

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

SEASON OF CREATION: FOREST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 17H30

6 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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:

Reader: Natalie Deffenbaugh

Altar care: Clare Duran, Marian Frerichs

Assisting ministers: Elisabeth Benn, Antoinette Djamen, Clare Duran,
Monika Sandvik

Ushers: Erandi Hassink, Hiromi Yano

Offering counters: May Chin Long, Tom Taylor

Flowers: German-Speaking congregation

Refreshments: Neighborhood Group E

Videographer: Gareth Kit, Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

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

Season of Creation: Forest

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo*

Musical Preparation

You are invited to be quiet.

Invocation

Silence my Soul

Choir

Words by Rabindranath Tagore: India
Music by Francisco F. Felciano: Philippines

Silence my soul, these trees are prayers.
I asked the Tree, tell me about God.
Then, it blossomed.

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

O radiant Light

B-27

Greek hymn 3rd century. English William G. Storey

Jesu dulcis memoria
Plainsong mode 1

1. O ra - diant Light, O Sun di - vine,
2. O Son of God, the source of life,
3. Lord Je - sus Christ, as day - light fades,
of God the Fa - ther's death - less face,
praise is your due by night and day,
as shine the lights of e - ven - tide,
O im - age of the light sub - lime
Our hap - py lips must raise the strain
we praise the Fa - ther with the Son,
that fills the heaven - ly dwell - ing place.
of your es - teemed and splen - did name.
the Spir - it blest and with them one. A - men.

English © William G. Storey.

Prayer (*sit*)

Psalm 141

Antiphon

Let my prayers rise before you

B-28

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 sing the melody
and the women sing the drone.*

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

Music © 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)

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Acclamation

The peace of the earth be with you

Guatamalan traditional

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heav - ens
too; the peace of the riv - ers be with you, the
peace of the o - ceans too. Deep peace fall - ing ov - er
you. God's peace grow - ing in you.

English by Christine Carson © Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

Reading

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-22

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be

alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Acclamation **The peace of the earth be with you**

Guatamalan traditional

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heav - ens
too; the peace of the riv - ers be with you, the
peace of the o - ceans too. Deep peace fall - ing ov - er
you. God's peace grow - ing in you.

English by Christine Carson © Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn (*rise*)

As rivers flow from a distant spring

David Bjorlin

William Beckstrand: USA



1. As riv - ers flow from a dis - tant spring
2. As trees rise up from the for - est floor
3. As woods make shel - ter with - in its shade
4. So let us praise you, Cre - a - tor God



to quench our thirst and feed the earth,
by roots that feed each limb a - bove,
for beasts to feed and birds to nest,
for worlds that wit - ness to your care,



so let our lives flow from you, our Source,
so let our lives rise in praise to you
so let our lives be a shel - tered space,
that show your pres - ence in ev - ery place,



to coun - ter death and nur - ture birth.
from hearts we root in your deep love.
a ref - uge for the worn to rest.
your glo - ry shin - ing ev - ery - where.

English, David Bjorlin © 2020 GIA Publications Inc. Music, HÖKELUND, William Beckstrand © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.
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Prayers of Intercession (*sit*)

The Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Words and Music by Christopher Grundy

Blessed are those who trust in God.

*They will be like a tree planted by the water. planted by the water,
and sending out its roots by the stream.*

*They will not fear when the heat comes,
and their leaves will stay green. In the year of the longest drought,
they will still bear their fruit, there by the stream, by the stream.*

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)

Bendice, Señor, nuestro pan

D-1

♩ = 84 Argentina

Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan, y da
Lord, bless the bread you have given, and give

pan a los que tien - en ham - bre y ham - bre de jus -
bread to all who are hun - gry, give hun - der jus -
ti - cia a los que tien - en with pan. Ben -
jus - tice to those with bread. Lord,

di - ce Se - ñor bread nues - tro pan.
bless the bread you have given.

English Donald Wetherick.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be 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

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, your presence in our midst,
the way, the truth, the life.

thanks.

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

Sanctus

E-10

Jacques Berthier: Taizé, France

1 $\text{♩} = 80$ 2

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus, sanc - tus Do - mi - nus
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord

3 4

De - us Sa - ba - oth, De - us Sa - ba - oth.
God of hosts, God of hosts.

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

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.

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*

A-3

***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

Hena Mwana

E-17

Charles Chidongo Chinula

Tumbuka hymn: Malawi

1. He - na Mwa - na wa mbe - re - re. Wa - ku - ye - gha za
 2. Wa - ka - ye - gha M'thu - pi la - ke Wa - ka - wu - ra ku-
 3. A la - bi - ska Pa - mphi - nji - ka U - mo I - yo wa-
 4. Ndo - pa za - khe ndi - yo ndim - ba. U - mo zak - wa - na-

Sing the Refrain after verses 2 and 4.

