

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation
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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis Organist: Regine Kummer
Ministers of Music: Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost + 26 July, 2020

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Rep. Congo, Gabon, Sao Tomé*

Welcome

Prelude

Regine Kummer

Opening Words

Naming what is of utmost importance:

the love that does not let us go,

the word come close, unfolding into light

the treasure so valuable it cannot be bought or sold,

the wisdom that holds firm like a guidepost pointing to life,

the spirit of our innermost selves searching and at the same time being found,

we praise Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,

who is at the right hand of God,

whose Spirit helps us in every weakness,

bringing us round to what is of utmost importance.

Hymn

Blessed Jesus, at your word

Tobias Clausnitzer 1663. English, Catherine Winkworth alt.

Johann Rudolf Ahle 1664: Germany



1. Lieb - ster Je - su, wir sind hier, dich und dein Wort an - zu - hö - ren;
1. Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a - gain to hear you;
2. All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness shroud - ed
3. Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of light from God pro - ceed - ing.



len - ke Sin - nen und Be - gier auf die sü - ßen Him - mels - leh - ren,
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glow - ing faith be near you.
till your Spir - it breaks the night, fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed.
Je - sus, send your bless - ed light; help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing,



daß die Her - zen von der Er - den ganz zu dir ge - zo - gen wer - den.
As the prom - is - es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
All good thoughts and all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
that our prayers and songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.

2. Unser Wissen und Verstand ist mit Finsternis verhüllt,
wo nicht deines Geistes Hand uns mit hellem Licht erfüllet;
Gutes denken, tun und dichten muß du selbst in uns verrichten.

3. O du Glanz der Herrlichkeit, Licht vom Licht,
aus Gott geboren;
mach uns allesamt bereit, öffne Herzen, Mund und Ohren;
unser Bitten, Flehn und Singen laß, Herr Jesu wohl gelingen.

Prayer of Confession

God of sighs and silence,
we do not know how to pray as we ought.
Feelings dart from limb to limb,
often unnamed and sometimes untamed.
Our words conceal as much as set free,
piling up like a wall in between,
rather than opening the space where grace intervenes.
***In our weakness, hear what we don't know how to say,
what we dare not say,
what would tear apart, if we were to say.
Intercede for us.***

Kyrie eleison

Dinah Reindorf: Ghana



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God, searching and calling,
we do not know how to live as we ought.
Submerged bruises clog our energy.
Fears deeper than our names for them chain us with stress.
Uncertainties petrify us into fortresses, stony without breath.
Nothing seems sure,
as if death were as close as a cough,
and life an endless waiting for a vaccine.
***In our weakness, call us according to your purpose
and conform us to your Son.
Intercede for us.***

Kyrie eleison

Dinah Reindorf: Ghana



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God inseparable,
we do not know how to love as we ought,
discovering compassion's healing even when our own wounds bleed,
keeping the heart open to see the image of your Beloved
in all those we meet,
even in those with whom we disagree or don't understand.
***In our weakness forgive us all that is not love,
that wants to pull away, separating ourselves off,
closing the door, hurting more than we realize.
Intercede for us.***

Kyrie eleison

Dinah Reindorf: Ghana

Lento, espressivo



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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Words of Grace

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We are not left alone, struggling with our own devices. At the very center of all that is we find not condemnation but grace. We are not blamed for not pulling ourselves up, we are lifted up. You and I and loved by God. That is what is of utmost importance.

Neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor rulers,

nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.


Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, live this good news.

Hymn of Praise

Tout est fait

Abel Nkuinki: Cameroon



1. Tout est fait pour la gloi-re de Dieu. A - men. A - men. Tout dé-pend de ce que tu en fais. A -
2. La vie c'est pour la gloi-re de Dieu. A - men.
3. Le culte est pour la gloi-re de Dieu. A - men.

men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.

1. Tout est fait pour la gloi - re de Dieu, A - men. A - men.
2. La vie c'est
3. Le culte est

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. . .

Old Testament Reading

I Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Ps 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.
With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.
Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.
Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Alleluia Amen

as taught by Jonas Maïna: Cameroon.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Alleluia Amen. The first staff is in 6/8 time and the second staff is in 3/4 time. Both staves use a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia. A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia. A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 13.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

as taught by Jonas Maïna: Cameroon.

A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia. A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia. A - le - lu - ia A - men. A - le - lu - ia.

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered

1. By gra-cious powers so won-der - ful - ly shel - tered, and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing
 2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed, still e - vil days bring bur - dens
 3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming with bit - ter suf - fering, hard to
 4. Yet when a - gain, in this same world you give us the joy we had, the bright - ness
 5. Now when your si - lence deep - ly spreads a - round us. O let us hear all your cre -
 1. Von gu - ten Mäch - ten wun - der - bar ge - bor - gen, er - war - ten wir ge - trost, was

come what may, we know that God is with us night and
 hard to bear: O give our fright - ened souls the sure sal -
 un - der - stand, we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out
 of your sun, we shall re - mem - ber all the days we
 a - tion says: that world of sound which sound - less - ly in -
 kom - men mag. Gott ist mit uns am A - bend und am

morn - ing and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 va - tion for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
 trem - bling out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 lived through and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.
 vades us, and all your chil - dren's high - est hymns of praise.
 Mor - gen und ganz ge - wiß an je - dem neu - en Tag.

