

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

CHRISTMAS EVE



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 17H30

24 DECEMBER 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a church with open arms,
where each person is welcome in God's all-inclusive love.
Jesus shared God's gracious love with all people, and we seek to follow this
example. People of any economic status, marital or family situation, sexual
orientation, gender identity, or ability are welcome to full participation in our
congregation. We honor the unique gifts of each.*

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:

Acolyte: Anotidashe Mtata

Readers: Vinita Manchala, Kenneth Mtata

Prayer leader: Marc de Chassey

Ushers: Filipa de Chassey, Kerstin Kollander

Offering counters: Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti, Tom Taylor

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/>

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Christmas Eve + 24 December 2025

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:

China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan

Gathering Songs

I wonder as I wander

Appalachian carol: USA



1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
2. When Ma - ry birthed Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
4. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how



Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or
Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for



poor orn - ery peo - ple like you and like I. I
high from the heav - ens a star's light did fall; the
all of God's an - gels in heaven for to sing, he
poor orn - ery peo - ple like you and like I. I



won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
prom - ise of the a - ges, it then did re - call.
sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

O little town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

England



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see you lie!
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,



A - bove your deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.



yet in your dark streets shines forth the ev - er - last - ing light,
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in you to - night.
And prais - es sing, and voic - es ring with peace to all on earth.

O little town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

Louis Henry Redner: USA



3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend to us, we pray;



So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

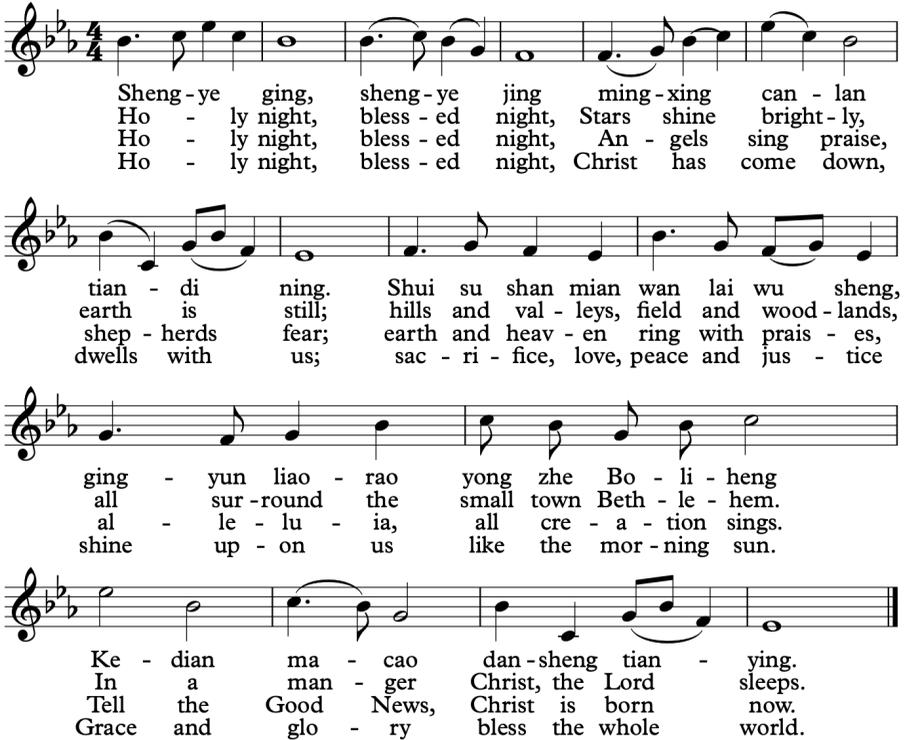


Where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Shengye ging

Weiyu Zhu, Jingren Wu: China
paraphrase Kathleen Moody

Sheng-ye; Qigui Shi: China
arrangement Pen-li Chen



Sheng-ye ging, Ho - ly night, Ho - ly night, Ho - ly night, sheng-ye jing bless - ed night, bless - ed night, bless - ed night, ming-xing can - lan Stars shine bright - ly, An - gels sing praise, Christ has come down,

tian - di ning. earth is still; shep - herds fear; dwells with us; Shui su shan mian wan lai wu sheng, hills and val - leys, field and wood - lands, earth and heav - en ring with prais - es, sac - ri - fice, love, peace and jus - tice

ging - yun liao - rao all sur-round the al - le - lu - ia, shine up - on us yong zhe Bo - li - heng small town Beth - le - hem. all cre - a - tion sings. like the mor - ning sun.

