

ORGAN PRELUDE      *"Mr. Purcell's Procession"*  
June Nixon (b. 1942)

OPENING LITANY      *"Behold I stand at the door"*  
(Please stand)

**Hymn 279 \***      *Make way for Christ the King*  
**People's Choice Hymns** are marked with an asterisk (\*)

Make way, make way,  
for Christ the King in splendour arrives;  
fling wide the gates  
and welcome him into your lives.  
*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;  
make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free;  
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.  
*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;  
make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.*

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh,  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify.  
*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;  
make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.*

We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all,  
to have no gods before him,  
their thrones shall fall.  
*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;  
make way, make way, and let his kingdom in.*

WELCOME and OPENING PRAYER

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
stay with us for the day is ending.  
Bring to our house your poverty,  
**for then we shall be rich.**  
Bring to our house your pain,  
**that, sharing it, we may also share your joy.**  
Bring to our house your understanding of us,  
**that we may be freed to learn more of you.**  
Bring to our house all those  
who hurry or hobble behind you:  
**that we may meet you as the Saviour of all.**  
Bring to our house your Holy Spirit:  
**that this may be a cradle of love.**

With friend, with stranger, with neighbour, with  
those we know well, be among us tonight,  
**for the doors of our house we open,  
and the doors of our hearts we leave ajar.**

**Hymn 304 \***      *O little town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in your streets is shining  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

**The Birth Narrative according to St. Luke**  
*(New Testament, page 75)*

St. Luke 2:1-7      ***The birth of Jesus***

**Hymn 316 \***      *Love came down at Christmas*

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
star and angel gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;  
worship we our Jesus:  
but wherewith for sacred sign?.

Love shall be our token,  
love be yours and love be mine,  
love to God and all men,  
love for plea and gift and sign.

St. Luke 2:8-20      ***Shepherds and angels***

**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...*

## COMMUNION PRAYER

Once upon a time, long, long ago ... and lift our hearts with praise as did the angels long ago:

**Hymn 760 \*** *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

...Jesus reminds us that God is like a Father, never far away. And so we pray with him:

**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

*"Festive allegro"*

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

[www.christmasstory.world](http://www.christmasstory.world)

The Protestant Church in the Rhineland has posted a video of the Christmas story online using images of the present refugee 'crisis' and commenting, "We believe that God is still speaking, and the Bible speaks to us in our context."



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

English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

Christmas Eve 2015



## Holy Communion

### Liturgists:

Rev. James Brown *Church of Scotland*

Rev. Dr. Robert Haworth *United Church of Christ, USA*

Pastorin Heike Lengenfeld-Brown  
*Protestant Church of Westphalia*

**Reader:** Tamsin Kostrzewa

**Organist:** Ingeborg Maiwald

**Worship every Sunday at 12.30**