

# EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

9 MARCH 2025

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

*We are a community on the move,  
discovering Christ together on the journey of faith.*

*We see Christianity as a path to be walked together—learning, serving, praying, sharing, and growing alongside sisters and brothers. As we live and practice our faith, we not only encounter a new community; we also find the presence of God.*

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:* Adela Bevan

*Prayers:* Dinesh Suna

*Altar care:* Aleida Auld-Brun, Nanah Naing'Olah

*Assisting ministers:* Elisabeth Benn, Eva de Chassey,

Jonathan Mtata, Yatich Yegon

*Ushers:* Holly and Hubertus Davie, Caetano de Chassey

*Offering counters:* May Chin Long, Fulata Moyo

*Flowers:* Hellen Msemu

*Videographers:* Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

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

***Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva***  
***English-Speaking Congregation***  
**20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland**  
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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis  
Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

First Sunday in Lent + 9 March 2025, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:  
*Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales*

The Lord's Prayer: "Our Father in Heaven"

Welcome

Prelude

*Our Father who art in heaven*  
*Caribbean traditional*

Children's choir

Greeting

Lord,  
***God,***  
Good Lord,  
***Lord of hosts,***  
the Eternal,  
***Sabaoth,***  
Almighty,  
***the All-merciful,***  
Our Shepherd,  
***the Seeker of the Lost,***  
the Father Waiting,  
***the Everlasting Arms,***  
Comforter,  
***Mothering Spirit,***  
Creator,  
***Our Dad in heaven—***  
the names don't stop,  
***like the one named.***

This One whom we worship,  
*this One to whom we pray,*  
 this One outside us  
*and yet for us*  
 calls us together to listen, to wonder, to sing,  
*to glorify the Blessed Trinity, one God,*  
*God for us, and for all humanity, always.*

Hymn                      **All people that on earth do dwell**                      v. 1-3

William Kethe: England, adapted by Thomas H. Troeger    Louis Bourgeois: Geneva

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing out your  
 2. Know that there is one God, in - deed, who fash - ions  
 3. En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with joy ap -  
 4. Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose mer - cy

faith with cheer - ful voice; de - light in God whose  
 us with - out our aid, who claims us, gives us  
 proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our  
 is for ev - er sure, whose truth at all times

praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.  
 all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.  
 God al - ways, as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.  
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Giving Thanks for the Name of God

Hymn                      **All people that on earth do dwell**                      v. 4

*While we sing, those children who wish are invited to go to church school.*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

How easily 'I' replaces 'we,' Gracious Papa,  
*as if our personal concerns are more important than others,*  
*as if what we desire has precedence over what others need,*  
*as if we need you take our side over against those with whom we disagree.*

How easily we lose trust, truth, community,  
the circles of care becoming smaller and smaller  
until what is left is loneliness and hurt.

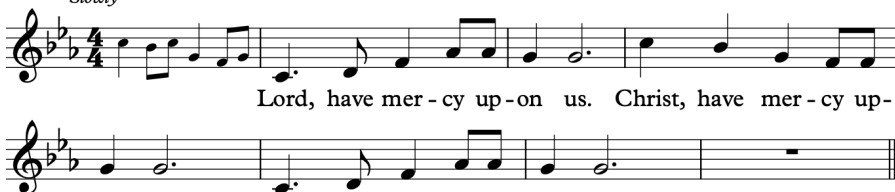
*Forgive when we are only an 'I,'*  
*turned ever more self-serving,*  
*lost in a haze that no longer sees others*  
*but only the failure, fear, and ferocity constantly summoned up.*

Renew in us the gift being with each other,  
*discovering again and again how much we have in common,*  
*how much we need you,*  
*how much we can let go*  
*to become the body of Christ together,*  
*praying, Our Father,*  
*knowing that we are family in your love.*

### Kyrie

John Bell: Iona Community, Scotland

*Slowly*



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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### Words of Grace

# Hymn of Praise

## Céad míle failte romhat

Irish



Céad mí - le fail - te romhat, a Ío - sa, a Ío - sa Céad mí - le  
keyaid - mee - la fall - shuh rote a ee - sa a ee - sa. keyaid mee - la

*Guide for pronunciation*



fail - te romhat, a Ío - sa Céad mí - le fail - te romhat a Shlán - aí -  
fall-shuh rote a ee - sa. keyaid mee - la fall-shuh rote a han - a -



theoir Céad mí - le mí - le fail - te romhat, Ío - sa, a Ío - sa  
hwore. keyaid mee - la mee - la fall - shuh rote. ee - sa a ee - sa.

