

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 17H30

30 NOVEMBER 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a parish of many cultures and traditions,
with deep Lutheran roots and wide ecumenical branches.*

Geneva is a crossroads city and our doors are open to people from all over the world. About half of our members come from Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Anglican and other traditions, and half have Lutheran links. The Lutheran Church of Geneva was started by German expatriates in the 18th century, and the English-Speaking Congregation was formed in the 1950s after the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World YWCA and United Nations agencies opened offices in Geneva.

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 evening:

Prayer leader: Maureen Gumbé

Reader: Adela Bevan

Altar care: Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti

Assisting ministers: Elisabeth Benn, Rumiko Jaussi,

Gladys Kiptum, Fulata Moyo

Ushers: Aamizara, Aariya, Adam and Vivienne Talsma

Offering counters: Johnny Camaddo, May Chin Long

Flowers: Aamizara Talsma

Videographers: Ray Woodcock, Breanna Ndwiga

*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:*

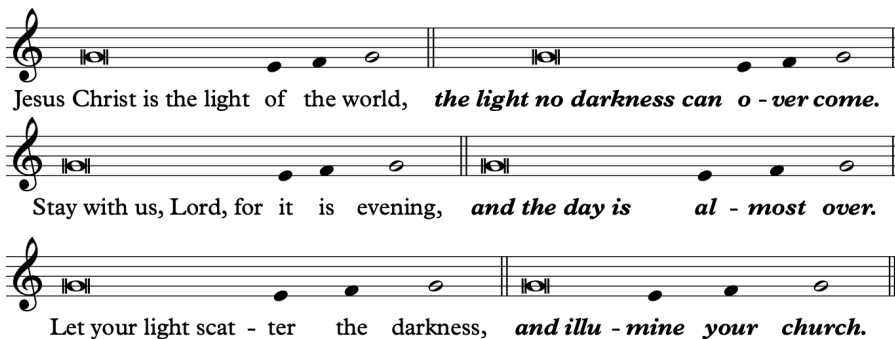
<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva
English-Speaking Congregation
20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland
Telephone: 022 310 50 89
pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch
www.genevalutheran.church
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis
Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

First Sunday of Advent
30 November 2025, 17h30

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore*

Greeting (*rise*)



Jesus Christ is the light of the world, ***the light no darkness can o - ver come.***

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, ***and the day is al - most over.***

Let your light scat - ter the darkness, ***and illu - mine your church.***

Hymn of Light

Creator of the stars of night

Latin hymn, 9th century. English, Hymnal 1940 altered

Plainsong mode IV

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2. When this old world drew on toward night,
 3. At your great name, O Je - sus, now
 4. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
 5. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,
 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light.
 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
 And God the Spir - it, Three in One,
 O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 not as a mo - narch, but the child
 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be
 we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Call to Prayer (*sit*)

Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Psalm 141

Antiphon **Let my prayer rise before you as incense**

Psalm 141:2

I-to Loh: Taiwan

Let my prayer rise be-fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing

prayer

*For the repeat the men can sing the melody
and the women the drone.*

up of my hands as an even - ing sac - ri - fice.

up sac - ri - fice.

© 1990 I-to Loh, Tainan Theological Seminary, 117 Tungmen Road, Section 1, Tainan, Taiwan.

O Lord, I call to you, come to me quickly.
Hear my voice when I cry to you.
Let my prayer rise before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Antiphon (with the men singing the melody)

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.
Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evil doers.
But my eyes are turned to you, O God,
in you I take refuge; strip me not of my life.

Antiphon (with the women singing the melody)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Let us walk in the light of the LORD!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word (*rise*)

Ososo

Geonyong Lee: Korea

1. O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyŏng - hwa ũi - im - gŭm
 1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sa - vior.
 4. Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.

Music and Korean © Geonyong Lee, Korean National Institute of Arts, 700 Seocho-dong, Seocho-ku, Seoul, Korea.
 English © Marion Pope, 211 College St, Apt. 135, Toronto, Ont., Canada M5T 1R1.

2. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, sa-rang ũi-im-gŭm, 3. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, cha-yu ũi-im-gŭm,
 u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ. u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

4. O-so-sŏ o-so-sŏ, tong-il ũi-im-gŭm,
 u-ri-ga han-mom i-ru-ge ha-so-sŏ.

Prayers of Intercession (*sit*)

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Peace (*rise*)

Walk in the light of the Lord.

Gathering of Gifts (sit) *Meditation: Peace Is...*
From "The Peacemakers," by Karl Jenkins
Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

*Peace is a fragile meeting
Of two souls in harmony
Peace is an embrace
That protects and heals*

*Peace is a reconciling
Of opposites
Peace is rooted in love
It lies in the heart*

*Waiting to be nourished
Blossom, and flourish
Waiting to be nourished
Blossom, and flourish
Until it embraces the world*

*May we know the harmony of peace
May we sing the harmony of peace*

*Until in the last of days
We rest in peace
We rest in peace
We rest in peace*

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



Offering (*rise*)

Of the Father's love begotten

Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; English, John Mason Neale

Twelfth century plainsong



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be-gan to be,
2. Let the heights of heaven a-dore him; an-gel hosts his prais-es sing,



Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga,
all earth bow to Christ, our Sov - ereign,



Christ, the source, the end will be. of the things that are, that have been,
and our joy - ful tri-bute bring, let no tongue on earth be si - lent,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving



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.*

Preface

For the whole of creation

thanks.

For the breath of your Spirit, inviting our humanity,

thanks.

For the freedom from slavery and the gift of your Word,

thanks.

For the promise of a new world of justice and peace,

thanks.

For your Beloved, Jesus Christ, who walked among us, showing us the way of life.

thanks.

So with all your saints of every time and place, we sing your praise.

Sanctus

Sarin Sam. English, S. T. Kimbrough Jr.

Sarin Sam: Cambodia

The musical score for 'Sanctus' is written in 4/4 time on a single staff. It features a melody with various intervals and rests, accompanied by chords indicated above the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The chords are: C, Am, Em, Dm, C, Am, Em, Dm, C, Dm, Am, Em, Dm, C.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, the Guard - i-an of my life.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, the u - ni-verse sings your

praise. O Cre - a - tor, who all things has

made, you are wor - thy to be a - dored and praised.

Words and Music © 2000 General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik, 475 Riverside Dr. New York, NY 10115. All rights reserved.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Blessed is Jesus Christ,
who in the evening walked up the mountain to pray,
who in the night walked on the Sea of Galilee to his disciples,
who from the cross, walks us into life.

We await the day when he comes to walk with us again.

Words of Institution

Remembering

Remembering Christ, his life, his teaching, his presence with us,
we share this bread, his body, and 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

O Lamb of God

Mabel Wu: Hong Kong

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

Melody, Mabel Wu © 1994 Taosheng Publishing House, Hong Kong.

Communion

All are welcome for communion. You are invited to walk past the creche and then behind the altar to the place of distribution. After receiving the bread, pick up a cup. The dark-colored pitcher has wine, the lighter one has grape juice. After drinking, place the cup on the tray and return to your seat.

Anthem during Communion

Choir

As the dark awaits the dawn

Words by Susan Palo Cherwien. Music by Carl F. Schalk, USA.

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light.

*O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone.*

*As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,
may we your healing light release, living peace, living peace,
unto your holy dawn.*

