

Watchword for Christmas Day

The Son reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:3)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2014)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 98)

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

He has shown the whole world that he frees his people. They see his words are true.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

The harp's music rings; each string calls his name. The trumpet and horn resound.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

The earth and the seas and the rivers all sing. The mountains erupt with joy.

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

The Lord has come to all people and lands: a fair and righteous judge.

Hymn 320 * *Joy to the world*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

PRAYER of APPROACH

Lord Jesus, you are the light there in the beginning, bringing all things to life, and giving knowledge and wisdom to all people.

You are our light,
may the darkness never overcome you.

Lord Jesus, you are the light coming into the world, looking for those who believe, who are ready to be changed into children of God.

You are our light,
may the darkness never overcome you.

Lord Jesus, you are the light coming to us, and we receive you with open, trembling hands, wondering at your grace, marvelling at your

glory. You are our light,
may the darkness never overcome you.

Hymn 543 *Christ be our light!*

WORDS of ASSURANCE

(From Isaiah 9 and John 1)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10 *OT p. 718 (719)*

St. John 1:1-14 *NT p. 116*
People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 313 *See! In yonder manger low*

SERMON *Rev. James Brown*

Hymn 316 * *Love came down at Christmas*
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

You are the new song.
You are the next beat in my heart.
You are praise and possibility.
You are the present and the future.

I believe the Light of the World
has come on this day.
I see it now in all days.

Those gone and those to come
are aflame in love.
Your love wrapped in human form,
your love learned in justice and mercy,
your love risen over death.

I believe love has come on this day.
I believe love has and will always come.
Amen.

INSTITUTION and THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

...we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise in the angels' song:

Hymn 324 * 1+5 *Angels from the realms...*

... we offer and present to you our very selves, to be a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for your acceptance; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS for OTHERS

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.

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 (please come forward to share)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Hymn 294 * *On Christmas night*

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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:** Justus Masa
 - Reader:** Mary Otto
 - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Today we celebrate **Holy Communion** – you are **invited to share** in this sacrament. *Parents have the option of bringing their children forward to share the sacrament too.*
- 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.
- **Forthcoming dates**
 - Sunday, 4 January 2015** at 12:30 hrs:
Epiphany celebration / Covenant Sunday when we covenant our giving for 2015
 - Sunday, 25 January** at 12:30 hrs:
Christian Unity 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

25 December 2014



Christmas Day
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