Ke - dian ma - cao dan-sheng tian - ying. In a man - ger Christ, the Lord sleeps. Tell the Good News, Christ is born now. Grace and glo - ry bless the whole world.

From Sound the Bamboo © Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music, Manila, Philippines.

Of the Father's love begotten

Twelfth century plainsong



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2. Oh that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
 3. This is he whom sees in a - old time
 4. All the heights of heaven Cre - a - tore him;
 5. God Re - deem - er, God Cre - a - tor,



ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 when the vir - gin, full of grace
 chant - ed of with one ac - cord,
 an - gel hosts his prais - es sing,
 God the Spir - it, now to thee



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 whom the voic - es of the pro - phets
 powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 hymn, and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 pro - mised in their faith - ful word;
 and ex - tol our God - and King;
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's re - deem - er,
 now he shines the long - ex - pect - ed:
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see,
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
 ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

At the end.



ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Musical Preparation

Welcome

Greeting (*rise*)

This night we walk as if a baby sleeps,
careful the doors don't slam nor the floorboards creak.
This night we walk with the expectant eyes of the young,
*alert to wonders shimmering with glossed-over glory,
and lights in the darkness signaling peace.*
This night we walk knowing God is here,
singing in us, like angels, the good news that love conquers fear.
This night we rejoice,
*lost in the praise that rings heaven home
through the gift of Jesus Christ.*

Psalm 96

Antiphon

Joy to the world

verse 1

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive its King,
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing. (3x)*

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing,
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing.

Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
tell of God's salvation from day to day.

Sing.

Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
God is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before God;
strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

Antiphon

Joy to the world

verse 2

*Joy to the world! the Savior reign,
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy. (3x)*

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
Ascribe to the Lord.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;

Ascribe to the Lord.

bring an offering, and come into God's courts.

Ascribe to the Lord.

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

tremble before God, all the earth.

Say among the nations,

"The Lord rules!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

God will judge the peoples with equity."

Antiphon

Joy to the world

verse 3

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found. (3x)*

Let the heavens be glad,

glad,

and let the earth rejoice;

rejoice

let the sea roar,

roar,

and all that fills it;

let the field exult,

exult,

and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing

sing,

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord;
for God is coming,
coming to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with truth.

Antiphon

Joy to the world

verse 4

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love. (3x)*

Prayer (*sit*)

Hymn

It came upon the midnight clear

vs. 1-3

*1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven's all gracious king.
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sung Response **It came upon the midnight clear** vs. 4

*4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song, which now the angels sing.*

Epistle Reading Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Genzo Miwa, translated by John Moss

Chugoro Torii 1941: Japan

1. Hi - tsu - ji wa ne - mu - re ri, Ku - sa - no, to - ko - ni,
 2. Ma - hi - ru ni o - to - ra - nu Ku - shi - ki hi - ka - ri,
 1. Sheep fast a - sleep, there on a hill, grass for their bed; all is still.
 2. Star in the sky, shin - ing so bright, si - lent and pure, won - drous light!

Sa - e - yu - ku fu - yu no yo, Shi - mo mo mi - e - tsu.
 Mi - so - ra no ka - na - ta ni Te - ri - ka - ga - ya ku.
 Cold win - ter night, the frost ap - pears; shep - herds keep watch by their fire.
 What tid - ings brings it Is - ra - el? Can we new hope in it find?

Ha - ru - ka ni, hi - bi - ku wa Ka - ze - ka, mi - zu ka,
 Su - ku - i wo mo - ta - ra - su Ka - mi no mi - ko no
 Soft there a sound, far, far a - way. Is it the stream? Winds at play?
 Good news it brings! "Fear not, I pray! Born is God's Son, born to - day!"

I - na - to yo mi - tsu - ka - i U - ta - u mi - u - ta.
 U - ma - re - shi yo - ro - ko - bi Tsu - gu - ru ho - shi ka.
 Nay, friend, it is the heav - en - ly choir, Sing - ing through - out the spheres.
 God's gift of love to all the earth, our Lord, Im - man - u - el."

Japanese, Genzo Miwa. Music, Chûgoro Torii © United Church of Christ in Japan, 2-3-18 Nishi Waseda Room 31, Japan Christian Centre, Shinjuku-ku Tokyo, Japan, 169. Arrangement © 1995 David Kai. English © John A. Moss, 101 Amherst Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, USA.

