

Watchword for the Week

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; beside me there is no god. (Isaiah 44:6)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2014)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(from Psalm 139, *The Message* translation)

God, investigate my life;
get all the facts firsthand.

I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.

You know when I leave and when I get back;
I'm never out of your sight.

You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence.

I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too – your reassuring presence, coming and going.

This is too much, too wonderful – I can't take it all in!

Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; cross-examine and test me,
get a clear picture of what I'm about; see for yourself whether I've done anything wrong – then guide me on the road to eternal life.

Hymn 160 * *Praise, my soul, the King*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

OPENING PRAYER

God eternal, we come into your presence,
worried and distracted by many things.
Calm our thoughts and our hearts;
help us to fix our minds on you;
and assist us by your Spirit; so that we may
praise you as you deserve.

Have mercy upon us, O God, for we are sinners. Impure in heart and mean of spirit, careless of others and deaf to your voice, we

have lived for ourselves and neglected your calling. Yet you are gracious and full of compassion, abounding in kindness and forbearance.

Forgive our sins, and teach us your way, that we may walk in your truth and give glory to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 97 *O God, you search me*

ASSURANCE of PARDON

The good news is that our God is a God of patience and understanding. Even when we stray, we are accompanied by a love that is too deep for words. Hear this! Know this!
Remember this! ***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

CHILDREN'S TIME

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may gather at the large table for Kids' Church)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 28:10-19 OT p. 29

St. Matthew 13:24-30 + 36-43 NT p. 20
People may stand for the Gospel reading.

The word of God: ***Thanks be to God!***

Hymn 268 *O God of Bethel*

SERMON Rev. James Brown

Hymn 262 * *For the world and all its people*
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)
(Hymn of the Month, July 2014)

DEDICATION PRAYER

With all that we have, and all that we are, we reach out to you, our God of generosity. We ask that you receive these ordinary gifts; may they be used to offer extraordinary blessings in our community and world. May these gifts remind us that through you, everything is possible! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (See Notices overleaf)

PRAYERS for OTHERS

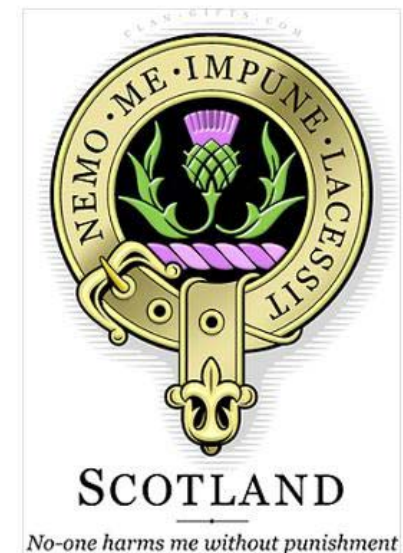
God of mercy: ***hear us as we pray.***

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 476 *Mine eyes have seen the glory*
(Can anyone explain why this hymn has no star – yet?)

BLESSING and ***Threefold Amen*** (No. 819)

ORGAN POSTLUDE



*"Then instead of wheat and barley,
may weeds and thistles grow."
(Job 31:40)*

Notices

- We welcome all **visitors** and **first-time worshippers**. Please sign our guest book including your postal or e-mail address if you wish to receive our church newsletter.
- **Today's worship team:**
 - Duty elder:** Derick Fonjong
 - Reader:** Jummy Omodara
 - Organ:** Katharina Zentgraf
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 124.70.
- After worship you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- This week's **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** features **Belize, Guatemala, Honduras** and **Mexico**. Please follow the prayer link from www.ecc-bochum.de
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



*We still pray, we still sing;
We still dream of the day
when the birds will return
and the flowers
and our lost loved ones.
We still live with the belief
that love and gentleness and faith
will blossom forth one day
like roses in winter.*

*We still believe that God
will be born again in our land
as we prepare the stable of our hearts
for the birth of a new people.*

*(Greeting from Salvadorian refugees in Honduras
to Guatemalan refugees in Mexico)*



ECC



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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

20 July 2014



"Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus"

"On entering, peace – on departure, blessing"
(Pauluskirche Bochum – Porch Inscription 1655)

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

ECUMENICAL • INTERNATIONAL • ENGLISH-LANGUAGE