

IN COMMUNITY WITH

IRVINE 台灣基督長老教會
TAIWANESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Geneva
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Loving God • Loving Others • Making Disciples

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Chien-Di Hung
cdhungtw@gmail.com

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Darren Pollock
949-837-2323
dpollock@genevapres.org

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP — 10:30 AM

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

TODAY'S SERMONS

The Rev. Dr. Chien-Di Hung
Who Am I?

The Rev. Dr. Darren Pollock
They Were Called Christians

TEXTS

Acts 11:5-18; Acts 11:19-26

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

* View past ITPC services online at <https://www.youtube.com/@irvineitpc4897>

For a complete listing of Geneva's activities and upcoming events, visit genevapres.churchcenter.com/calendar

For a listing of ITPC calendar and events, visit <https://www.irvinetpc.org/>

FILMING & CONSENT NOTICE

Welcome! We're glad you're here.

Please be advised that today's worship service is being recorded and livestreamed to our online platforms. By entering this space, you consent to the use of your image, voice, and likeness in the livestream and any future recordings, broadcasts, or promotional materials.

If you prefer not to appear on camera, please ask an usher to direct you to a designated camera-free zone, toward the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for being part of our community and helping us share the message beyond these walls.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Prelude on "Ave Verum by W. A. Mozart"

arr. E. Power Biggs
Charlotte Hsieh, organ

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Darren Pollock

Call to Worship†

Joseph Chen, elder, ITPC; Joanna Capelle, elder, GPC

Congregational Hymn

The Church's One Foundation (v. 1, 2, 4)

Glory to God #321

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Passing the Peace

Children up to 5th grade are escorted to classrooms.

Glory to God #595

Musical Offering

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Peggy Chen, Holly Moore Harvey, Tony Gonzales, Brennan Bastanchury

Harold W. Friedell

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.*

*As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.*

First Scripture Lesson: Acts 11:5-18 (NT p158)

Message: *Who Am I?*

The Rev. Dr. Chien-Di Hung

Congregational Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Glory to God #306

Second Scripture Lesson: Acts 11:19-26 (NT p158)

Message: *They Were Called Christians*

The Rev. Dr. Darren Pollock

Congregational Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

Glory to God #525

† The Call to Worship is adapted from Psalm 133.

Anthem

Ave verum corpus

W. A. Mozart

combined choirs of Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church
and Geneva Presbyterian Church; Eileen O'Hern, director

English translation:

*Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
Who having truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
Whose pierced side flowed with water and blood:
May it be for us a foretaste [of the Heavenly banquet] in the trial of death.*

Mandarin translation:

至真聖體，由童貞瑪利亞所生，
祢曾真實受難，為人類被獻祭於十字架上，
祢被刺穿的肋旁 流出水與血：
願這成為我們的預嚐 [天國的筵席]

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Congregational Hymn: *Eat This Bread*

Glory to God #527

Pastoral Prayer

Opportunity to Be Generous

Carol Boeryd, elder, GPC

Announcements

Congregational Hymn

The Church's One Foundation (v. 5)

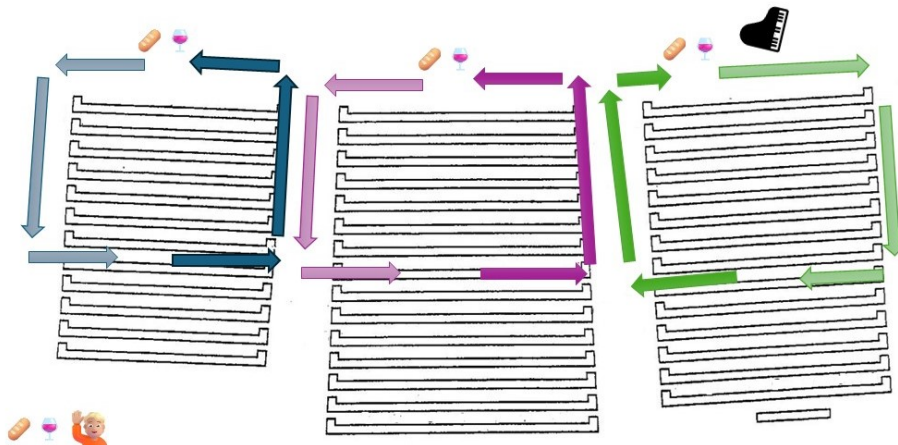
Glory to God #321

Blessing

Postlude

Christ for the World We Sing

Lani Smith



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S GREETERS

Betty Anderson and Claudia

Christiansen are welcoming you to worship today, representing Geneva Presbyterian Women, alongside volunteers from ITPC.

MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION

Sundays October 11, 18 and 25

This series of classes is for those who have been attending for a while and are interested in considering membership at Geneva. It begins October 11. Register at go.genevapres.org/Memx to assist in our planning, or call the church office for more information.

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Wendel

Geneva member Doris Wendel went to be with the Lord on September 20. A memorial service is planned for October 10, 10am, at Pacific View Memorial Park.



IN MEMORIAM

Tim Murray

A Celebration of life will be held for Tim Murray at Trabuco Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 10, at 11am. Tim, who passed away June 7, had been a member of Geneva for 15 years until he and his wife, Margaret, transferred to Trabuco Presbyterian Church.

GPW POLLY'S FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, October 13

Tuesday, October 13, Polly's Pies will donate 20% of proceeds to Geneva Presbyterian Women when you dine in or make a purchase and present the flyer to your server or cashier. Find the flyer on the website or in the church office, and come hungry!!

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Wednesday, October 21, 12-2pm,
Simpson Hall*

Join us this month as Roneet Cooper, LCSW, is our guest speaker for October, leading us in *Neurobics Cognitive Fitness*. Bring a friend, and a salad or sandwiches to share.

GIVING AND SHARING

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

One of the special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA, this offering will be collected **TODAY**, October 4. The offering works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends, working for racial and gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

FOOD DRIVE FOR SCO

Saturdays, October 17 and 24

Geneva is sponsoring a Food Drive for our mission partner, South County Outreach Food Pantry, on October 17 from 9am-1pm and October 24 from 1-5pm at Stater Bros. across the street. Donate groceries while doing your own shopping! See the flyer on the courtyard for a list of most-needed items, and thank you for your generosity! We can still use volunteers to cover shifts! Contact Nina Pomery or visit go.genevapres.org/scodrive.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GCC BOO BASH

Friday, October 16, 5-7:30pm

This year, Geneva Children's Center's harvest event is a Boo Bash in the parking lot at Geneva! Volunteers are needed to help at game booths. If you can help, email mrsamy@genevacc.org or call the preschool at 949-581-2200.

You may also **donate candy** for game prizes or baked goods for **cakewalk prizes**. Go to go.genevapres.org/boo or sign up on courtyard or in the office.

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



PRAYER LIST

Noemi Campbell
Beth Coombs
Norm Coombs
family of Ashlynn Morehouse
Hank Gioia
Grace Sams
Jennifer Strickland
Thora Sutfin
Louann Van Riper
Ross Van Riper

Email prayer requests to:
prayer@genevapres.org

Pastor Chien-Di Hung
“Who Am I?”, Acts 11:5-18

One of the top 10 best movies of 2019 was a biographical film titled *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. It depicts the life and dream of Rev. Fred Rogers, a Presbyterian minister. Most people may be familiar with "Mr. Rogers," but fewer have heard of "Rev. Rogers."

In the movie, Mr. Rogers often says: "In the eyes of God, everyone is unique. Therefore, we can—and should—become good neighbors to one another."

Yes, our two churches are different, and each of us is unique. Yet, through God's love and grace, we can become good neighbors. This is God's will.

About 2,000 years ago one day at noon, Peter had a dream in which God showed him a surprising and strange vision. He saw something like a large sheet coming down from above, containing all kinds of four-footed animals, reptiles, and birds.

This vision likely made Peter extremely uncomfortable, because inside were things that Peter and all devout Jews strictly refrained from eating, even touching—non-kosher, ‘unclean’ foods.

