EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00
23 NOVEMBER 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

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:

Prayer leader: Clarissa Balan

Reader: Clare Duran Altar care: Clare Duran

Assisting ministers: Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, Nyambura Njoroge,

Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi, Maarten Wilbers

Ushers: Naomi Mungure, Jelimo Yegon

Church school: Gladys Kiptum, Kiki Lawal, May Chin Long, Grete Willis

Offering counters: Sam Mungure, Njoroge Njuguna

Flowers: Kiki Lawal

Videographers: Ray Woodcock, Breanna Ndwiga

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Last Sunday after Pentecost + 23 November 2025, 11h00 The Sunday of the Reign of Christ

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting (rise)

Because Christ reigns, love reigns; and in his realm, love remains our aim, our guide.
Even when it seems that love has died, in Christ our expectations rise that by loving love blossoms new, honoring, with every gesture of care, the dwelling of Christ within.

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

During the last verse the children are invited to go to church school.





Call to Prayer (sit)

Prayer of Confession

God of love,

When we are not patient,

forgive us.

When we are less than kind,

re-form us.

When we are envious or boastful, arrogant or rude,

clear away the roots of pride.

When we insist on our own way,

open our minds.

When we are irritable or resentful,

heal us.

When we rejoice in wrongdoing rather than the truth,

rebuke us.

When what we face we cannot bear,

hold us.

When we no longer believe,

shine before us your light.

When hope dies,

surprise us with unexpected grace.

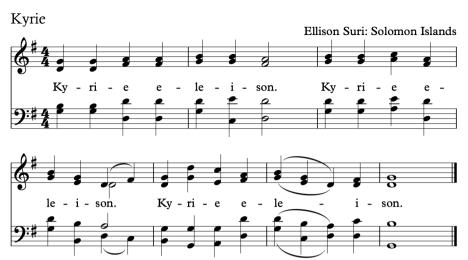
When our endurance reaches its end,

draw us to the cross of your Beloved,

who endured even death to show the great extent of your love.

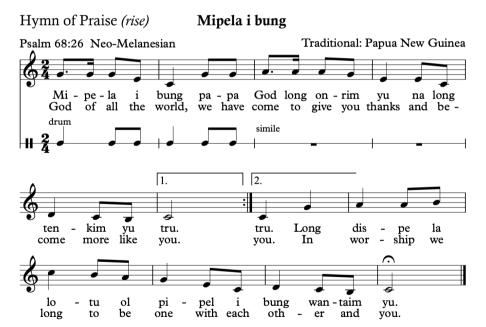
Teach us once more the depths, the wonders, the intensities of love, so that the seeds it plants within us flower into life, overflowing, meaningful, free of the weeds,

through Jesus Christ.



Music © 1996 Ellison Suri, Church of Melanesia, P.O. Box 19, Honiara, Solomon Islands. *Lord have mercy*.

Words of Forgiveness



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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Epistle Reading (sit)

1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13

I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

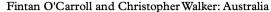
Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





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Gospel Luke 8:1-8

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 8. *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Soon afterward he went on through one town and village after another, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who ministered to them out of their own resources.

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

Sung Response In the bulb there is a flower verse 1





In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be, From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys-ter - y, In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re-vealed un - til its sea - son, some-thing God a - lone can see © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Some fell on rock, and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it.

Sung Response

In the bulb there is a flower

verse 2

Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

"Let anyone with ears to hear *listen!*"

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

Sung Response

In the bulb there is a flower

verse 3

Sermon (sit)

Andy Willis

Hymn

Imegmoy pitak ay yay



Music and Ikalahan Words, Ramon and Sario Oliano, © Delbert Rice. English, Delbert Rice adapted by James Minchin © The Asian School of Music, Worship and the Arts, P.O. Box 10533, Broadway Centrum, Quezon City 1112, Philippines.

- 2. Pantaneman ipitak Taklay i mangitodak, Danom i an manibog, Eggew i on dada od Gayom ni hi-gami.
- 3. Botil i impad-agmi Intanemmiday obi, Dakel i ilamehda, Manok, killom timmaba, Gayom ni hi-gami.

- 4. Ambel-at i kayabang Tep obimi aateng. Dakel iday manokmi, Tan matabay killomi, Gayom ni hi-gami.
- 5. Mik anapay inom-an Et waday panlamonan. Mek anapay nemnemni Anggan iday baholmi, Gayom ni hi-gami.

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 (sit)

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

Peace (rise)

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

Gathering of Gifts (sit)

Those who brought their stewardship forms should place them in the offering

The body is one

Choir

Words, based on 1 Corinthians 12, and music by Andrew Donaldson, Canada

Refrain: The body is one, with many parts; the parts are many, the body is one.

