

Watchword for the Week

God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ. (Ephesians 1:9)
(Moravian Daily Texts 2016)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

In the beginning was the Word.
A Word for all generations.

In the beginning was light.
Light which shines for eternity.

In the beginning was life.
Life for all people.

The Word, the light,
the life that is Christ has come.
Christ has been, Christ is, Christ will be.
Let us worship him.

Hymn 103 * *Fill your hearts with joy*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)
(based on Psalm 147)

PRAYER of APPROACH

God of creation, you breathed life into the void
and the world was born out of nothing.
You kept your promise.

Living God, your voice whispered love and the
Word came to life and was everything.
You kept your promise.

Spirit God, you move among us in our
ordinariness and our lives become extra-
ordinary. **You keep your promise and hold us**
within it each new day, each new year.

Today, gracious God, we praise you
that darkness has given way to light,
that prophecy has made room for the truth,
that waiting has made room for arriving.

We praise you
that silence has been filled with good news,
that fear has been overcome by joy,
that death has been defeated by life.

We praise you
that old has moved over for the new,
that past has given way to future
and that you are in the midst of it
and in the midst of us gathered here.

Most of all we praise you, gracious God, that
you have been faithful to us in our lack of faith.
At those times when we have doubted your
presence and failed to notice you.

When we have blindly followed our own path
and failed to see you.

When we have condemned and criticised others
and failed to acknowledge you are among them.
We leave behind us a trail of broken promises,
Lord, rough and ragged, used and useless. Yet
there you are, coming behind us to pick them up
and, in spite of us, make something out of them.

May we, loving God, leave this place
knowing that our story has begun anew here
and that you wait, ready to shape it, and us,
that we might share your goodness, show
your kindness, and work for your justice;
that all everywhere might hear your promise
and come to know your peace. In Jesus'
name we pray. Amen.

WORDS of ASSURANCE

God's grace never wanes with the new year's
first moon. God's love never falters when the
world hesitates. God's compassion never runs
out as time slips through our hands. God keeps
his promise and we are a forgiven people once
again. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn 213 * *Every new morning*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ephesians 1:3-14 *NT p. 240*

St. John 1:10-18 *NT p. 117*

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 327 *Brightest and best of the sons*
(Hymn of the Month, January 2016 – Tune: Epiphany 240)

SERMON

Rev. James Brown

Hymn 305

In the bleak midwinter
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

DEDICATION PRAYER

We delight in you, our God. We thank you for
your abundant goodness, and for the gift of
Jesus Christ, your Son. As we bring our
gifts, we offer ourselves to live and work to
your glory and praise; in the name of Christ
our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: Though we cannot see you:
your love surrounds us.

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.

COMMUNION PRAYER

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 God thanks and praise.

... love Jesus and honour his name, we praise
you, singing the hymn of your everlasting glory:

Hymn 769 * *Holy, holy, holy*

INVITATION / BREAKING and SHARING
(Please come forward for communion)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Hymn 113 * *God the Father of Creation*

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 we celebrate **Holy Communion** – you are **invited to share** in this sacrament, including your children if you so wish.
- **Today's worship team:**
Reader: Eric Obimdi
Organ: Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 152.27.
- After worship you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** for this week: **Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel** and the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**. Link to more details at: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Forthcoming dates**
Sunday, 10 January at 12:30 hrs:
Epiphany celebration / Covenant Sunday when we pledge our giving for 2016
January 18-24 daily at 19:30 hrs:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – hosted by a different church every day (see details on the postcards available in church)
Sunday, 24 January at 12:30 hrs:
Christian Unity Sunday in English with Pastor Andrius Stakelis (Lithuania) tbc
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



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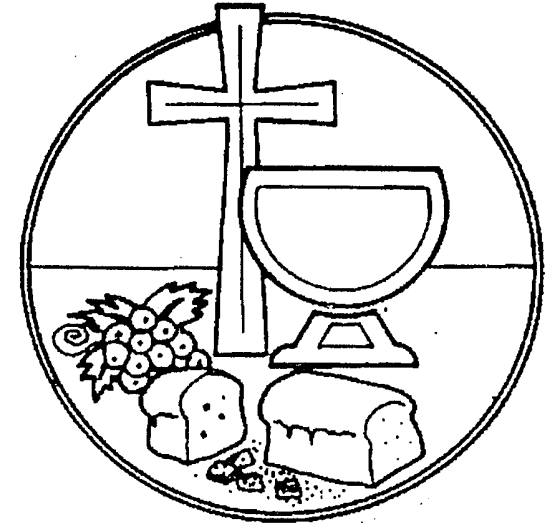
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

3 January 2016



2nd Sunday after
Christmas

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