Peter heard God command him to kill and eat those so-called unclean animals. Of course, when God gives us a command, who can say No? Can we say No? Can Pastor Darren say No? Can Pastor Chien-Di say No? I believe no one can, right?

Yet Peter, who had followed Jesus for three years and was already a great leader in the early church, still could not cross that line of tradition, culture, and race.

Peter couldn't say "Yes!" to God; he could only answer honestly: "I have never done that before, and I have never eaten anything like that before!" What Peter really meant was: *This is impossible; I, as a Jew, cannot do such a thing.*

Perhaps Peter was so startled by that strange vision that he kept asking himself: *What is going on? What is happening?*

Perhaps Peter forgot what the prophet Isaiah once said: "For my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9).

Perhaps Peter forgot that not long before, he had courageously declared before the Jewish leaders: We should obey God more than human (Acts 4:19, 5:29).

Whatever the reason, Peter insisted: "I have never done this before, so... (it is impossible for me now and forever)."

Three consecutive times, God gave Peter (and us too) an opportunity. God said to Peter: "Do not call anything unclean that God has made clean." Even having heard this directly from God, Peter still felt troubled inside; he had no peace.

He still lacked the courage to break through the boundaries set by tradition and habit, and lacked the firm resolve to step out of his faith comfort zone (Acts 10:14–15, 11:8–9).

However, God's love for the world would never change because of Peter (or us), nor would God's desire to save humanity be abandoned because of him (or us).

Through the event of the Italian centurion Cornelius and his entire household eagerly desiring to believe in the Lord, God helped Peter finally understand the true meaning of that strange vision.

Ultimately, it led Peter to make a beautiful confession of faith: "Who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" (Acts 11:17).

John 3:16 tells us: *God "so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* This is God's love, God's intension of salvation, God's mercy, and God's grace.

"Who are we?"

"Who are we to hinder God's love?"

"Who are we to hinder God's salvation?"

"Who are we to hinder God's grace?"

Perhaps we can also ask ourselves:

"Who are we, that we should receive God's love?"

"Who are we, that we should receive God's salvation?"

"Who are we, that we should enjoy God's grace?"

It is... through Jesus Christ's grace.

It is the work of Jesus Christ on the cross that has torn down the wall of separation and opposition between us. Today, we are different, and we are unique. But because of the grace of Jesus Christ, we are no longer strangers or aliens.

Through the cross of Jesus Christ, we can restore a reconciled relationship with God and become good neighbors to one another.

"Who are we to hinder" ourselves from becoming members of God's household and His cherished children through the cross of our Lord Jesus (Ephesians 2:19)?

Today, as we sit together to worship God and partake in Holy Communion, we are responding to Peter's testimony. We proclaim to the world: *"Who are we to stand in the way of God's loving desire to save the world?"*

Yes, we may witness that although we are different, we can be united, can be one in Christ. Amen!

Pastor Darren Pollock

“They Were Called Christians,” Acts 11:19-26

從耶路撒冷教會對上帝的恩典竟也延伸至外邦人所發出的震驚讚美聲中，使徒行傳故事的焦點轉移到在最初幾十年中成為外邦基督教的中心——安提阿，這是當時希臘-羅馬世界的第三大城市。是的，上帝使祂兒女合一的計畫確實無法被阻擋；猶太人與外邦人不只能成為好鄰舍，甚至可以是親愛的弟兄姊妹。

然而，在前往安提阿的途中，我們知道耶路撒冷教會曾遭遇迫害——即使是「鄰舍美好的日子」也有暴風雨來襲時。正如幾世紀前在亞述和巴比倫被擄時一樣，上帝的子民被分散到新的散居地——遠至腓尼基、賽普勒斯和安提阿。

被驅離家園的信徒必定經歷了巨大的痛苦與損失，但他們的上帝是使「萬事都互相效力」，讓愛上帝、按祂旨意被召的人得益處的那一位；是約瑟所認識的那位能將他哥哥們的邪惡轉變為美意的上帝。我們的上帝是一位化惡為善、化苦難為興旺的上帝。二世紀教父特土良所寫「殉道者的鮮血是教會的種子」正是這種轉化的體現。

