

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

EPIPHANY EVE



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 17H30  
5 JANUARY 2025

# 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:* Rev. Terry MacArthur

*Reader:* Nina Kiderlin

*Prayer leader:* Bismark Sitorus

*Altar care:* Aleida Auld

*Assisting ministers:* Clare Duran, Faith Fookes

*Ushers:* Maarten Wilbers, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi

*Offering counters:* Tom Taylor, Marian Frerichs

*Flowers:* Faith Fookes

*Coffee hour:* Neighborhood Group C

*Videographers:* Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

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<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

Epiphany Eve + 5 January 2025, 17h30

Guest Preacher: Rev. Terry MacArthur

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine*

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

Hymn

**The first Noel**

English traditional



1. The first No - el the an - gels did say was to cer - tain poor  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
3. And by the light of that same star three wise men  
4. This star drew nigh to the north-west o'er Beth - le -  
5. Then en - tered in those wise men three full rev - erent



shep - herds in fields as they lay: in fields where they lay  
east be - yond them far and to the earth it  
came from coun - try far to seek for a king was  
hem it took its rest; and there it did both  
ly up - on their knee and of - fered there in



keep - ing their sheep on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
gave great light and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
their in - tent and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
stop and stay right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
his pre - sence their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el!



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## Litany

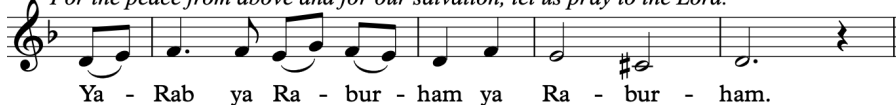
From the Mass of the Holy Family

*In peace let us pray to the Lord.*

Yusuf Khill: Palestine



*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.*



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



Music © Yusuf Khill.

## Hymn of Praise

## Children of the light

Nejat Productions

Farsi



1. Oh chil - dren of the light, lift up your voice in praise,



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.*

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# Alleluia

Palestine



## Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 2.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Alleluia

Sermon

Terry MacArthur

Hymn

**I want to walk as a child of the light**

Kathleen Thomerson: USA

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.

I want to fol-low Je-sus, God set the stars to give  
I want to look at Je-sus. Clear Sun of Righ-teous-ness,  
light to the world. The star of my life is Je-sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa-ther.

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the  
day are both a-like. The Lamb is the light of the  
cit-y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

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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  
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Confirm amount and  
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## Offertory

## When God almighty

Michael Hewlett

1. When God Al - might - y came to be one of us,  
2. Splen - dor of Rome and Lo - cal Au - thor - i - ty,  
3. Wise men, they called them, ear - nest as - tro - log - ers,  
4. Sing, all cre - a - tion, made for his pur - pos - es,

mask - ing the glo - ry of his gold - en train,  
work - ing on pol - i - cy with fur - rowed head,  
watch - ing for mean - ing in the mov - ing stars,  
called by his pro - vi - dence to live and move:

doz - ens of plain things kin - dled by ac - ci - dent,  
joined to lo - cate Mes - si - ah's na - tiv - i - ty,  
sci - ence or fan - cy, learn - ed or laugh - a - ble,  
none is un - want - ed, none in - sig - ni - fi - cant,

and they will nev - er be the same a - gain.  
just where the pro - phets had the al - read - y said.  
theirs was a vi - sion that was brought to pass.  
love needs a u - ni - verse of folk to love,

Sing all you mid - wives, dance all the car - pen - ters,  
Sing all you tax - men, dance the Com - mis - sion - ers,  
Sing all you wise men, dance all the sci - en - tists,  
old men and maid - ens, young men and lit - tle ones,

sing all the pub - li - cans and shep - herds too,  
sing all the ser - vants and po - lice - men too,  
wheth - er your the - o - ries are false or true,  
hap - py and in - no - cent and doubt - ful too,

God in his mer - cy us - es the com - mon - place  
God to his pur - pose us - es the gov - ern - ments,  
God us - es know - ledge, God us - es ig - no - rance,  
God on his birth - day, and to e - ter - ni - ty,

God on his birth - day had a need of you.  
God on his birth - day had a need of you.  
God on his birth - day had a need of you.  
God took up - on him - self the need of you.

