

Watchword for the Week

The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. (Luke 1:49)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2014)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(Luke 1:46-54, Mary's Song of Praise)

My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad
because of God my Saviour, **for he has
remembered me, his lowly servant.**

From now on, all people will call me happy,
because of the great things the Mighty One
has done for me. **His name is holy;
from one generation to another he shows
mercy to those who honour him.**

He has stretched out his mighty arm and
scattered the proud with their plans. **He has
brought down mighty kings from their
thrones, and lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
**He has kept the promise he made to our
ancestors; and he has come to the help
of his servant Israel.**

Hymn 281 * *People, look East*

People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)
(Four Advent candles are carried into church lit)

OPENING PRAYERS

Because God chose not a palace but a tent:
We bear witness to the light.

Because God chose to be one of us, not apart
from us: **We bear witness to the light.**

Because God chose the margins, not the centre:
We bear witness to the light.

Because a woman said yes when she could
have said no: **We bear witness to the light,
for nothing is impossible for God.**

**Heavenly Father, you chose Mary, full of
grace, to be the mother of our Lord and
Saviour. Fill us with your grace, that in all
things we may embrace your will, and with**

**her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever. Amen.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE

God says: "Do not be afraid, for I have
redeemed you; I have called you by your name;
you are mine." **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Hymn 359 * *He came down...*
(Those who wish may put on costumes for the Pageant)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Christmas Pageants / Nativity Play are about bringing
the words of Scripture to life, an idea first realised in
1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. **You are invited to help
Scripture come alive by taking an active (acting)
part in today's Pageant – or to reflect on the texts
that are read and/or listed in your worship sheet.**

The Promise Luke 1:26-38
(New Testament, page 73)

Hymn 286 * *Tell out, my soul*
(Mary and Joseph move forward to the front steps)

The Birth Luke 2:1-7
(New Testament, page 75)

Hymn 316 * *Love came down at Christmas*
(Mary and Joseph go to the manger with Baby Jesus)

The Shepherds Luke 2:8-12
(New Testament, page 75)

Hymn 296 verse 1-4 *While humble shepherds*
(Shepherds and sheep come forward to the manger)

The Angels Luke 2:13-19
(New Testament, page 75)

Hymn 301 * *Hark! The herald angels sing*
(Angels enter singing and gather at the manger)

The Seekers Matthew 2:1-11
(New Testament, page 4)

Hymn 323 * *The first Nowell*
(Wise Men – and Women – gather the offerings
and lay them in the manger)

DEDICATION PRAYER

**Bless the gifts we bring today, that they may
be a blessing to you and, in the giving, a
blessing to us: that even through us, some-
thing of your transforming hope is shown
and known, for the sake of the world. Amen.**

ECC Choir "Come and join the celebration"
All are invited forward to gather round the manger

NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: Hear our prayer,
and make us part of the answer.

**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 516 * *We are marching / Siyahamb'*

BLESSING and *Threefold Amen* (No. 819)

ORGAN POSTLUDE



WHO'S WHO IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Mary	Luke 1:26-38, Luke 1:46-55
Joseph	Matthew 1:18-24, 2:13-15, 2:19-23
Angels	Luke 2:8-14, Hebrews 1:4-14
Shepherds	Ezekiel 34:11-16a, John 10:11-16
Sheep	Ezekiel 34:11-16a, Psalm 23
Magi / Seekers	Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-7
All people	Luke 2:10, Psalm 96, 1 John 4:9-12

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:**
 - Reader:** Eric Obomdi
 - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.**
- After worship you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- **Advent and Christmas dates**
 - Wednesday, 24 December** at 19:30 hrs:
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
 - Thursday, 25 December** at 12:30 hrs:
Christmas Day Communion
 - Sunday, 28 December** at 12:30 hrs:
1st after Christmas, Pastor Bob Haworth
 - Sunday, 4 January 2015** at 12:30 hrs:
Epiphany celebration / Covenant Sunday
- **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** for this week: **Ghana** and **Nigeria**. For details, follow the 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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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

21 December 2014



"Nativity" (GeeBee Recycles)
Figures made of folded book pages.

Advent 4

"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