Song

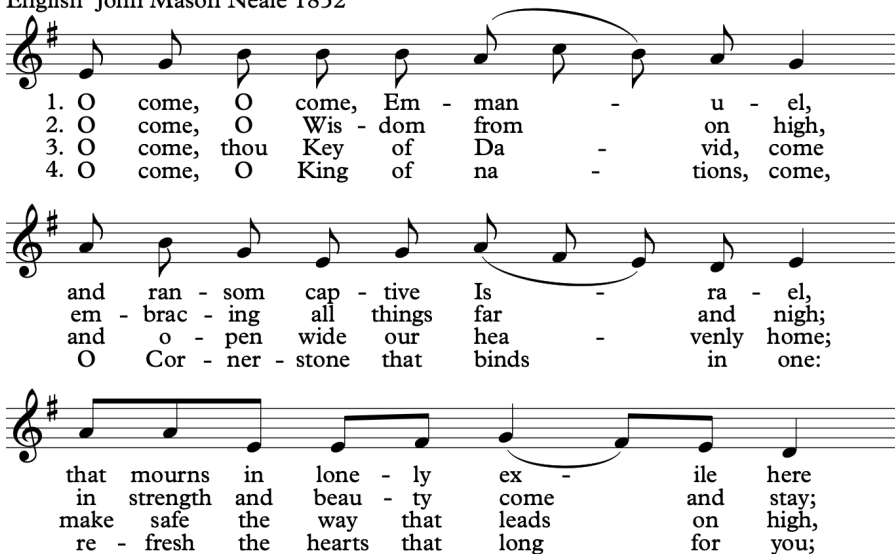
O come, O come, Emmanuel

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum 1710

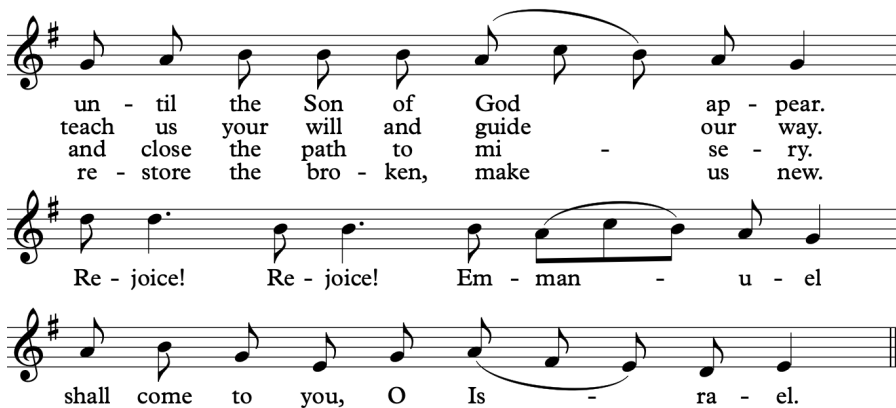
15th-century French processional

Based on antiphons from Advent Vespers

English John Mason Neale 1852



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,
3. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come
4. O come, O King of na - tions, come,
and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
em - brac - ing all things far and nigh;
and o - pen wide our hea - venly home;
O Cor - ner - stone that binds in one;
that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
make safe the way that leads on high;
re - fresh the hearts that long for you;



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

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 when 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.

Stewardship for 2026: Sustained by One Spirit and Many Gifts

Every autumn, we as congregation members are invited to reflect on what this community means to us and on how we will each offer our support in the coming year in terms of time, talents, and money. We are now encouraged to offer our estimates of giving for the coming year.

If you have not already done so, please make your 2026 estimate now, and take this step of participating in our congregation in an intentional way in the year to come: <https://genevalutheran.church/giving-season/>

Serving at the Soup Kitchen – 13 December

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.

Jazz Carols - Concert at the ELCG: 12 December at 20h00

On Friday 12 December, our church is hosting Jazz Carols, a concert featuring a full jazz band and vocal trio performing contemporary arrangements of classic carols. The concert starts at 20h00 (with an apero offered at 19h00). Admission is free and there will be a collection taken for the musicians at the end.



It's an opportunity to enter the season differently--with surprise, soul, and swing. All are welcome!

Prayer Group – 3 December

Our congregation's prayer group meets monthly to pray for the needs of our community and our world. The next meeting will take place at church, on Wednesday, 3 December from 19h until 20h. If you cannot join in person, it will also be possible to join online, via Zoom. Please contact Kiki Lawal with any questions you have or prayer requests you like to share: kiki.lawal@gmail.com.

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 – 5 December

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.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

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

7 December – Group A

14 December – Group B

21 December – Group C

25 December – All

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

Cover image:
Photo by [Dhilip Antony](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This Week's Schedule:

Tues, 2 Dec	19h00	Being With course
	19h00	Congregation Council meeting
Wed, 3 Dec	12h00	Being With course
	18h30	Church Council meeting
	19h00	Prayer group
Thurs, 4 Dec	19h30	Choir rehearsal
Sun, 7 Nov	9h45	Confirmation class
	11h00	Worship and church school

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. Thank you for your support! 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”.

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.*

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