Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis Organist & Interim Worship Leader: Regine Kummer

Sixth Sunday of Easter + 16 May 2021

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

Welcome

Prelude

Prelude No 21 in B-flat major BWV 866 by J.S Bach Piano Terry MacArthur

Opening Words

Love keeps on rising,

however much fear might try to hold it bound.

It does not remain grounded by what is,

but lifts up what might yet be,

what we are called to be,

love arising, surprising in its power.

Even physically apart, we are surrounded by the saints

with whom we share a glorious inheritance,

who encourage us on the way,

with hands clapping and clear voices singing love's eventual victory.

With a translation of a poem over a thousand years old,

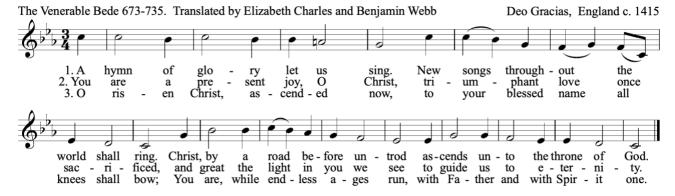
we join the hymn of glory to our crucified, risen and ascended Christ,

whose name is above every name,

in whom love keeps on rising.

Hymn

A hymn of glory let us sing



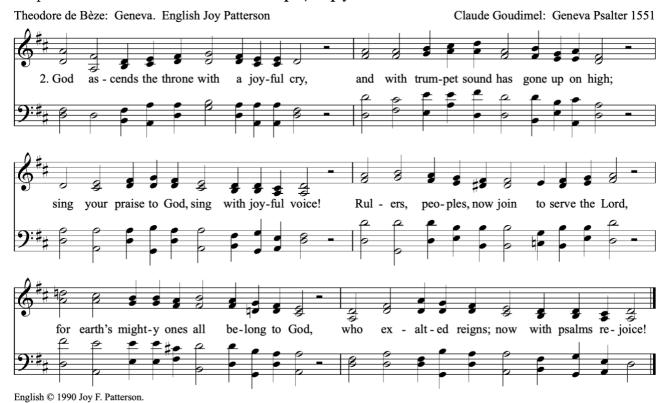
From Psalm 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great ruler over all the earth.



English © 1990 Joy F. Patterson.

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our Ruler, sing praises. For God is the ruler of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. God is ruler over the nations; God sits on a holy throne.



Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

God, gone up with a shout,

we confess that we do not always trust you.

The victory by which love reigns seems too long coming.

We resort to more mundane insurance -

depositing, owning, arming, locking, ignoring, blaming.

We are constantly told the importance of winning,

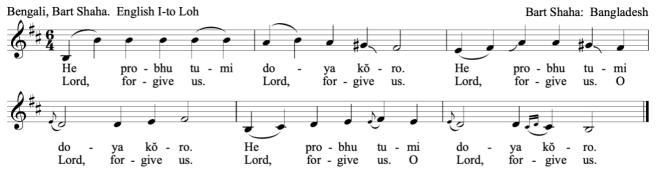
as if being able to love and to be loved were not a victory.

Forgive us all the energy we devote to survival and gain,

instead of training our eyes upon you, our maker, the source of our lives.



He probhu tumi doya kŏro



Music and Bengali © Bart Shaha. English © I-to Loh

Christ over all and in all,

turn us from the divisions that mar your church,

that tear at our families,

that keep on pitching us against each other.

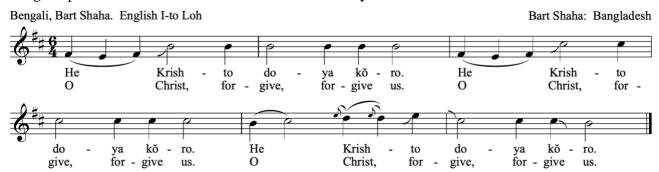
Gather us into your arms and lift us up,

so we see further than the values we hold dear.

Heal us so we become less concerned about propounding our points, and better attuned to becoming friends.

Sung Response

He Krishto doya kŏro



Music and Bengali © Bart Shaha. English © I-to Loh

Holy Spirit,

baptize us in the truth,

so that all falsehood and selfishness are washed away,

and we become a people prepared to love,

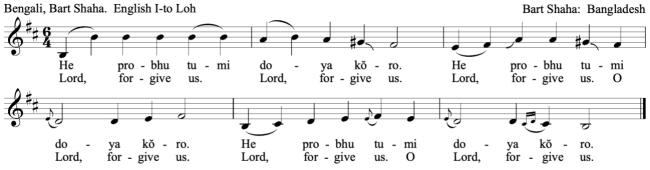
propelled by love,

graced with love,

honoring the name above every name, Jesus Christ.