同時，上帝要轉化這場迫害成為教會的祝福；透過這次“四散”，上帝要把祂的兒女凝聚成一個大家庭。

在這段經文中，我們遇到了許多的身份標籤——猶太人與外邦人；流散在腓尼基、賽普勒斯和安提阿的人；講不同語言的人；始終忠實的跟隨者以及先前迫害教會的人。透過敬拜同一的救主，這個日益多樣的門徒團體，的確需要一個新的名字、新的稱號、一種新的方式來分享他們的核心認同：「基督徒」。

從經文中我們不清楚這個名字是門徒們的自稱，還是被外人（或許帶有嘲諷意味）貼上的標籤，但這個名稱十分貼切，並延用至今。

上帝使用許多門徒忠實的順服，成就了這項改變人心、打破看似不可逾越的界限、將眾人合而為一的非凡工作——分散的猶太基督徒堅守他們的信仰；一些賽普勒斯和古利奈人冒著風險向外邦人傳福音；巴拿巴則以開放的心胸接受差遣前往安提阿。然而，使他們的順服能結出果實、並賦予這些使徒大能的「唯一因素」，就是「上主的手與他們同在」。因為上帝的旨意、恩典與大能，「信主的人甚多」。

無論「基督徒」這個頭銜是來自教會內部、或來自友善的外人，或是來自別人的嘲笑，唯有上帝的靈才有能力可以轉化他們的身份，並凝聚他們為上帝的子民。

唯有上帝能改變人心、更新生命和使人合一。當我們見證上主的手成就這工時，我們應像巴拿巴一樣——歡喜快樂。有時，當上帝在其他基督徒群體中作工時，我們的反應可能是懷疑、競爭，或是因外在差異而恐懼。當上帝正在擴展他們的神學想像力和對可能性的認知時，早期基督徒團體之間確實存在著許多的猜忌與競爭。

作為一個被聖靈充滿且大有信心的巴拿巴，展現了正確的回應——他見證了上帝的恩典改變了安提阿的外邦人時，他就歡喜。正如，他名字的含義「勸慰子」，巴拿巴勸勉這個新信徒社群「立定志向，持久靠主」。正如鐵磨鐵，磨出刃來（箴 27:17），上帝使用一個基督徒團體來勸勉與塑造另一個團體；正如希伯來書的作者所寫（這或許是特土良推測巴拿巴為此匿名作者的原因之一）：「讓我們彼此相顧，激發愛心，勉勵行善。」

當上帝子民這個全新的、合一的身份在安提阿定根時，這位「勸慰子」為我們樹立了歡喜與勸勉的榜樣。

每當我們與所有信徒合一來敬拜上帝時，每當我們同心領受餅和杯時，今天在這個世界共同聖餐主日時，我們特別被提醒這分享的共同核心認同——「基督徒」。我們都是同一位主所愛的兒女，我們作為基督徒分享的核心認同，遠比任何語言、文化或國籍的差異都來得更加深厚。每當我們見證在基督裡的合一，以及成為上帝子民這幅多樣性的美麗織錦的一部份時，我們就像巴拿巴一樣，被呼召來歡喜快樂，並在作為基督門徒的生命旅程中彼此鼓勵。

讓我們同心祈禱 (**Let us pray**)：主耶穌基督，我們今天特別感謝祢，因祢將世界各地的教會聯絡結合為一個團契，也感謝祢賞賜給 ITPC（爾灣長老教會）與 GPC（日內瓦長老教會）合一的恩賜。我們感謝祢讓我們有機會在崇拜和事工中成為夥伴，並有福氣一起分享同一個教會園區，因著祢在每個教會中作工，我們要歡喜快樂，同時能互相勸勉對祢信實的信靠，為了祢的榮耀，我們互相激發愛心、勉勵行善。奉父、子、聖靈的名，阿們。