*Second line from the Phil Ilten authorized pronunciation guide*

1. A hundred thousand welcomes, O Jesus, O Jesus. A hundred thousand welcomes, O Savior.

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

## Epistle Reading

Galatians 4:1-7

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## Gospel Acclamation

**Be thou my vision**

Ancient Irish trans. Mary Byrne  
 versed by Eleanor Hull

Traditional Irish melody



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all  
 else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by  
 day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

## Gospel

Luke 15:11-32

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15.

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

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted

calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”’

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

Gospel Acclamation

**Be thou my vision**

Sermon

Andy Willis

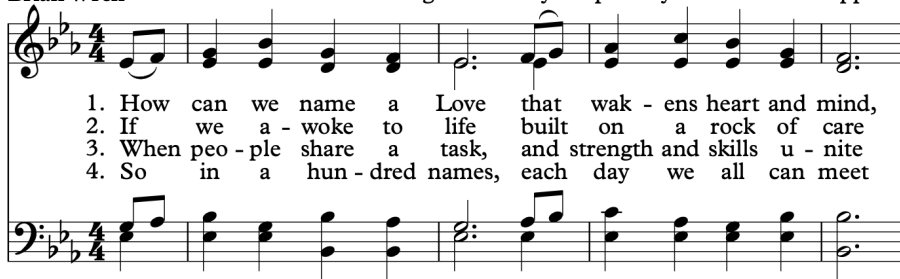


## Hymn

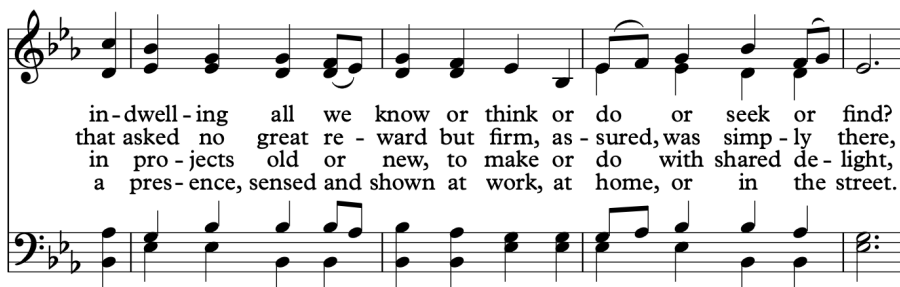
## How can we name a love

Brian Wren

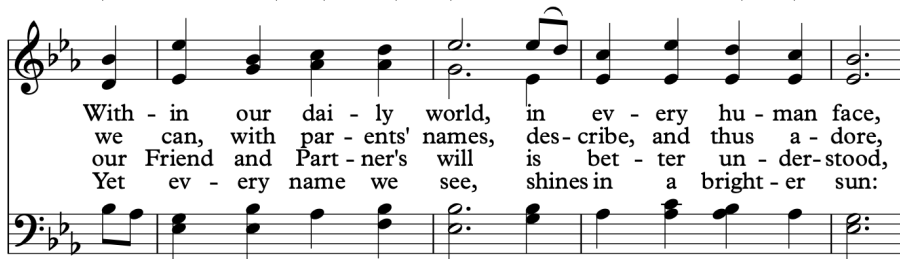
English melody adapted by Franklin L. Sheppard



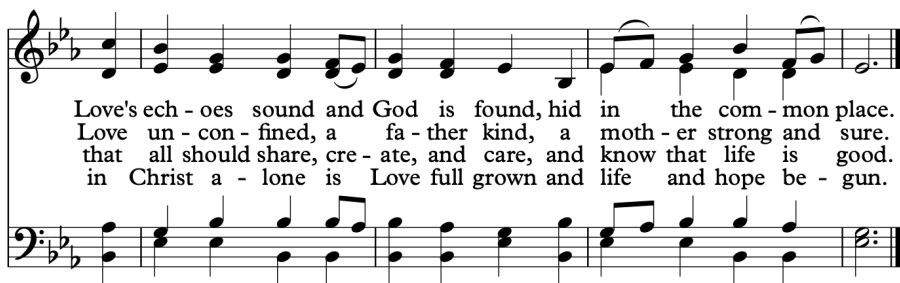
1. How can we name a Love that wak - ens heart and mind,  
 2. If we a - woke to life built on a rock of care  
 3. When peo - ple share a task, and strength and skills u - nite  
 4. So in a hun - dred names, each day we all can meet