Refrain

kwa - na - nga zi - thu zo - se. Mwa - na Mbe - re - re
 zgo - ra - ko Pa - ku - mko - ma.
 ka - su - zgi - ki - ra i - se.
 nga zi - thu zi - ku - bi - ra.

Wa - ti - ye - ghe - ra Za kwa - na - nga Zi - thu zo - se.

1. Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away all our sins.

2. He took it away through his death.

Refrain: The Lamb of God, has taken away all our sins.

3. In his blood, all our sins are washed away.

4. This blood is a deep well where all our sins are drowned.

Communion

Paschal Jordan: Trinidad and Tobago

♩ = 84

Dark-ness now en-folds us. Day-light is at end.
Now all-power-ful Mas-ter, let your ser-vants go. Ac-

Come, O Shin-ing Pre-sence, Spir-it, be our friend.
cord-ing to your pro-mise, let us go in peace.

Ho-ver o'er the wa-ter, sleep with-in our breasts.
We have seen your sal-va-tion given to all the world: the

Calm the waves with-in us. Lead us now to rest.
Light for all the na-tions. Glo-ry to you, Lord.

© 1997 Mount St. Benedict Abby, Trinidad.

Sending Forth (*stand*)

Song

You shall go out with joy

*Sung softly as if listening to the trees while we sing**Lively**♩ = 128*

S. Dauermann: USA

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace, and the

moun-tains and the hills shall break forth be-fore you. There'll be

shouts of joy and the trees of the field shall clap, shall clap their
hands, and the trees of the field shall clap their hands, and the
trees of the field shall clap their hands, and the trees of the field shall
clap their hands and you'll go out with joy.

Text and music S. Dauermann/Karen Steffi Rubin © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Company,
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Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements (*sit*)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*As you leave, please return the book of songs to the cart in the entryway
or hand it to an usher.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Retreat – Register Now!

This year's all-congregation retreat will take place 18-19 September (Friday-Saturday) at Le Domaine de Monteret, a retreat center located near St-Cergue, where we have often spent time as a community before. It will be a time for sharing conversation, worship, laughter, and good food in beautiful natural surroundings. All ages are welcome!



Today is the last day to register! You can sign up using the online form (access with the QR code or the email sent to the congregation's list) or a paper form (available this morning).

Worship this September – Celebrating the Season of Creation

This September, our congregation is joining Christians throughout the world in celebrating the Season of Creation. Worship this month will be centered on the gift of the natural world and on our calling to serve and protect it. We join all the earth's creatures in singing praise and thanks to God.

Church School Starts Next Sunday, 13 September

After a pause for the summer months, church school will resume on Sunday 13 September! We'll meet each Sunday during the school year (except on the first of each month, when worship is in the evening, and during school vacations). There will be two classes—one for ages 3-8, and one for 9 through confirmation age—both meeting in the top floor classrooms. Children begin the worship service with their families and return to the sanctuary in time for Communion. Questions? Contact the church office.

Confirmation Class Beginning Shortly

During the academic year, our congregation offers confirmation classes for young people—an opportunity to study key topics of the Bible and Christian faith and to begin claiming the faith as one's own. Students typically begin classes at around 13 or 14 years old, though there is room for some flexibility when it comes to ages. This year's classes will be beginning shortly—if your son or daughter is interested in joining this year, please contact Andy Willis now at pastor@genevalutheran.ch or 079 544 70 12.

No Choir Practice this coming Thursday

Because of the Jeûne Genevois holiday, there is no choir practice this week.

Creative Writing Group – Tuesday, 8 September

Everyone who loves to write is invited to join the creative writing group, meeting in the Gemeinderaum at the church, once a month on Tuesday evening, 19h00 - 20h30. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 8 September at 19h00. Bites will be provided. All welcome! Please contact Cynthia Wilbers or the church office for further info.

Women's Circle – Saturday, 12 September

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: **12 September, 17 October, 21 November**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, or the office for more information.

Serving at the Soup Kitchen – 26 September

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 26 September. 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.

New Officers for Our Congregation

At its meeting on 23 August, the Congregation Council elected its officers for the year: Sivin Kit (president), Pia Hannewald (vice president), Jaap Schep (treasurer), and Hellen Msemo (secretary). We give thanks for these members of our community and pray for their leading and serving in the season ahead.

Many thanks as well to those completing their terms as officers: Hiromi Yano, Dinesh Suna, and Aleida Brun-Auld. We are grateful for your service!

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

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

13 September – Group A

20 September – Group B

27 September – Group C

4 October – Group D

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

cover image:
Photo by [Sigita Danil](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Upcoming Events:

Tue, 8 Sept	19h00	Creative writing group
Thurs, 10 Sep	19h30	Choir practice
Sat, 12 Sept	10h00	Women's circle
Sun, 13 Sept	11h00	Worship and church school
<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. 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
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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 _____
Email _____
Comments _____
New to Geneva? Y/N _____ Date _____