

ORGAN PRELUDE

Vivaldi arr. J. S. Bach  
"Concerto in G Major"

WELCOME and OPENING LITANY

Into a world where it is so easy to lose hope; a world of violence and dire need at every turn:  
**Come, Lord Jesus, bring the light of hope.**

Into a world full of conflict and fear; of scarcity and plenty; a world unable to find true peace:  
**Come, Lord Jesus, bring the light of peace.**

**Choir Antiphon** "Come, Lord Jesus"

(The 1st Advent candle of **Hope** is carried into church lit)  
(The 2nd Advent candle of **Peace** is carried into church lit)

Into a world where the deep joy of gratitude is at risk from our constant desire for happiness:  
**Come, Lord Jesus, bring the light of joy.**

Into a world of exclusion and rejection, where shame and status dilute compassion and mercy:  
**Come, Lord Jesus, bring the light of love.**

**Choir Antiphon** "Come, Lord Jesus"

(The 3rd Advent candle of **Joy** is carried into church lit)  
(The 4th Advent candle of **Love** is carried into church lit)

OPENING PRAYER

Into a world often harsh and violent, the Christ child was born in vulnerability and innocence. Even while death was threatened by the powers that be, and while the shadows of fear covered the earth, hope itself was born that night; peace was embodied; joy was proclaimed; and love came to live with us, Emmanuel. **Into this same world, come, Lord Jesus, bringing your light, that we may know and celebrate your bright presence this night, and always.**

**Hymn 315 \*** *Once in Royal David's city*

**People's Choice Hymns** are marked with an asterisk (\*)  
(The Christ candle is carried into church lit)

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for a bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,

and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and meek and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven;  
set at God's right hand on high,  
where his children gather round,  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

**The Birth Narrative according to St. Luke**

(New Testament, page 75)

St. Luke 2:1-7

**The birth of Jesus**

**Hymn 312 \***

*Away in a manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

St. Luke 2:8-14

**Shepherds and angels**

**Choir**

*"See the shepherds"*

St. Luke 2:15-20

**Singing praises to God**

**Hymn 301 \***

*Hark! The herald angels sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with the angelic hosts proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,

offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the Incarnate Deity,  
pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth:

SERMON

*Rev. James Brown*

**Hymn 306 \***

*O come, all ye faithful*

*(Communion elements are brought forward)*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him, (3x)*  
*Christ, the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created;  
*O come, let us adore him...*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
*O come, let us adore him...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
*O come, let us adore him...*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

**We believe in God our Creator,  
source of all light and freedom;  
who spoke to Moses through the darkness,  
who brought ancient Israel out of captivity;  
We believe in Jesus our Saviour,  
eternally liberated from all that binds;  
who proclaimed release to prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind;  
We believe in the Spirit our Helper,  
God who is with us;  
who is our advocate, speaking for us,  
who is our comforter, offering us peace. 7**

**We believe in one God,  
Creator, Saviour, Helper, who is alive and  
active, pursuing all that is right, turning  
each person's eyes to the light. Amen.**

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise**  
... we join our voices with the angels who are  
forever praising you, saying:

**Choir** "Angels we have heard on high"  
... with all humanity we pray together, saying:

**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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### WORDS of INSTITUTION

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy upon us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy upon us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.**

#### SHARING the BREAD and the CUP

*Please come forward using the centre aisle, and  
return to your seat using one of the side aisles.*

#### ORGAN MEDITATION (during distribution)

"The Holy Boy" John Ireland (1879-1962)

#### PRAYERS for the WORLD

Come, light of Christ, **love's pure light.**

**Hymn 309 \*** *Still the night, holy the night*  
*(Seated - candles will be lit during this hymn)*

Still the night, holy the night!  
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,  
Mary and Joseph in stable bare  
watch o'er the child beloved and fair,  
sleeping in heavenly rest. (2x)

Still the night, holy the night!  
Shepherds first saw the light,  
heard resounding clear and long,



far and near, the angel-song,  
"Christ the Redeemer is here!" (2x)

Still the night, holy the night!  
Son of God, O how bright  
love is smiling from thy face!  
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,  
Saviour, since thou art born! (2x)

#### CLOSING LITANY

*(Standing)*

In the confidence of faith in our Creator:  
**We carry the light out into the world.**

In the strength of the risen Christ Jesus:  
**We carry the light out into the world.**

In the presence of the life-giving Spirit:  
**We carry the light out into the world.**

In the faith that the darkness will end:  
**We carry the light out into the world.**

#### Hymn 320 \*

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
*And heaven and nature sing. (3x)*

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
*Repeat the sounding joy. (3x)*

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
*And wonders of his love. (3x)*

#### BLESSING

*(Standing)*

**Threefold Amen (Hymn 819)**

ORGAN POSTLUDE Noel Rawsthorne (b. 1929)  
*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

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**The offering gathered as you leave church is  
for international HIV / AIDS relief projects  
and for the ongoing work of the ECC.**

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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

## Christmas Eve 2014



## Holy Communion

#### Celebrants

Rev. James Brown *Church of Scotland*  
Rev. Dr. Robert Haworth *United Church of Christ, USA*  
Pastorin Heike Lengenfeld-Brown  
*Protestant Church of Westphalia*

**Readers:** Justus & Katherine Masa

**Organist:** Ingeborg Maiwald  
**ECC Choir Bochum**

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Worship every Sunday at 12.30

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