in - dwell - ing all we know or think or do or seek or find?  
 that asked no great re - ward but firm, as - sured, was simp - ly there,  
 in pro - jects old or new, to make or do with shared de - light,  
 a pres - ence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.



With - in our dai - ly world, in ev - ery hu - man face,  
 we can, with par - ents' names, des - cribe, and thus a - dore,  
 our Friend and Part - ner's will is bet - ter un - der - stood,  
 Yet ev - ery name we see, shines in a bright - er sun:



Love's ech - oes sound and God is found, hid in the com - mon place.  
 Love un - con - fined, a fa - ther kind, a moth - er strong and sure.  
 that all should share, cre - ate, and care, and know that life is good.  
 in Christ a - lone is Love full grown and life and hope be - gun.

## 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.***


## 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!**



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Confirm amount and  
donation



## Gathering of Gifts

*Like as a father  
by Luigi Cherubini*

## Choir

*Like as a father pitieth his children,  
so the Lord hath mercy on them that fear him.*

## Offertory      Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Thomas Ken: England, 1627-1711

Louis Bourgeois: Geneva

Musical score for 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.'

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly  
host; praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

## Great Thanksgiving

Sursum corda

Musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 2/2. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.'

*Pastor* The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.  
*Pastor* Lift up your hearts. *People* 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

## Holy, holy, holy

*Vigorously*

John Bell: Iona Community, Scotland

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Glo - ry  
to your name, glo - ry to your name. Glo - ry  
to your name, O Lord most high.  
Bless - ed, bless - ed, bless - ed, bless - ed is the one,  
is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na!  
Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## Eucharistic Prayer

### Words of Institution

### Remembering

This is the bread we need for today, the bread that satisfies.  
This is the wine poured out, so that sins are forgiven.  
At this table we become Christ's body and blood.  
***We remember the death of Christ until he comes.***

### 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

## O Lamb of God

John L Bell: Scotland

O Lamb of God, O Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world. Have mer cy up-on us;  
have mer cy up-on us.  
O Lamb of God, O Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world. Grant us, grant us your peace.

Music © 1986, 2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow G2 3DH Scotland

## 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

### Softly and tenderly

Will L. Thompson: USA



1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,  
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,  
3. O for the won - der - ful love Je - sus pro - mised,  
call - ing for you and for me; see at the por - tals Christ  
plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and  
pro - mised for you and for me; though we have sinned Je - sus  
wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.  
heed not God's mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?  
of - fers us par - don, par - don for you and for me.  
Come home, come home, all who are wea - ry, come home;  
ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## What wondrous love is this

Southern Harmony: USA



1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what  
 2. When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to  
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down be-  
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my  
 neath God's right - eous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme I will  
 sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

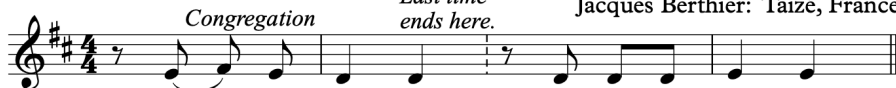


soul, for my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

## Pater noster

*Last time  
ends here.*

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France



Pa - ter no - ster qui es in coe - lis,

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

*Our Father, who is in heaven*

Sending forth

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

***Thanks be to God.***

## Writing on the Lord's Prayer Card: "Our Father in Heaven"

*Invite one other person to write on your card, "Our Father in heaven," in their own language. Maybe at the same time you write on theirs. Pens with different colors are on the tables and on the altar for drawing. You might use the printed graphic as a model, but feel free to add your own artistry. We all become scribes. Other phrases of the prayer will be added during the services to come.*

*When the drawing is complete, put your card in an envelope AND PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ENVELOPE. Then put it in the box in alphabetical order so you can retrieve it when you next come to church. If you are a visitor, you might ask more than one person to write on your card and then take it with you as a reminder of the service and as an invitation to pray.*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **The Season of Lent and the Lord's Prayer**

This year for the season of Lent, our congregation is focusing on the Lord's Prayer. We'll move slowly through this central prayer of our faith, focusing on a single line each week. In a time with more than its share of uncertainty and tumult, we root ourselves deeply in communion with God and with one another.

