

Watchword for the Week

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)
(Moravian Daily Texts 2015)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(Verses from Psalm 51)

Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy, wipe away my sins! **Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin!**

Sincerity and truth are what you require; fill my mind with your wisdom.

Remove my sin, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; and though you have crushed me and broken me, I will be happy once again.

Close your eyes to my sins and wipe out all my evil.

Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me. Do not banish me from your presence; do not take your holy spirit away from me. **Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.**

Hymn 485 *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*

PRAYER of APPROACH

("Sharing Suffering and Compassion", New Zealand)

God of suffering and glory, in Jesus Christ you reveal the way of life through the path of obedience. Inscribe your law in our hearts, that in life we may not stray from you, but may be your people.

Now we imagine what it is like to be a marginalised or repressed human being, what it is like to be stereotyped and judged by society, in a way that does violence to oneself as a human being: a gay man or lesbian woman;

a political activist; an avant-garde artist; a convicted criminal.

(Silence)

What it is like to be caught up in the poverty trap with apparently no way out except resorting to violence or illegal activity.

(Silence)

What it is like to have one's culture destroyed and not know who one really is.

(Silence)

What it is like to be maimed in body or mind – to have lost a part of oneself.

(Silence)

What it is like to be in a spiritual wilderness where old beliefs have died and there are as yet no replacements, no resurrection from the tomb.

(Silence)

May the nurturing fire of compassion melt the ice of our hearts, the ice of indifference, the ice of imagined superiority, the ice of cynicism and despair.

Let us walk gently with our pain, walk gently with the pain of the world, and join the dance of transforming love, the dance of the wide-eyed pilgrim - the justice and peace pioneer. Amen.

Hymn 776 * *Kyrie eleison* (Lord, have mercy)
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

WORDS of FORGIVENESS (Hebrews 5:7-9)
In his life on earth, Jesus made his prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God, who could save him from death. He has become the source of eternal salvation for all whose who obey him. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn 772 * *In the Lord I'll be ever thankful*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34 OT p. 767 (768)

St. John 12:20-33 NT p. 135

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 347 *Unless a single grain of wheat*
(Hymn of the Month, March 2015)

SERMON Rev. James Brown

Hymn 694 *Brother, sister, let me serve you*
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

DEDICATION PRAYER

O God, you do not need to be enriched with any of our gifts which we bring, yet you love a cheerful giver; receive these our offerings which we present before you, and, with them, ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS

Sung response (Hymn 805 *):

Let your name be glorified:

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

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 251 * *Here I am, Lord*

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: Herold Dehling
Reader: Katherine Masa
Organ: Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 201.90.
- After worship, you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- **Diary for the week ahead:**
Wed. 25 Mar.: *ECC Choir* 6 pm (Church)
Fri. 27 Mar.: *Joyful Singers* 7 pm (Halls)
- **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** for this week: **China, Hong Kong** and **Macao**. More information via: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Summer time** starts next weekend: put your clocks **forward** 1 hour next Saturday!
- **Holy Week worship diary:**
Palm Sunday: 29 March 12:30 pm
Maundy Thursday: 2 April 7:30 pm
Good Friday: 3 April 12:30 pm
Easter Sunday: 5 April 12:30 pm
- 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

22 March 2015



*"A grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies."
(John 12:24)*

Lent 5

"Pax intransibus, salus exeuntibus"

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

Worship every Sunday at 12.30