

Watchword for the Week

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2016)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and OPENING RESPONSES

God welcomes you to this place – if it is your first time, if you were here last week, or if you are returning after a long time away.

We rejoice to be in God's presence!

God is with us on our Lenten journey, providing the nourishment and love that we need. We remember God journeying with his people out of Egypt and through the desert.

We praise God for his faithfulness.

On their journey home, God greeted his people in the Promised Land with new food to replace their meals of manna. God was doing a new thing in their lives. ***We are looking for the new thing that God is doing in our lives today.***

God welcomes you to this place – where all will find love, forgiveness, and restoration.

We celebrate in God's presence!

Hymn 198 * *Let us build a house*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)
(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

PRAYER of APPROACH (The Coventry Litany)

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and so, together, we all pray:

The hatred which divides nation from nation,
race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, ***Father, forgive.***

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, ***Father, forgive.***

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee, ***Father, forgive.***

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, ***Father, forgive.***

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, ***Father, forgive.***

WORDS of ASSURANCE

In Christ, God has shown us the way out of our sin and our division: "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." ***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *NT p. 226*

Hymn 779 * *Listen now for the Gospel!*

St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 *NT p. 99*
People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 555 * *Amazing grace!*

SERMON *Rev. James Brown*

Hymn 685 *For everyone born, a place...*
(Hymn of the Month, March 2016)
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)
(Communion gifts are brought forward)

AFFIRMATION "Celebrating the Ministry of Jesus"

- A: He is among us:
the one who gave sight to the blind
and insight to the close-minded;
- B: the one who gave hearing to the deaf
and listening ears to those
who heard only their own voices;
- All: ***the one who made the lame walk
and is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.***
- A: He is among us:
the one who healed the sick
and helped the hopeless;
- B: the one who drove out demons
and gave new names to those
who were only known for their problems;

All: ***the one who was criticised for coming
too close to the contaminated.***

- A: He is among us:
the one who agreed with fair taxation
and handled money;
- B: the one who spoke for the poor
and who spoke to the privileged
of the good things their wealth could do;
- All: ***the one who entrusted himself
to women as much as men,
without prejudice or favour.***

- A: He is among us
to touch, to heal,
- B: to bless, to inspire,
- A: to comfort, to convert,
- B: to show at all times
the human face of God.

All: ***He is among us.***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

...So now, in gratitude, we join our voices to those of the Church on earth and in heaven:

Hymn 769 * *Holy, holy, holy*

PRAYERS for OTHERS / LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING of BREAD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Grant us your peace.

SHARING the ELEMENTS

Please remain at your place. Bread and wine will be brought to you into the "body of the church."

PASSING the PEACE

NOTICES and THANKSGIVING

Hymn 682 *Go in grace and make disciples*

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:**
 - Duty Elder:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner
 - Reader:** Eric Obimdi
 - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 119.64.
- After worship, you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **Andorra, Austria, Monaco, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Switzerland**. Info at: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Diary for the week ahead:**
 - Wednesday, 9 March**
6:00 pm **ECC Choir** practice in church
 - Sunday, 13 March**
12:30 hrs Preacher: Geeske Brinkmann (Theologian, Humboldt University, Berlin)
- **"Reformation and One World" 2016:** Information leaflets for events during the year are available in church, e.g. the September symposium *"Gemeinsam Kirchen sein"*, and *"Weite wirkt"* ("Wider Outlook Works") events.
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



ECC



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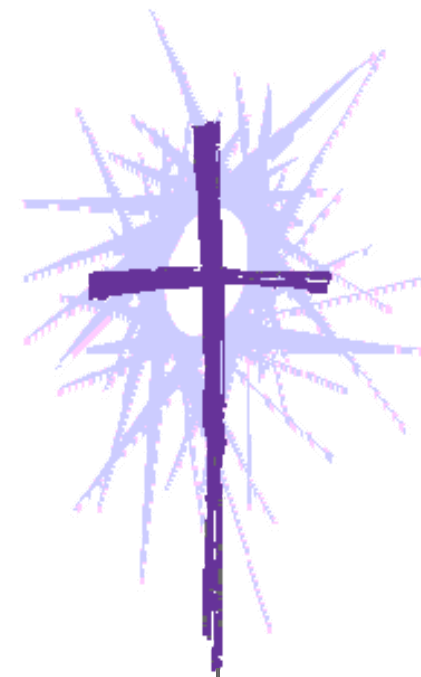
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

6 March 2016



Lent 4

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