## **Starting Today – New Church School Time**

For the remainder of the school year, we'll be trying out a different schedule for church school. Starting Sunday 9 March, church school for ages 3 to 12 will meet during a portion of the worship service (instead of at 10h00). Children will begin the service with their families and return in time for Communion. We'll give this schedule a try for the coming months—contact Andy Willis or the church office with any questions.

## **Inaugural Piano Concert – Today at 13h30**

On Sunday 9 March at 13h30, there will be a concert to inaugurate the church's new grand piano. Members of both the English and German-speaking congregations will be playing a wide variety of pieces. All are welcome!

## **Lent Book Study – *The Practice of Prayer***

In keeping with our Lenten theme this year, the community is invited to join in reading and discussing *The Practice of Prayer* by Margaret Guenther. This lovely book addresses practical questions around topics like listening for God, finding God in the ordinary, and praying through times when God does not seem to be listening. It promises to be a rich and rewarding study, grounding us in a core practice of our faith. Groups will meet weekly (likely online) for discussion through the six week of Lent. You can register to join a group using the signup sheet available this morning.

*All of the church's copies of the book are now claimed. Please order a copy on your own if you haven't already requested a copy.*

## **Women's Circle Invitation – Next Meeting on 15 March**

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **15 March, 19 April, 10 May**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers, Gladys Yegon, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler or the office for more information.

### **Telemann Mania — Violin Recitals on March 8 and 15**

All members of the ELCG are cordially invited to join Yanis Eberhart and his band of musicians (harp, harpsichord, and cello) in discovering the singing, plaintive, dancing and overall brilliant music of G. Ph. Telemann. We propose two violin recitals featuring different programs on March 8 and March 15, both at 17:30. Free entry, children welcome!

### **Choral Evensong – Sunday 16 March, 17h30**

On Sunday 16 March, our church is holding a common evensong service with Holy Trinity Anglican Church, with choirs from both congregations singing. The service will be held here at the ELCG at 17h30—all are welcome to attend.

### **Creative Writing Group – Wednesday 19 March, 19h00**

Everyone who loves to write is invited to join a new creative writing group, meeting on the top floor of the church, once a month on Wednesday evening, 19h00 - 20h30. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday March 19th at 19h00. Bites will be provided. All welcome! Please contact Cynthia Wilbers or the church office for further info.

### **Renewing Andy Willis's Contract – Forum on 23 March**

Andy Willis's contract with the English-Speaking Congregation of the ELCG will expire in March of 2026, and all members are now invited to participate in the process of evaluating whether to renew the contract for an additional three-year term. Here are two ways to participate:

- A **survey** will be sent to all members shortly.
- A **forum** on this topic will be held after worship on Sunday 23 March.

Following the survey and the forum, the Council will make a recommendation on whether or not to renew Andy's contract, and the congregation will vote at our assembly on 25 May. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Nina Kiderlin, congregation president.

### **Lent Quiet Day – Saturday 5 April**

The congregation is planning a quiet day on Saturday 5 April. We'll spend the day together at Le Cénacle, a former monastery in Geneva, with time for prayer, reading, walking, and reflecting. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend.

## Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

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

Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

16 March – Group C

23 March – Group D

30 March – Group E

6 April – Group A

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

Cover Image:

Swanson, John August. Prodigal Son,  
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56559>

**This Week's Schedule:**

<b>Thurs, 13 March</b>	<b>19h30</b>	Choir rehearsal
<b>Sat, 15 March</b>	<b>10h00</b>	Women's Circle
	<b>10h00</b>	Choir rehearsal for evensong
	<b>17h30</b>	Violin concert
<b>Sun, 16 March</b>	<b>11h00</b>	Worship on the Second Sunday in Lent
	<b>17h30</b>	Choral Evensong

*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  
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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’d love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.*

<b>ELCG Connection Card</b>	
Name	_____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
Comments	_____
New to Geneva? Y/N	Date _____