Pastoral Prayers

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主啊，我們在信經中宣認你的教會是獨一、聖潔、大公、使徒所傳承的——然而，我們卻常常以破碎、屬世、地域性、封閉自守的方式看待並對待它。求你擴張我們對你教會的眼界與理解，使我們看見它是一個超越語言障礙、國家疆界、政治意識形態與文化習俗的群體——它勝過人與人之間的分裂，也將我們與那些和我們截然不同的信徒，以及其他地方和時代的聖徒連結在一起。

69

當我們尋求在本地活出這樣的異象時，我們為這個在如此苦毒的分裂時期中的社區和諧禱告。求你幫助我們與所遇見的每一個人成為好鄰舍，不論彼此有何差異，並提醒橙縣南部基督徒群體中的每一個人，那使我們眾人連結在一起的是共同的信仰。我們為移民社群禱告，求你在本土主義與種族主義日益高漲的文化氛圍中保護他們。

70

當我們進入充滿爭議的選舉季最後幾週時，我們為投票者的安全禱告，也求你賜下和平、自由且公平的選舉。

我們為那些在經濟上苦苦掙扎的鄰舍，以及那些正在尋找工作的人禱告。我們為近期退休、正在適應新生活節奏的人，以及那些因固定收入而為預算感到焦慮的人代求。

71

我們求你安慰那些正在接受自身新限制的人，那些被悲傷重擔壓垮的人，那些受慢性疼痛折磨的人，以及那些因照顧他人而身心疲憊的人。

我們也為社區中的年輕人禱告。求你引導他們在這個複雜的世界中，在智慧和身量上不斷成長；這世界充斥著過量的資訊、不斷變動的文化景觀，以及發展速度快到我們難以理解其影響的科技。

72

當一個特別強烈的聖嬰現象週期正向我們襲來時，我們為那些正在應對極端天氣以及氣候變遷日益加劇影響的人禱告，從極端高溫到海平面上升與洪水。

73

我們為 Geneva Presbyterian 與 ITPC 在信仰上的合一以及事工上的夥伴關係向你獻上感謝，也為 Hung 牧師和 Tzu-Ya 禱告，因他們即將前往拉斯維加斯展開下一段旅程，感謝你使他們在這裡的事工所帶來的影響。求你帶領 ITPC 群體走過這下一個轉變，進入一個嶄新且多結果子的事工季節。

74

O Lord, Creator of all things, in Your boundless love and grace You have entrusted us with the responsibility of stewardship. Yet, through our own selfishness, pride, and self-centeredness, we have often sinned against You, hurt others, and harmed ourselves. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

75

Forgive us, O Lord! We have abused those talents and blessings you bestow on us. We have excessively destroyed nature and its resources, turning the world that You once saw as "good" into a place of extreme climate, full of many kinds of disasters—earthquakes, floods, and droughts—and causing the loss of many innocent lives.

76

Because of our selfishness, pride, and self-centeredness, "loving our neighbor as ourselves" often becomes a mere religious slogan. We long for a world of love, justice, peace, and freedom. Yet, these are often just platitudes on our lips, while our hearts remain filled with greed, selfishness, hatred, pride, and fear.

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O God of justice and mercy, we earnestly pray that You forgive us for the wars we have initiated in various excuses. Forgive us for failing to condemn racial discrimination and exploitation. Forgive us for shedding innocent blood, and for turning our heads away from those poor, hunger, loneliness, illness, and insecure all around us.

78

Through Your righteous and merciful hand and Your abundant grace, help us to abide continually in Jesus Christ. Amid disasters, war, sorrow, and darkness, please help us to love one another, enable us to share and witness Your salvation, peace, justice, love, and forgiveness that we may live in your hope and walk in your light.

79

We also pray, O merciful God, that our two churches may continue to serve you and serve people with generous love, mutual respect, and to express and witness our unity in you. May we, with your help, continue to be mission partners and to live out our faith and humbly witness the Good News—God is love.

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Bless your two churches that we may walk and work humbly together to become your "good and faithful servants." In the name of the Lord Jesus we pray, Amen!

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