But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’

Carol

Hitsuji wa

verse 2

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

Gloria

Luke 2:14

Pablo Sosa: Argentina

Cueca E ♩ = 72 B7 E

La, la, la

Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria

en las al - tu - ras a Dios. Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos
glo - ry to God on high. And on earth peace to the peo - ple in

For the ending repeat 2 times each time softer

que a - ma el Se - ñor. Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria.
whom God is well pleased.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Alleluia

Sermon (*sit*)

Andy Willis

Hymn (*rise*)

Hark! The herald angels sing

*1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

*2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.*

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.

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.*

Peace (*rise*)

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

Gathering of Gifts (*sit*)

Rondó de Natal

Portuguese and Music, Simeí Monteiro: Brazil.

English, Simeí Monteiro, John Thornberg, Terry MacArthur

Refrain: Jesus is born! It's Christmas Eve!

Sing heav'n and earth with joyful songs.

Open yourself, O Earth, to love, for God has sent us the Savior, Christ.

*1. Infinite grace has come to us, visiting us, Emmanuel, God with us,
But when God sought a place to stay nowhere offered any sign of welcome.*

*2. Jesus, as children we give what we have;
please receive our presents: warm, inviting hearts.*

You have a place you can always dwell here.

Reign in us forever, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

Offertory 'Twas in the moon of wintertime

Huron carol by Jean de Brébeuf, 1643: Canada

French folk tune



1. 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time, when all the birds had fled,
 2. With - in the lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found;
 3. The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair
 4. O chil - dren of the for - est free, O seed of Man - i - tou,



that might - y Git - chi Man - i - tou sent an - gel choirs in - stead;
 a rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round;
 as was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there.
 the ho - ly Child of earth and heaven is born to - day for you.



be - fore their light the stars grew dim,
 but as the hun - ter braves drew night,
 The chiefs from far be - fore him knelt,
 Come kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy,



and won - dering hun - ters heard the hymn:
 the an - gel song rang loud and high:
 with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
 who brings you beau - ty, peace and joy.

Je - sus Em - man - u - el, Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

English, Jesse Middleton, 1926

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of grace, God of peace,
for those whose love has trained our feet to walk in your way,
thank you.

For those who have given of themselves to tell your story,
who have made room in their lives for your Word,
who have blessed others with their poverty of spirit,
their purity of heart, their thirst for righteousness,
their mercy, their meekness, their ability to bring peace,
thank you.

For the moments when angels seem to sing with such glory
that we let go of our fears,
thank you.

For the path we make as we discover, over and over again,
the life that comes from following Jesus Christ,
thank you.

For the silence of fresh snow, the warmth of greetings
on Christmas Eve, the reaffirmation of the gift and power of love,
thank you.

Light in us the Spirit that can make us whole,
zealous for good deeds,
filled with the quiet joy of new birth.

Hymn

Silent night

You may sing in your own language.

**1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at thy sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born. Christ, the Savior is born.**

*3. Silent night, holy night, Child of God loves pure light,
radiant beams from your holy face
bring the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord at your birth.*

Prayers for Peace

Sending forth (*rise*)

Benediction

Postlude

Regine Kummer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Worship Services

All are welcome to join in the celebration of Christmas

Christmas Day, 25 December 11h00

A joyful time of worship, with Holy Communion and carols

First Sunday of Christmas, 28 December 11h00

The celebration continues!

Administrative Assistant on Vacation

Riza Le Geyt will be on vacation until 6 January. The office will be closed during this time, but emails and phone messages will be checked regularly. For any urgent matters, please contact Pastor Andy directly at 079 544 70 12.

Correcting Hymns for the New Song Collection

The final section of our new song collection awaits a corrective singing. These are favorite hymns that our congregation uses again and again, and we find mistakes as we sing. You can come for the pleasure of singing together, this Saturday, 27 December, 10h00 until noon in the church. In honor of the Christmas season, we will add in a carol or two.

Consider a Year-End Gift to the Congregation

For many, Christmas is a time for giving thanks and expressing generosity. Please consider a gift to the congregation as the year comes to a close, perhaps in thanks for the role it has played in your life or your family's life this year. It is possible to give via bank or post transfer, PayPal, TWINT, or in cash during an upcoming worship service. All the details are on our website, and any gift is meaningful and a great help: <https://genevalutheran.church/giving/>

Thank you for generosity and your part in our community's life

Cover image:

Swanson, John August. *Shepherds*,

from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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This Week's Schedule:

Thurs, 25 Dec	11h00	Christmas Day worship service
Sun, 28 Dec	11h00	Worship, Rev. Sarah Stephens preaching

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:



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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”.

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 _____	
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Comments _____	
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