

### Watchword for Christmas Day

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's  
only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2015)

### ORGAN PRELUDE

### WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(based on Isaiah 52:7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet  
of a messenger who proclaims peace,

**who brings good news,**

who proclaims salvation,

**who says to Zion, "Your God rules!"**

Listen! Your lookouts lift their voice; they sing  
out together! **Right before their eyes they see  
the Lord returning to Zion.**

Break into song together, you ruins of  
Jerusalem! **God has comforted the people  
and has redeemed Jerusalem.**

God has bared his holy arm in view of all the  
nations; all the ends of the earth have seen our  
God's victory. **Come, let us worship God!**

### Hymn 320 \*

*Joy to the world*

People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (\*)

### PRAYER of APPROACH

The waiting is over – the excitement has  
happened! God we give you thanks for the birth  
of Jesus, child in a manger come to save the  
world. We love many of the feelings that come  
with this season, and we are grateful. Yet we  
also are tired of all the preparation and the hype,  
and we want to go back to "normal."

**Change us. Help us not to go back – but to  
go forward as your people. Help us to be  
transformed by the birth of Christ.**

When we are tempted to leave all the good  
feelings of this season aside, forgive us – **and  
help us to take them with us throughout the  
coming year.** On this day we celebrate that you  
came to live among us in a radical, new way;  
**help us to celebrate that with new ways of  
living each and every day. Amen.**

### WORDS of ASSURANCE (John 1)

The light shines out in the midst of a frightening  
world, and yet the world has never overcome it.  
Know that whenever we feel surrounded, when-  
ever we feel overwhelmed, whenever we feel  
tempted to reject tomorrow and return to the  
comfort of yesterday, God understands. God  
forgives us. God leads us onward.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Hymn 313

*See in yonder manger low*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 1:1-4

*NT p. 275 (273)*

St. John 1:1-14

*NT p. 116*

*People may stand for the Gospel reading.*

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

### Hymn 319 verses 1-3

*Of the Father's love*

### SERMON

Rev. James Brown

### Hymn 319 verses 4-6

*This is he whom seers*

*(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)*

### INVITATION

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.**

### LITANY for CHRISTMAS DAY

The Word was made flesh, **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

And dwelt among us. **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Jesus, Son of the living God, Splendour of the  
Father, Light eternal, **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Lord, **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls,  
Perfect in holiness, **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor,  
Treasure of the faithful, **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Good Shepherd, Inexhaustible Wisdom,  
our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, joy of the angels, Crown of all the saints,

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Christ is born! **Give him glory!**

Christ has come down from heaven!

**Receive him!**

Christ is now on earth! **Exalt him!**

O earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy!

**For he has been glorified! Amen.**

### Hymn 324 \* 1, 4, 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

### LORD'S PRAYER

### COMMUNION (please come forward to share)

### SHARING GOD'S PEACE

### THANKSGIVING PRAYER

### Hymn 322 \*

*Good Christians, all rejoice*

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

### ORGAN POSTLUDE

"Language makes infinite  
use of finite means."

Wilhelm von Humboldt

(1767-1835)

Prussian philosopher and diplomat



# 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:**
  - Reader:** Justus Masa
  - 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, 27 December** at 12:30 hrs: with Nathania Ministry Choir, Indonesia
  - Sunday, 10 January 2016** at 12:30 hrs: Epiphany celebration / Covenant Sunday when we pledge our giving for 2016
  - Sunday, 24 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](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



## ECC



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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

## 25 December 2015



## Holy Communion

**"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