

### Watchword for the Week

"Bear fruits worthy of repentance."  
(Luke 3:8)  
(Moravian Daily Texts 2014)

### ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP  
(Isaiah 12:1-6)

A day is coming when people will sing,  
**"I praise you, Lord!**

**You were angry with me, but now you comfort me and are angry no longer.**

God is my saviour; I will trust him and not be afraid. The Lord gives me power and strength; he is my saviour.

**As fresh water brings joy to the thirsty, so God's people rejoice when he saves them."**

A day is coming when people will sing,  
**"Give thanks to the Lord! Call for him to help you! Tell all the nations what he has done! Tell them how great he is!**

Sing to the Lord because of the great things he has done. Let the whole world hear the news.

**Let everyone in Zion shout and sing!**

**Israel's holy God is great, and he lives among his people."**

**Hymn 512 \*** *To God be the glory!*  
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (\*)  
(Three Advent candles are carried into church lit)

### OPENING PRAYER

The flames of our Advent candles tell us of your light coming into our world, O God.

Into a world of despair, you bring burning hope;  
**the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.**

In a world of hatred and warfare, you light the tender spark of your peace;  
**the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.**

To a world of sadness, you give the gift of joy;  
**the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.**

Holy God, as we get closer and closer to Christmas, we are too easily caught up in the excitement rather than the joy of this season. Help us to set aside our fretting, our wish lists and our to-do lists, so that we may focus on you.

**We pray that your Holy Spirit would fill us and fill this place, that we might hear your voice speaking to us.**

God of compassion, while we desire to be people of justice and peace, there are times when we ignore those in our community who are in need of physical or emotional support. We want to bear good fruit, but sometimes we get in our own way. **Ignite your fire within us, we pray. Help us to let go of those things that are holding us back from you. Amen.**

### WORDS of ASSURANCE

When we are in Christ, we are baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire. We are changed from the inside out and are made new creations!  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S TIME



### SHARING GOD'S PEACE

**Hymn 359 \*** *He came down...*  
(Children may leave for Kids' Church in the halls next door)

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 4:4-9 NT p. 250 (249)

St. Luke 3:7-18 NT p. 77  
People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

### Hymn 280

*Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is near*  
(Hymn of the Month, December 2015)

### SERMON

Rev. James Brown

**Hymn 528 \*** *Make me a channel of your peace*  
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

### DEDICATION PRAYER

Surely God is my salvation;

**I will trust and not be afraid.**

Take what we are, **restored to you rejoicing.**

Take what we have,

**gifts generously poured from your heart.**

Take what we will be,

**the fresh water of joyful new life in you.**

Surely God is my salvation;

**I will trust and not be afraid. Amen.**

### NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

**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.**

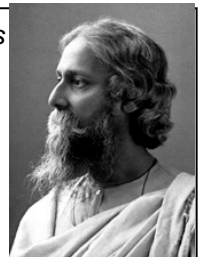
**Hymn 277 \*** *Hark the glad sound*

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

### ORGAN POSTLUDE

*I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.*

Rabindranath Tagore  
(1861-1941)  
Bengali poet and philosopher



# 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:** Eric Obimdi
  - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 374.56.
- After worship you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- **Let us build a house** is our ongoing Nepal earthquake relief appeal. € 675 will pay to rebuild one house in Nepal. Marcus Sarpong has donation envelopes and info leaflets.
- **Diary for the week ahead:**
  - Wed. 16 Dec.: ECC Choir** 6 pm (Church)
  - Fri. 18 Dec.: Joyful Singers** 7 pm (Halls)
- **Advent and Christmas dates**
  - Sunday, 20 December** at 12:30 hrs:  
Christmas Pageant (relive the Story).
  - Thursday, 24 December** at 19:30 hrs:  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
  - Friday, 25 December** at 12:30 hrs:  
Christmas Day Communion
- **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** for this week: **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo**. For details, follow the link from [www.ecc-bochum.de](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



## Church address

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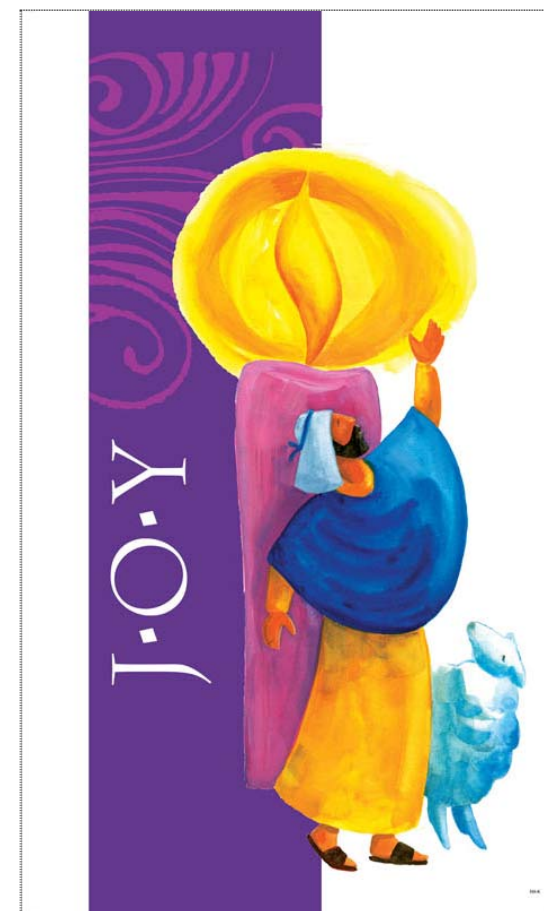
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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

# 13 December 2015



## Advent 3

**"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**