



CONNECT


PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Steele
949-837-2323
esteele@genevapres.org


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I'M NEW

 Scan this QR code
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December 1-8 CALENDAR

For a complete listing of
regular activities and
upcoming events, visit
[genevapres.churchcenter.com
/calendar](http://genevapres.churchcenter.com/calendar), or go to our
website at genevapres.org
and click Calendar at the
top of the homepage.

IN COMMUNITY WITH



Geneva
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Loving God • Loving Others • Making Disciples

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Steele
It Began with a Surprise

TEXTS

Psalm 113
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:5-25



Geneva's Vision

We seek to share God's love with people whoever and wherever they are.

Geneva's Mission

*All are welcome here!
Just as God receives all who believe in Jesus Christ, Geneva aspires to be an inclusive congregation worshipping, learning, connecting, giving, and serving together.*

* View past services online at genevapres.org or connect directly at [YouTube.com/genevapresbyterianchurchoc](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqLW1X1X1X1X1X1X1X1X1X1)

TODAY'S GREETERS

Christine Njoroge and **Ray Miller** are welcoming you to worship today, representing the Session, our board of elders. Elders are ordained members of the congregation who represent us in making decisions, and also lead in areas of ministry.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645

J. S. Bach
Charlotte Hsieh, organ

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Steele

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Hope Candle

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v1

The Rev. Dr. Mickie Choi-Hoe
Glory to God #88

Call to Worship†

Cynthia Connors, elder

Psalter Reading: Psalm 113 (OT p692)

Congregational Hymn

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Glory to God #327

Prayer of Confession†

Moment for Connecting

Children up to 5th grade are escorted to classrooms.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 (OT p1088)

Anthem

Creation Will Be at Peace

music by Anna Laura Page
words by J. Paul Williams

Geneva Chancel Choir; Eileen O'Hern, director

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.*

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together; a little child will lead.*

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, a child will lead them all.*

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.*

Congregational Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Glory to God #82

† The *Call to Worship* and *Prayer of Confession* are adapted and/or taken from *Connections Worship Companion*, Year C, Volume 1 (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021)

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:5-20 (NT p68)

Musical Offering
Immanuel

Michael Card
Tony Gonzales, tenor

*A sign shall be given, a virgin will conceive,
a human baby bearing undiminished Deity.
The glory of the nations, a light for all to see;
and hope for all who will embrace His warm reality.*

*Immanuel, Our God is with us.
And if God is with us, who could stand against us?*

*For all those who live in the shadow of death,
a glorious light has dawned.
For all those who stumble in the darkness,
behold, your light has come!*

*What shall be your answer?
Oh, will you hear the call
of Him who did not spare His Son,
but gave Him for us all?*

*On earth there is no power,
there is no depth or height
could ever separate us
from the love of God in Christ.*

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:21-25 (NT p68)

Message: *It Began with a Surprise*

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Hymn
Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Glory to God #87

Life at Geneva

Opportunity to Be Generous

Blessing

Postlude
Trumpet Tune on "Wachet auf"

Martha Sobaje

Sunday CLASSES

KIDS DROP-OFF & PICK-UP (infant through 5th grade)

9-10am

Room 2

10:30-11:30am

Nursery: Room 2

PreK- 5th:

Drop-off: In Sanctuary

Pick up: PreK/Rm 2, 1st-3rd/
Rm25, 4th-5th/Rm 29

GENEVA YOUTH ** (6th-12th grade)

9-10am

Drop-off / Pick-up: Room 29
(Youth Room)

10:30-11:30am

Attend service with leaders in
Sanctuary.

ADULTS

The Network

9am in McLennan Lounge

The *Feasting on the Word*
curriculum used for the
lectionary scripture is the basis
for study for this class.

Leadership duties rotate
among participants, and
discussions veer into how
scripture relates to current
events.

** Geneva Youth (6th-12th grade)

also meets Tuesdays

6-8pm

Room 29 (Youth Room)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEET & GREET LUNCH

Sunday, December 1st, 11:35am in McLennan Lounge

Newcomers are invited to break bread with Pastor Elizabeth and Geneva elders to learn more about the church and for current Genevans to introduce a guest to our church family. Please register at genevapres.org/events.

PW SILVER TEA

Saturday, December 7, 12-2pm

There's still one day to buy your \$5 ticket for Geneva PW's Silver Tea — **through Monday, December 2nd.** This year's tea features a program by baritone soloist, Stephen Oey. Bring finger sandwiches, fruit, veggies, or goodies to share; tea will be provided.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 15, Sanctuary

Our morning worship service on this day will be a service of Lessons and Carols, with readings, anthems, hymns and musical offerings that together tell the story of the birth of Christ.

FA-LA-LA LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 15, immediately following worship, Simpson Hall

Plan now to join the jolly for a Fa-la-la Luncheon in Simpson Hall after Lessons and Carols on December 15. There is no ticket cost; a free-will donation may be made at the event to offset the cost of food. Contact elder Bill Sutfin if you'd like to help the team: info@genevapres.org.

GENEVA BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, December 17, 1-2pm in the Annex

Normally meeting the 4th Tuesday of the month, the group will meet a week early due to the Christmas Eve holiday. This month's book is *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis.

DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The newest edition of *Our Daily Bread*, a collection of daily devotionals for December through February, is now available in the church office and in the Narthex. The publication is free.

THANKS, TECH VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to Molly Levegood and Rebecca Njoroge, assisting our AV team for the month of December.

LINE DANCING HIATUS

Geneva's Line Dancing Class will take a break in December so you can deck your halls and haul out the holly. We'll see you again January 6th!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVENT GIVING

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Through next Sunday, December 8

Our Alternative Gift Market is up and running! You can donate to people and communities in need while honoring a friend or loved one whose needs are few. On the courtyard or online.

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Through December 9

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary beginning next Sunday. Dedicate one or more of these beautiful plants either in honor of or in memory of a special person or loved one; the cost is \$13 per plant. At the end of the Advent season, Deacons will distribute your dedicated poinsettias to the homebound.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Through December 22

Supporting the PCUSA's Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

GENERAL INFO

Geneva Presbyterian Church
24301 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637
949-837-2323

Office Hours:

Mon. -Thurs., 9am-4pm and
Fridays 9am-1pm.

24-Hour Emergency Line:

949-837-2323

CAMPUS PARTNERS

Geneva Children's Center

Preschool for children age 2-6
Amy Lussier, Director
949-581-2200 / genevacc.org

Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church

Worship Sundays at 10am in the chapel.
irvinetpc.org

The Geneva School

Education for K-8th Grade
Gina Freda, Head of School
genevaschooloc.org
949-377-1616



PRAYER LIST

Susan August-Brown
Sunshine Chiu
Beth Coombs
Norm Coombs
Sandy Corbin
Babs Frink
George Marsh
Phil Riddick
Jennifer Strickland
Louann and Ross Van Riper

Email prayer requests to:
prayer@genevapres.org