## 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

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.*

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

## Eucharistic Prayer

### Words of Institution

### Remembering

At this table we remember Christ, his words, his life, his gift to us  
and to the whole world. 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,*

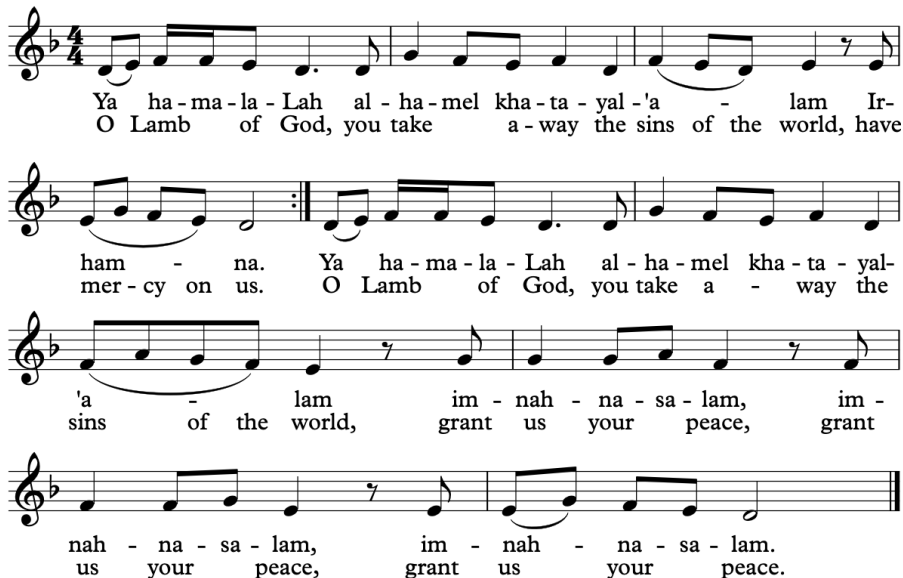
*now and forever. Amen.*

# 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 **We Three Kings**

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise King and God and



tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,  
crown him a - gain. King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er  
de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing,  
gath - er - ing gloom, sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,  
sac - ri - fice. Heaven sings Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -

### *Refrain*



fol - low - ing yon - der star. Oh, star of won - der, star of night,  
o - ver us all to reign.  
wor - ship - ing, God most high.  
sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
lu - ia the earth re - plies.



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

# Chon rizad

Roozbeh Najarnejad: Farsi

Chon ri-zad ba-ra-né roo-hé to bar ka-vi-ré 'al-de-sert  
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.

## Arise, shine for your light has come

Isaiah 60:1

Ruth Cunningham: USA

A musical score for a hymn in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. The score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "A - rise, shine, for your light has come, and the glo - ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you." The music features a simple, melodic line for the voice and a piano accompaniment consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Music, Ruth Cunningham © 2007 by Ruth Cunningham. Used by permission

## Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

### Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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.

## **Choir Rehearsals Resume 9 January**

The first rehearsal of the new year will be 9 January, 19h30 to 21h00 in the sanctuary. Enter by the side door.

## **Serving Weekly Coffee Hour**

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

12 January – Group D	26 January – Group A
19 January – Group E	2 February – Group B

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

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Moyers, Mike. Awake My Soul, 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=57138>

**This Week's Schedule:**

<b>Thurs, 9 Jan</b>	<b>19h30</b>	Choir practice
<b>Sat, 11 Jan</b>	<b>10h00</b>	Women's Circle
<b>Sun, 12 Jan</b>	<b>11h00</b>	Worship on First Sunday after Epiphany
<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!*

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