrase by Maggie Hamilton © 1999 Counterpoint.

### Eucharistic Prayer

### Words of Institution

## Remembering

We remember Christ, baptized, called Beloved of God,  
calling us Beloved of God,  
offering us this bread, his body, this wine, his blood.  
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

### Don't be afraid

Wild Goose Worship Group, Iona Community: Scotland

Don't be a- afraid. My love is strong-er, my love is strong-er than your  
fear. Don't be a- afraid. My love is strong-er and  
I have prom - ised, prom-ised to be al - ways near.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes.

© 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland.

### Deep waters

Trisha Watts: Australia

Deep wa - ters flow - ing, call - ing all to fol - low.  
Watch - ing, listen - ing, wait - ing, si - lence finds a home.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are written below the notes.

© 1992 Trisha Watts, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd., PO Box 341, Dee Why, NSW 2099 Australia.

# Chon rizad

Roozbeh Najarnejad: Farsi

Chon ri-zad ba-ra-né roo-hé to bar ka-vi-ré 'al-  
As the rain of your Spir-it pours out ov-er my de-sert

bam heart, bi-ya-ba-nha boo-stan mi-gar-dan  
gar-dens spring from the wil-der-ness and

ba lam-sé roo-hat hat sha-fa-hi  
flowers bloom with your touch. touch. A sur-prise,

ta-zeh bak-shad jo-nam ra sier gar-da-nad. so-roo-di  
heal-ing comes near. I'm re-newed, ful-ly a-live. A new song

ta-zeh na-had bar lab-hoy-yé tar-sa-nam  
flows from my lips, and its sound count-ers my fear.

a-za-dim ba lam-sé ou pi-roo-zim dar na-mé ou  
With his touch, I be-come free. My suc-cess found in his name,

bi-ya-banan boo-stan sha-vad boo-stan-ha jan-gle sha-vad  
all the dry plac-es made green, and the green burst-ing with flowers.

English paraphrase by Terry MacArthur based on a translation by Neda Gehl.

## Down to the river to pray

*Traditional American, origins unknown*

*Verse 1 (choir): As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that Gospel way, and who shall wear the starry crown, O Lord, show me the way.*

*All women join in:*

*All sopranos and altos*



O, sis - ters let's go down, let's go down, come on down.



O, sis - ters let's go down, down to the riv - er to pray.

*Verse 2 (choir): As I went down to the river to sing, offering my praise to Christ, the King, who leads us to the starry crown, O Lord, show me the way.*

*All men join in:*

*All tenors and basses*



O, bro - thers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.



O, bro - thers let's go down, down to the riv - er to pray.

*All:*



3. As I went down to the ri - ver to heal, bind - ing up the

4. As I went down to the ri - ver to learn how the Ho - ly

5. As I went down to the ri - ver to pray, stu - dy - ing a -



wounds so they don't steal my heart from reach - ing its i - deal, O

Spir - it helps us turn to find the love that's free - dom's crown, O

bout that Gos - pel way and who shall wear the star - ry crown, O





Lord, show me the way. O, moth - ers let's go down, let's go down  
Lord, show me the way. O, fa - thers, let's go down, let's go down  
Lord, show me the way. O, sin - ners, let's go down, let's go down



come on down. O, moth - ers, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray.  
come on down. O, fa - thers, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray.  
come on down. O, sin - ners, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray.

## Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

### Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Interested in Joining the English-Speaking Congregation?**

Membership in our congregation is simple, a way of claiming this as your home church in Geneva for however long you are here. You can still retain membership in a church in your home country if you wish. If you'd like to learn more about joining the congregation as a member, please contact the church office or Andy Willis soon. We plan to receive newmembers shortly and will hold an orientation session in the coming weeks.

## **Women's Circle Invitation**

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Sunday each month at 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome.

Dates for your calendars in 2025: 8 February, 15 March, 19 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November and Friday, 5 December from 18h30 for the dinner. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore (079 320 3046) Cynthia Wilbers (079 409 8503) Gladys Yegon (077 916 5476) Margaret Kehoe-Winkler (077 422 0681) for more information.

## **Choir Rehearsals – Thursday Evenings at 19h30**

The choir of the English-Speaking Congregation is open to all. We meet weekly on Thursday evenings to prepare music for the upcoming Sunday and work on additional pieces. Come and sing!

## **Lunch and Games for Teens – Sunday 19 January**

Following worship on Sunday 19 January, teens are invited to spend the afternoon together at the church. We'll have lunch as a group and play board games together. All youth ages 13-19 are welcome to join!

## **Worship Committee – Meeting on 22 January**

Stars, Lent, Easter: these will be on the agenda for the next worship committee: Wednesday 22 January, 19h00 at the church. We start by evaluating Advent/Christmas and then brainstorm ideas for Lent/Easter. We bring food to share, and over bread and cheese, and whatever other food is brought, plan the worship life of our congregation. It is not a closed committee. One-time visitors are welcome as well as others who might like to get further involved in the planning. There are rumors that someone is going to propose we plant potatoes this Lent.

## **Men's Group – Drums and Waffles, 25 January**

Bring some percussion, or just yourself. We have many percussion instruments in church you can try. No percussion experience is required, just a willingness to join in the sound. Terry MacArthur will animate the rhythm. We'll meet at the church on Saturday 25 January from 10h00 to 11h30 with a coffee pot on and waffles for a break. Invite a friend.

## **Serving Weekly Coffee Hour**

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday.

Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

19 January – Group E

26 January – Group A

2 February – Group B

9 February – Group C

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

Cover Image:

Ceiling, Salzburg Cathedral. Image by Marco Sacchi via Flickr; licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/96910855@N08/15102486952/>

**This Week's Schedule:**

<b>Thurs, 16 Jan</b>	<b>19h30</b>	Choir practice
<b>Sat, 18 Jan</b>	<b>8h30</b>	Serving at the soup kitchen
<b>Sun, 19 Jan</b>	<b>10h00</b>	Church school
	<b>11h00</b>	Worship on the Second Sunday after Epiphany
	<b>12h30</b>	Lunch and games for teens
<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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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!*

\*\*\*\*\*

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