Sung Response

He probhu tumi doya kŏro



Music and Bengali © Bart Shaha. English © I-to Loh

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Joy Probhu tomari joy



Bengali and Music © Bart Shaha. English © I-to Loh and James Minchin.

- 2. truly you saved us, saved sinners all.
- 3. truly you freed us, freed those in chains.
- 4. you made us joyful, brought happiness.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



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Gospel Reading Luke 24:44-53

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 24.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia



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Sermon Andy Willis



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

The Passing of the Peace

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give ourselves to you, God of life, because in following you, we are free.

Nothing or no one else can claim our servitude.

We proclaim you the ruler of all that is, reminding each other that all other powers are idols, not worthy of our trust.

We name the name that is above every name, Jesus Christ, because the realm that we claim is not a realm of bombing drones or planes controlling the skies, but a peace that comes when love breaks the chains of injustice and healing arises tearing every barrier down.

So with all the saints of ages past, with the angels on high, with our sisters and brothers around the world, we praise you and clap our hands.



We make trumpet sounds. *Make trumpet sounds*



With loud shouts of joy, we give you glory.



Raise us up with you, gracious God, so that we are no longer bound by our earthly desires but inspired to dream, daring to let the fire of your Spirit burn within, not consuming us, but creating within us a womb for new beginnings, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Hymn

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me





Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fugue No 21 in B-flat major BWV 866 by J.S Bach Piano Terry MacArthur

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

Reader: Clare DuranPrayers: Ralston DeffenbaughLiturgist: Terry MacArthurVideography: Ray WoodcockFlowers: Rumiko MatterUsher: Miriam Deffenbaugh

Musicians: Natalie Defenbaugh, Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor

Church school teachers: May Chin Long, Natalie Rimmer, Gladys Yegon

This Week's Schedule: *

Thursday, 20 May	12h00	Centering Prayer
Saturday, 22 May	10h00	Confirmation class
Sunday, 23 May	10h00	Church school
	17h00	Pentecost Sunday worship at John Knox Center
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9h00–17h00; Fridays, noon–16h00		

^{*(}all activities take place online, unless otherwise noted)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pentecost Sunday - Worship at the John Knox Center at 17h00

On Pentecost Sunday, 23 May, our congregation will hold an in-person outdoor worship service at the <u>John Knox Center</u> at 17h00. All are welcome to attend—we can accommodate up to 100 persons. <u>Sign up here</u>. For those unable to attend, a recording of the service will be available online (and in case of rain, the service will be livestreamed from the sanctuary).

We are planning to hold monthly outdoor services at this time and location throughout the summer—so you can mark these dates on your calendar as well: 27 June, 25 July, 22 August.

Congregational Assembly – 6 June

Members, please save the date for our annual assembly, which will be held online using Zoom on Sunday, 6 June, at 13h00. We have several important agenda items, including electing new members to the Congregation Council and receiving our 2020 financial statements. More information will follow shortly—please plan to attend!

Opportunity to Attend Worship in Person

At its meeting on 25 April, the Congregation Council voted to once again allow up to 20 people to attend worship in person each Sunday. In making this decision, the Council took into account federal and local guidelines, our church's protection plan, and the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers—we feel it's a reasonable move at this time. This means we are returning to a "hybrid" model, where most are still worshipping online via the livestream each week, with a small number present in the sanctuary. If you'd like to attend a service in person, you're very welcome to register for an upcoming Sunday. Sign up here.

Sign Up to Read Lessons or Lead Prayers in Worship

Would you be willing to read scripture lessons or lead the prayers of intercession for an upcoming live-streamed worship service? These portions of the service are typically led by members recording themselves from home, and we are currently looking for volunteers for the months of May and June. You can sign up using this form. Feel free to contact the church office with any questions.

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. *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

A group meets every Thursday at 12h00 for Centering Prayer 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 are <u>here</u>.

Thank You for Your Generosity

Generous contributions from members and friends have enabled our community to continue worshipping, serving, and sharing the good news of God's love near and far over the past year. Your support remains essential to our ministry together. Please continue to give as you are able this season—details are on our website:

https://genevalutheran.church/giving/