

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva**  
*English-Speaking Congregation*  
20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland  
022 310 50 89 / office@genevalutheran.ch  
www.genevalutheran.church

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**

The Venerable Bede 673-735. Translated by Elizabeth Charles and Benjamin Webb

Deo Gracias, England c. 1415

1. A hymn of glo - ry let us sing. New songs through - out the  
2. You are a pre - sent joy, O Christ, tri - um - phant love once  
3. O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed now, to your blessed name all

world shall ring. Christ, by a road be - fore un - trod as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
sac - ri - ficed, and great the light in you we see to guide us to e - ter - ni - ty.  
knees shall bow; You are, while end - less a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

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.***

Response

**People, clap your hands!**

verse 1

Theodore de Bèze: Geneva. English Joy Patterson

Claude Goudimel: Geneva Psalter 1551

1. Peo - ple, clap your hands! Shout to God with joy! King of all the earth is the Lord Most High;  
all hu - man - i - ty stands in awe of God, with a might-y hand God brings na-tions low,  
and be - neath our feet casts down ev-ery foe; our in - her - i - tance comes from God the Lord.

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line. The third system ends with a double bar line.

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.*

Response

People, clap your hands!

verse 2

Theodore de Bèze: Geneva. English Joy Patterson

Claude Goudimel: Geneva Psalter 1551

2. God as - cends the throne with a joy-ful cry, and with trum-pet sound has gone up on high;  
sing your praise to God, sing with joy-ful voice! Rul - ers, peo-ples, now join to serve the Lord,  
for earth's might-y ones all be-long to God, who ex - alt-ed reigns; now with psalms re-joice!

English © 1990 Joy F. Patterson.

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.*

Sung Response

He probhu tumi doya kōro

Bengali, Bart Shaha. English I-to Loh

Bart Shaha: Bangladesh

He pro - bhu tu - mi do - ya kō - ro. He pro - bhu tu - mi  
Lord, for - give us. Lord, for - give us. Lord, for - give us. O  
do - ya kō - ro. He pro - bhu tu - mi do - ya kō - ro.  
Lord, for - give us. Lord, for - give us. O Lord, for - give us.

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 koro

Bengali, Bart Shaha. English I-to Loh

Bart Shaha: Bangladesh

He O Krish - to do - ya kō - ro. He Krish - to  
 O Christ, for - give, for - give us. O Christ, for -

do - ya kō - ro. He Krish - to do - ya kō - ro.  
 give, for - give us. O Christ, for - give, for - give us.

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 koro

Bengali, Bart Shaha. English I-to Loh

Bart Shaha: Bangladesh

He pro - bhu tu - mi do - ya kō - ro. He pro - bhu tu - mi  
 Lord, for - give us. Lord, for - give us. Lord, for - give us. O

do - ya kō - ro. He pro - bhu tu - mi do - ya kō - ro.  
 Lord, for - give us. Lord, for - give us. O Lord, for - give us.

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

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Joy Probhu tomari joy

Bart Shaha: Bangladesh

Joy Pro-bhu to - ma - ri joy, Tu - mi a - ma - der 1. bha - lo - ba - sho, Joy Pro-bhu to ma - ri joy.  
 2. ra - kha ka - ro,  
 3. muk - to ka - ro,  
 4. shu - khi ka - ro,  
 Glo - ry be to you, O God, tru - ly you love us, love ev - ery one. Glo - ry be to you, O God.

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.*

Response

Christ, the Lord, is risen today

verse 4

Charles Wesley: England

Lyra Davidica

Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia! fol-lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,  
Al - le - lu - ia! Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le -  
- lu - ia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Tamil, India

Asian Planning Group

$\text{♩} = 110$

Al - lee - lu - yaa, Al - lee - lu - yaa, Al - lee - lu - yaa - vee,  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

Al - ba, O - mee - ga - vuk - kee, Al - lee - lu - yaa - vee.  
You are the Al - pha, O - me - ga, Hal - le - lu - jah to you.

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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

Thamil, India

Asian Planning Group

Al' - lee - lu - yaa, Al' - lee - lu - yaa, Al - lee - lu - yaa - vee,  
Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

Al - ba, O - mee - ga - vuk - kee, Al' - lee - lu - yaa - vee.  
You are the Al - pha, O - me - ga, Hal - le - lu - jah to you.

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# Sermon

Andy Willis

## Hymn

### Hail the day that sees Christ rise

Charles Wesley

Joseph David Jones

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Al-le-lu - ia! to his throne in par-a - dise, Al-le-lu - ia!  
2. There the glo - rious tri-umph waits. Lift your heads, e - ter-nal gates.  
3. Now, though part - ed from our sight, in the depths star-ry night,  
4. There we will with you re - main, heirs in your e - ter-nal reign;

Christ, the lamb to sin - ners given, Al-le-lu - ia! en - ters now the high - est heaven, Al-le-lu - ia!  
Christ has con-quired death and sin. Take the king of glo - ry in.  
may our souls with you a - rise, seek-ing whole-ness at your side,  
in the pres - ence of your face, we will dwell in heav-en's grace.

# 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!*

Gathering of Gifts

You are the God of new beginnings

Gently ♩ = 100

John Bell, Iona Community

1. You are the God of new be - gin - nings;  
 2. You are the God of great to - mor - rows,  
 you bless and free us from the past,  
 bright-er than all our yes - ter - days.

and when it's grip is long for - got - ten, your touch will last. You are the God of se - cond  
 Your hea - ven dwarfs our for - mer glo - ry, its pro - mise stays. You are the Al - pha and O -

chan - ces; though all the world de - clares we're done, your love re - stores us then in -  
 me - ga, our source of life and jour - ney's end, and through the chan - ges that you

vites us to rise and run. 3. Then let your Ho - ly Spir - it lead us as we, at - ten - tive to your  
 call us, re - main our friend.

word, a - chieve more than we dare i - mag - ine through Christ our Lord.

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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.*





Hymn

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me

African-American spiritual

I'm so glad, Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad,  
 Satan had me bound. When I was in trouble,  
 Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad,  
 Satan had me bound. When I was in trouble,  
 Je - sus lift - ed me, sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed 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 Duran *Prayers:* Ralston Deffenbaugh  
*Liturgist:* Terry MacArthur *Videography:* Ray Woodcock  
*Flowers:* Rumiko Matter *Usher:* Miriam Deffenbaugh  
*Musicians:* Natalie Defenbaugh, Terry MacArthur, Koko Taylor  
*Church school teachers:* May Chin Long, Natalie Rimmer, Gladys Yegon

**This Week's Schedule: \***

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

*\*(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 [John Knox Center](#) at 17h00. All are welcome to attend—we can accommodate up to 100 persons. [Sign up here](#). 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](mailto: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 [here](#).

## **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/>