

Watchword for the Week

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near
(Matthew 3:2)
(Moravian Daily Texts 2016)

Hymn 241 * v. 3-4 *Yet nations still prey...*
(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

PRAYER of BLESSING

As if it were not enough... ..me and us:
So we bless you.

As if it were not enough
to do all this and return, triumphant, to glory,
you still hear our cries in the courts of high
heaven, and promise your Spirit for the healing
of the nations and for me and for us.

**So we bless you, God of all power,
Lord of our weakness, Spirit of our salvation.
Amen.**

📖 SCRIPTURE READING (ii)

St. Matthew 3:1-12 *NT p. 5*

Hymn 279 * *Make way for Christ the King*

REFLECTION (i) *To heal or to divide?*

PRAYERS for HEALING

Hear our prayer, **and let your Kingdom come.**

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.

INVITATION

Chorus

*God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
So may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light.*

PRAYER: Look, Lord, on your children, who love your name and need your care. Let your hands be known in the touch of friends. **Lord, say the word and we shall be healed.**

If you wish to receive the prayer of blessing and the laying-on of hands, come to sit, stand or kneel in the sanctuary area. You may also share in pronouncing the prayer of blessing on others.

PRAYER for the LAYING-ON of HANDS

Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter you, body, mind, and spirit, and heal you of all that harms you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

📖 SCRIPTURE READING (iii)

Romans 15:4-13 *NT p. 202*

REFLECTION (ii) *To heal is to unite*

Hymn 311 * *Jesus is born*
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)
(Hymn of the Month, December 2016)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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*

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

BREAKING of BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God: **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, bearer of our sins: **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, redeemer of the world: **grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

NOTICES and CONCLUDING PRAYER

Hymn 477 * *Lo, he comes with clouds*

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

Something is happening; someone is coming:
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Don't be afraid, he is coming with tenderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Listen to him; he is speaking peace:
Prepare the way of the Lord.

He comes to give what is good. Cry out the good news: **Prepare the way of the Lord.**

He is coming to make his home in our hearts:
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Hymn 273 * *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)
(Two Advent candles are carried into church lit)

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER

Today, in preparation for your coming, O Lord, we have now lit a second Advent candle. It stands for your hope that lights our life's path.
We wait in hope.

Through the prophets, you tell us, O God, of a child who will lead the way into peace.
We wait in peace.

We hear John's voice crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" So we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming.
We wait in peace and hope. Amen

📖 SCRIPTURE READING (i)

Isaiah 11:1-10 *OT p. 680 (679)*

Hymn 241 * v. 1-2 *Isaiah the prophet...*

CHILDREN'S TIME *A healing vision*

Notices

- We welcome all **visitors** and **first-time worshippers**. Please sign our guest book *including your postal or e-mail address to be sent our occasional 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:** Herold Dehling
 - Reader:** Andrea Nieder Hagemann
 - Organ:** Katharina Zentgraf
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 232.80.
- After worship, you are invited to the **church halls** for tea, coffee, and fellowship.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on the **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**. Prayer link: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Diary for the week ahead:**
 - Wednesday 6:00 pm** **ECC Choir** (church)
 - Thursday, 8 December 19:30 pm**
Advent Concert Pauluskirche choir / brass
 - Friday 6:00 pm** **Joyful Singers** (church hall)
 - Saturday, 10 December 18:00 pm**
Sing-along Concert with choirs of the ECC
- **Looking further ahead:**
 - Sunday, 18 December 12:30 pm**
4th of Advent Pageant / Nativity Play
 - Saturday, 24 December 19:30 pm**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



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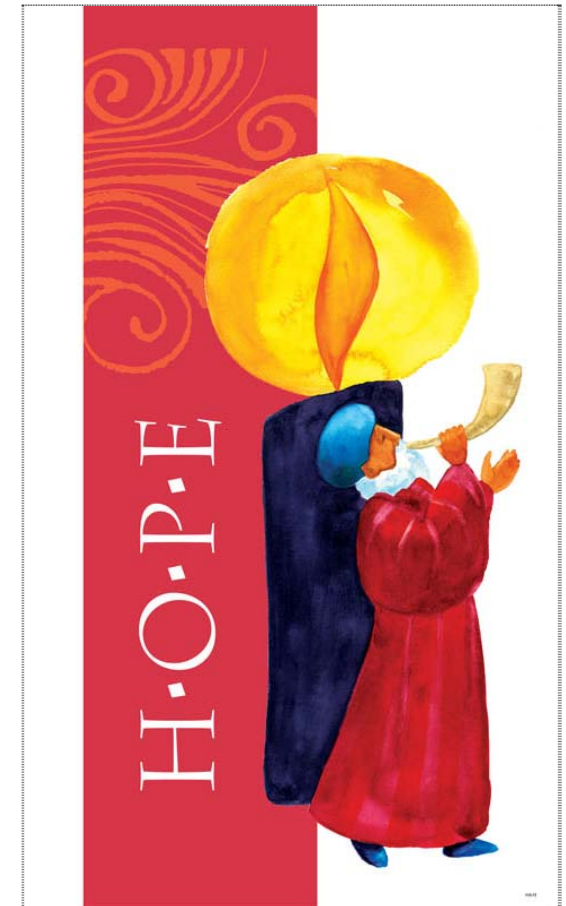
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

4 December 2016



Advent 2

"Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus"

"On entering, peace – on departure, blessing"
(Pauluskirche Bochum – Porch Inscription 1655)

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

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