Heart: one body, soul: one body, strength: one body, mind: one body. The body is one with many parts; the parts are many, the body is one. We're tongues and lungs and toes and hearts.

The body is one, with many parts. We're whole in Christ, God's holy Son; The parts are many, the body is one. The body is one, with many parts. When hearts suffer, eyes offer tears; when souls rejoice, voices give cheers!

Eye can't say to hand, "Don't need you." Head can't say to feet, "Don't need you." Knee can't say to hip, "Don't need you." Tongue can't say to lip, "Don't need you." If we were just an eye, how could we hear? If we were just an ear, how could we smell? How could we tell of peace in Christ if we were just a fist?

Refrain

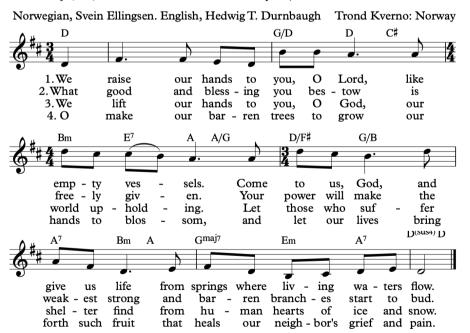
Come! Welcome! Break bread, take wine and share it. Come! Welcome! We eat and drink one Spirit. Each is a member: let each remember: Refrain

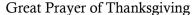
Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.

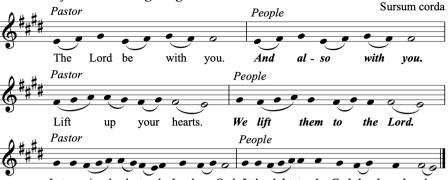
You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag, by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.



Offertory (rise) We raise our hands to you, O Lord







Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface





Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

Because Jesus Christ hosts this meal, it is a feast where love blossoms. As the seed becomes flour becomes bread, so eating together we become Christ's body. As from the grape seed the vine grows and blossoms, and then brings forth fruit, so as we share this cup together, we become Christ's blood.

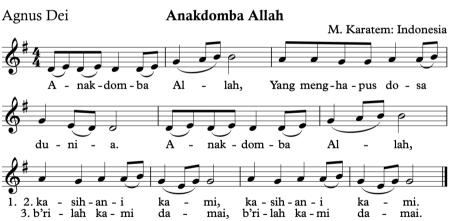
We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer

in our many languages



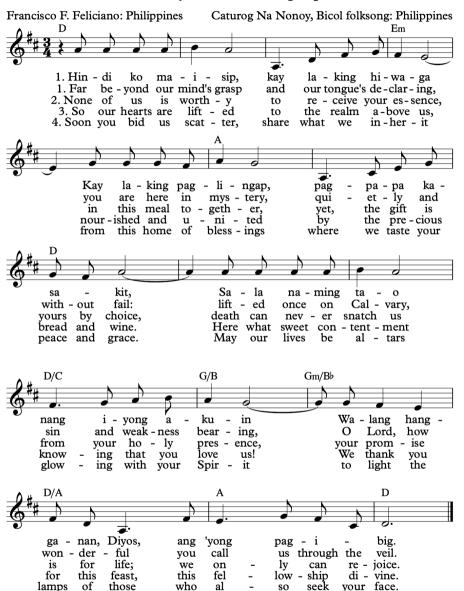
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. 3rd time grant us peace.

Communion

All are welcome for communion. We gather around the table. Take any empty space. You will receive the bread. Then choose a cup: dark cup for receiving wine or a lighter cup for grape juice. When you have drunk, place the used cup on the next tray.

Songs during Communion

Far beyond our mind's grasp



Words and Music arrangement, Francisco F. Feliciano. English, James Minchin. © Asian Institute of Liturgy and Music, Manila, Philippines

Ubi caritas



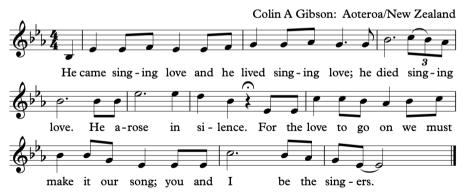
 $U-bi \quad ca-ri-tas \quad et \quad a-mor. \quad U-bi \quad ca-ri-tas \quad De-us \quad i-bi \quad est.$ Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

I will live for you alone



He came singing love



English and Music © 1994 Hope Publishing Company.

- 2. Faith replaces love.
- 3. Hope replaces love.
- 3. Peace replaces love.

Sending Forth (stand)

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements (sit)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Assembly – Immediately Following Worship

Members, please plan to attend—your voice is important, and we need at least 50 members for a quorum. A video will be shown in the gemeinderaum for children.

