

Watchword for the Week

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
(Psalm 148:13)
(Moravian Daily Texts 2015)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

God comes as powerful Creator:

Let us praise him

God comes as a helpless baby:

Let us praise him

God comes in the meek and the lowly:

Let us praise him.

God comes for the hopeful and the humble:

Let us praise him.

God comes to bring salvation:

Let us praise him.

God comes for all his people:

Let all the people praise him.

Hymn 152 * *Praise the Lord, his glories show*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)
(based on Psalm 148)

PRAYER of APPROACH

God of creation, you are heaven come to earth,
light in our darkness, hope of our dreams.

You are our God and so we praise you.

God of love, we know about the star in the sky,
about the shepherds in the fields,
about the baby in the manger.

We know we are loved, and we praise you.

God of surprises, we come with the sound of
angel voices echoing still in our ears, the smell
of straw still fresh in our nostrils, the knowledge
of your closeness still shocking but beautiful.

We come to praise you.

We praise you for the gift of your son, Jesus,
whose birth we celebrate at this time, and
whose living among us is proof of the promise
you made to your people long ago.

We are glad to praise you, loving God.

Christmas Day is past, and now we look to a
future safe once more in the knowledge of your
presence among us, yet past disappointments
and weaknesses still linger.

We have joined the angels' song
yet been afraid to speak of you.

We have shared the shepherd's awe
yet failed to recognise you.

We have knelt at the manger
yet have not truly served you.

We have called you one of us
**yet ignored our brothers and sisters
when they needed us most.**

In your graciousness and with your grace,
forgive us, Lord. Raise us up from the dirt and
straw of our lives. Lead us from the darkness of
our fears and failures. Lift our eyes
heavenwards and keep our feet firmly on the
ground so that we might know and share your
glory, the glory of that first Christmas, the glory
which shines every time you are born and
reborn within us and within our world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE (John 3:16-17)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one
and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall
not perish but have eternal life. For God did not
send his Son into the world to condemn the
world, but to save the world through him.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn 331 *Unto us a boy is born!*

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Colossians 3:12-17 *NT p. 254 (253)*

St. Luke 2:41-52 *NT p. 76*
People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 356 * *Meekness and majesty*

SERMON *Rev. James Brown*

Hymn 191 * *Do not be afraid*
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

DEDICATION PRAYER

**God gives to us over and over again. What a
joy it is for us to give something back to
God! In appreciation for the wondrous gift of
Christmas, we present an offering to you, O
God. Take these gifts we offer, and use them
and us, the givers, to enhance your presence
in our world. May they bring voice and hope
and new life to those who have none. 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 153 * *Great is thy faithfulness*

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Praise is the portal
to the presence
of God.”

David Brazzeal, *Pray Like a
Gourmet: Creative Ways to
Feed Your Soul*



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:** Oliver Kazanecki
 - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- 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, 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: ***Stateless people*** and ***migrants***. 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.



"God is here, right now, at our side.
We can see him in this mist,
in the ground we're walking on,
even in my shoes. ... In order to find God,
you have only to look around."

Paulo Coelho

By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept



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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

27 December 2015



Sunday after Christmas

"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