2. Noch will das alte unsre Herzen quälen,
 noch drückt uns böser Tage schwere Last.
 Ach Herr, gib unsern aufgeschreckten
 Seelen das Heil, für das du uns geschaffen hast.

3. Und reichst du uns den schweren Kelch, den bitteren
 des Leids, gefüllt bis an den höchsten Rand,
 so nehmen wir ihn dankbar ohne Zittern
 aus deiner guten und geliebten Hand.

4. Doch willst du uns noch einmal Freudeschenken
 an dieser Welt und ihrer Sonne Glanz,
 dann woll'n wir des Vergangenen gedenken,
 und dann gehört dir unser Leben ganz.

5. Wenn sich die Stille nun tief um uns breitet,
 so laß uns hören jenen vollen Klang der Welt,
 die unsichtbar sich um uns weitet,
 all deiner Kinder hohen Lobgesang.

English © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Springs, IL, USA.

Affirmation of Faith

Romans 8:34-39

Who is to condemn?

*It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,
 who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.*

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

*Will hardship, or distress,
 or persecution, or famine,
 or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long;
 we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced

For I am convinced

that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
 nor things present,
nor things to come,
 nor powers,
nor height, nor depth,
 nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Sung Affirmation

Carolina Sandell Berg, English, Ernst W. Olson

Swedish folk melody

3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to
 4. Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the

them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

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

Gathering of Gifts

Seek ye first

Tom and Judy Davis

Words and music by Karen Lafferty

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
 and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.*

*One shall not live by bread alone but by every word
 that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:
 God our treasure,
 the love that will not let us go,
 the wounded one who heals,
 the breath that springs us alive,
 you we bless.
Your face shines on us.

Like yeast multiplying in us,
 you implant your word, opening us to your realm, ever near,
 seeding in us the joy of trusting you and casting out our fear.
 You we praise.
Your face shines on us.

Like a pearl of great price,
we hold you tight,
no longer fighting as if life were in the fight,
but learning to love rightly,
conformed to the image of your Beloved, Jesus Christ.
You we glorify.
Your face shines on us.

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

Sending Prayer

Benediction

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

* * *

Thank you to those assisting with leadership in today's worship service:

Reader: Ngoni Hove
Prayers: Greg Smiley
Singers: Rena Igarashi, Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor, Andy Willis
Offertory: Judy and Tom Davis
Videography: Ray Woodcock, Simon Petitjean
Flowers: Maryssa Mapanao-Camaddao

Birthdays Matthias Schmale, Glen Willis, Victoria Menezes Miller, Ilona Dorji, Kurt Anderson, Eva de Chassey, Caetano de Chassey, Kilian Lohmann, Olivia Anderson, Paula Costantino, Ling Kituyi, Chey Mattner.

Anniversaries Daniele Silva & Rodrigo Morais; Maryssa Mapanao-Camaddo & Johnny Camaddo; Kanini Waita-Rwamushaija & Tito Rwamushaija.

This Week's Schedule:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday, 27 July | 12h00 | Bible study (online) |
| Wednesday, 29 July | 19h30 | Bible study (online) |
| Thursday, 30 July | 12h00 | Centering Prayer (online) |
| Sunday, 2 August | 11h00 | Worship on Pentecost 9 (livestream) |
| | 12h15 | Coffee hour (online) |

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9h00 - 17h00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Bible Study – 1 Thessalonians

A summer Bible study group is meeting weekly from mid-July through August online, via Zoom. We are studying Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians—likely the first of the New Testament books to be written. Are you interested in joining? Contact Andy Willis this week at pastor@genevalutheran.ch or 079 544 70 12.

Online Coffee Hour

An online coffee hour is being held regularly after worship--it's a great opportunity to connect with one another, and all are welcome to participate. In order to keep the space secure, we can't widely share a Zoom link, so we are keeping a list of people who would like to receive links to upcoming online coffee hours.

- *If you have already joined one of these online coffee hours*, you don't need to do anything more; we will automatically add your email address to the list.
- *If you have not yet joined one of the online coffee hours and would like to be added to the list* for future Sundays, please send an email to office@genevalutheran.ch and we will gladly add you to the list.

Online Centering Prayer – Thursdays at 12h00

For the past several months, a group has been meeting online for Centering Prayer on a daily basis. We are now shifting to once (or possibly twice) each week. For now, a group will meet every Thursday at 12h00 via Zoom. Here's the link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86798266012>

Centering Prayer is silent prayer for around 20 minutes, often done in a group setting. More details about Centering Prayer here: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-1>

Weekly Devotions

Judy Davis and Nina Kiderlin have been producing a weekly devotional for the past couple of months, offering reflections and practical ideas for carrying themes from Sunday worship into the week. These devotions are sent out with our weekly church email. If you do not currently receive the weekly email and would like to be added to the list, please contact the church office: office@genevalutheran.ch

Thank You for Your Generosity

While the shape of our congregation's ministry has changed in many ways over the past months, here are two things that have remained constant: **your generosity** and **its importance**. Members and friends of the congregation have continued to support the congregation through online giving, and this support is enabling us to continue our ministry of worship, service, and sharing God's love at this crucial time. Keep it up! Please give as you are able this season. Details are on our website:

<https://genevalutheran.church/giving/>