

Watchword for the Week

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them to his bosom.
(Isaiah 40:11) (Moravian Daily Texts 2014)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(Verses from Psalm 85)

I will listen to what God the LORD will say;
he promises peace to his people, his saints –
but let them not return to folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield the harvest.

Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Hymn 273 * *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

(Two Advent candles are carried into church lit)

(Children may leave for Kids' Church in the halls next door)

PRAYER OF APPROACH

From the wilderness of our world, we come to worship. From the alone-ness of our solitary lives, we gather now as one people.

From the challenges and winding roads of our ever changing, ever more complex world, we come to the peace and calm of this sanctuary.

We come with intention and we bring our deep longings. And we seek, merciful Grace, your guiding spirit as we gather.

The candles of hope and peace have led us here, and we gather around them – each of us with the flickering of these. Strengthen our lights. Embolden our spirits. Kindle your light in our lives today, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11

OT p. 702 (701)

Hymn 276 *Wait for the Lord, his day is near*
(Hymn of the Month, December 2014)

St. Mark 1:1-8

NT p. 45

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 274 * *Comfort, comfort now my people*

SERMON

Rev. James Brown

Hymn 279 * *Make way for Christ the King*
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)
(Hymn of the Month, December 2011)

DEDICATION PRAYER

Loving God, every good and perfect gift comes from you. We dedicate to your service all that we have and are, and we pray that our offering may be pleasing to you in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES and PRAYER for OTHERS

Response: Hear our prayer,
and let your Kingdom come.

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.

INVITATION

During the next song, those who wish to receive the laying on of hands should come forward and kneel, stand, or sit at the appropriate place. When hands have been laid and prayer said, please make space for others who want to follow.

PRAYER

Look, Lord, on your children, who love your name and need your care. Let your hands be

known in the touch of friends. ***Lord, say the word and we shall be healed.***

CHORUS

*God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
So may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light.*

If you wish to receive the prayer of blessing and the laying-on of hands, come to sit, stand or kneel in the sanctuary area. You may also share in pronouncing the prayer of blessing on others.

PRAYER for the LAYING-ON of HANDS

Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter you, body, mind, and spirit, and heal you of all that harms you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

...so now, in gratitude, we join our voices to those of the Church on earth and in heaven:

Hymn 769 * *Holy, holy, holy*

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

BREAKING of BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God: ***have mercy on us.***

Jesus, bearer of our sins: ***have mercy on us.***

Jesus, redeemer of the world: ***grant us peace.***

COMMUNION

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Hymn 475 *Christ is coming!*

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

"The healing ministry is first and foremost about peace and justice – about the healing of the nations." (Iona Community)

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 we celebrate **Holy Communion** – you are **invited to share** in this sacrament, including your children if you so wish.
- **Today's worship team:**
 - Duty elder:** Justus Masa
 - Reader:** Debbie Hubweber
 - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled €247.60.
- After worship you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- **Advent dates** – all events in the church
 - Thursday, 11 December** at 19:00 hrs:
Concert: "Vom Mittelalter bis Jingle Bells".
 - Saturday, 13 December** at 18:00 hrs:
Annual ECC Sing-along Concert.
 - Sunday, 21 December** at 12:30 hrs:
Christmas Pageant (relive the Story).
 - Wednesday, 24 December** at 19:30 hrs:
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
- **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** for this week: **Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal.** For details, 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.



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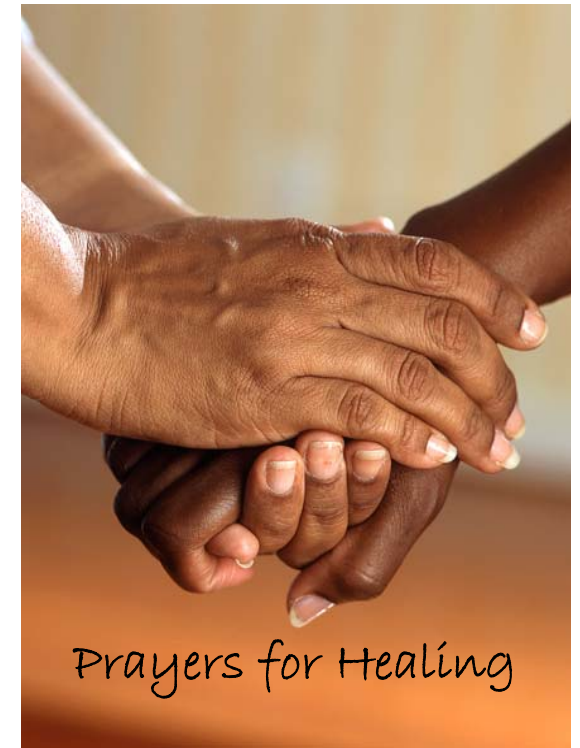
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

7 December 2014



Advent 2

Holy Communion

"Pax intransibus, salus exeuntibus"

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

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

ECUMENICAL • INTERNATIONAL • ENGLISH-LANGUAGE