Stewardship for 2026: Sustained by One Spirit and Many Gifts

We conclude our annual stewardship campaign today by bringing to the altar our commitments of time, talents and financial support to sustain our faith community in the year ahead. If you haven't yet completed your giving forms, please do so by 30 November: https://genevalutheran.church/giving-season/

You are encouraged to plant the narcissus bulb you received this morning as a symbol of how you are sustained by our faith community and as a reminder that your participation in our community's life is needed to sustain us all. During Holy Week next spring, we will celebrate the blooming of these flowers and our faith community!

Narcissus 'Replete

How to Plant

In the Garden

- Plant Sept-Nov in sun/part shade
- Well-drained soil
- Depth 12–15 cm; space 10–15 cm
- Tip up; water once
- Let leaves yellow naturally after bloom

In Pots / Balcony/Indoors

- Choose a pot with drainage, 15–20 cm deep
- Use light soil or bulb compost
- Plant 10–12 cm deep; bulbs may be planted more closely
- Water lightly; do not soak
- Keep in a cold place (5–10 °C) 10–12 weeks for rooting
- Bring gradually to light/ warmer room for blooming

Next Sunday, 30 November – Worship at 17h30

For the start of Advent, this service will keep the contempletive style we have been using for the past few evening services. Because the emphasis is on quietness and simplicity, this might be useful introduction to those unused to worship. Please invite friends, neighbors and colleagues to find their way with you to our community, and to the light of Christ.

Advent 2025 - Walk in the light of the Lord

Advent is a prayerful journey toward the coming of Christ in Bethlehem. We often focus on the destination (i.e, Christmas). But this Advent, we pay attention to how we walk. The prophet Isaiah guides us. We walk in the light. We walk preparing the way as we walk. We walk surprised by God's deliverance as we traverse difficult terrain. We walk alert to the signs of God's grace. We walk toward peace.

For the four Advent services, the congregation will be invited to come to communion in stocking feet. So it might help if you wear warm socks, although most of the service we will keep our shoes on. In some parts of the world, Christians take off their shoes went entering sacred spaces as a sign of humility and respect. Invite friends and neighbors to come and walk with you on the way to Christmas in the light of Christ.

Serving at the Soup Kitchen

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 13 December 2025. It takes place from 8h00 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) for more information.

Young Adults' Group

If you're 18-30, you have a place here! Join our young adults group to grow in faith, build friendships, and walk with Christ. We'll be meeting up one Friday and one Saturday per month at church (top floor). To get connected, please text or approach Naomi (+41762146607), Olivia (+41764493137), or Ano (+41795502633).

Nursery Care Available for Young Children

Nursery care is available during worship on Sunday mornings for children age 3 and under. Two paid staff—Simone Lange and Beatrice Tarimo—will alternate weeks working in the nursery from 11h00 to 13h00. Children are always welcome in worship, but for families who wish, this option will now be available. Contact the church office with any questions.

Children's Choir this Advent

This year in place of a Christmas pageant, kids between the ages of 6 and 13 are invited to join a children's choir, singing songs of peace in worship on 14 December. Rehearsals will take place on 6 December (14h to 16h) and 13 December (10h to 12h). We'll prepare two pieces, accompanied by Koko Taylor on Japanese flute, and we'll practice some origami besides. Please confirm your participation by sending an email to Katharina (katharina@genevalutheran.ch).

Women's Circle Invitation

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: 5 December at 6.30 pm (Christmas dinner in the gemainderaum), 17 January, 21 February, 14 March, 18 April. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, or the office for more information.

Advent Market at the ELCG - Saturday 29 November

The German-Speaking Congregation will hold its annual Advent Market at the church next Saturday, 29 November, from 11h to 15h. There will be Advent wreaths and Christmas treats available for purchase, as well as crafts for children. All are welcome—for more information, visit www.luther-genf.ch.

Interfaith Prayer Service – Weaving Peace

The Interfaith Platform of Geneva invites you to join in the celebration "Weaving Peace". We will gather to hold in prayer the victims of ongoing conflicts around the world. A piece of collective weaving will also be presented. With musical accompaniment by Saya Hashino (singing bowls) and Raphaël Ott (cello). The service will take place today, 23 November, 17h30 at Eglise Saint-Germain (rue de Saint-Germain 2, 1204 Geneva). All are welcome.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

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

30 November – Group E 7 December – Group A 14 December – Group B 21 December – Group C

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

Cover image: https://www.flickr.com/photos/163227033@N02/41958786111/

This Week's Schedule:

Tues, 25 Nov	19h00	Being With course
Wed, 26 Nov	12h00	Being With course
Thurs, 27 Nov	19h30	Choir rehearsal
Sat, 29 Nov	19h00	Young adults
Sun, 30 Nov	17h30	Worship on the First Sunday of Advent
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 CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



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

E	LCG Connection Card
Name	
Phone	
Email	
Comments	
New to Geneva? Y/N	Date