

Watchword for the Week

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
(Psalm 80:19)
(Moravian Daily Texts 2016)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

Because God chose not a palace but a stable,
we bear witness to the light.

Because God chose to be one of us, not apart
from us, **we bear witness to the light.**

Because God chose the margins, not the centre,
we bear witness to the light.

Because a woman said yes when she could have
said no, **we bear witness to the light,**
for nothing is impossible for God.

Hymn 543 * verses 1-2 *Christ, be our light*

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

ADVENT CANDLE PRAYER

On this fourth Sunday of Advent,
we light a candle for love, and to remind us
that God is the light on our paths.

Light up our hearts with your ways.

In our waiting and anticipation, **God is with us.**
As close as the air we breathe, **God is with us.**
From generation to generation, **God is with us.**
Hear the good news... **God is with us.**

We bear witness to the light,
to a child born in weakness,
to the divine made human,
to a new way of being and knowing and doing.
Light up our hearts with your ways. Amen.

PROMISE

Isaiah 7:10-14 (Old Testament, page 676 / 675)

Hymn 543 * verses 3-5 *Christ, be our light*
(Those who wish may put on costumes for the Pageant)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*Christmas Pageants / Nativity Plays are about
"fleshing out" Scripture and bringing it to life, an idea
first practised in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi.*



*You are invited to help Scripture come alive by
taking part as a character in today's tableau – or
to listen actively to the Scripture texts as they are
read and reflect on the questions on the insert.*

WORD MADE FLESH

John 1:1-5, 10-14 (New Testament, page 116)

Hymn 472 * *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

FULFILMENT

Matthew 1:18-25 (New Testament, page 4)

➤ Mary & Joseph go to the manger with Baby Jesus

Hymn 311 *Jesus is born*
(Hymn of the Month, December 2016)

MEEK AND LOWLY

Luke 2:8-12 (New Testament, page 75)

➤ Shepherds and sheep come forward to the manger

Hymn 318 * *Lord, you were rich*

MESSENGERS

Luke 2:13-19 (New Testament, page 75)

➤ Angels enter and gather at the manger

Hymn 323 * verses 1-3 *The first Nowell*

SEEKERS

Matthew 2:1-11 (New Testament, page 4)

➤ Wise Men – and Women – gather the offerings
and bring them forward to the manger

Hymn 305 * *In the bleak midwinter*

PLEASE FOLLOW THE WISE MEN FORWARD
AND GATHER AROUND THE MANGER

DEDICATION PRAYER

**O God, you are generous beyond what we
can understand – We thank you for the gift of
Jesus at the heart of Christmas. Help us in
this season of light and joy, to dedicate
ourselves to living our lives in ways which
express your love, your faithfulness, your
generosity to our world, and everyone in it.
Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (See Notices overleaf)

PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: Come, our long-expected Jesus:
restore us and revive 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.**

Choir *Love came down at Christmas*

SENDING

Romans 1:2-7 (New Testament, page 188 / 186)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Hymn 475 *Christ is coming!*

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's worship team:**
 - Duty elder:** Jimmimah Ujma
 - Reader:** Dirk Erlenkämper
 - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last weekend's offerings totalled €528.81 (Sing-along: €445.21; Sunday: €83.60).
- After worship, you are invited to the **church halls** next door to the church for tea, coffee, and continued fellowship.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire** and **Togo**. Prayer link: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Diary for the week ahead:**
 - Saturday, 24 December** 7:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
 - Sunday, 25 December** 12:30 pm
Christmas Day Communion
- **Looking further ahead:**
 - Sunday, 1 January 2017** 12:30 pm
New Year's Day Communion
 - Sunday, 8 January 2017** 12:30 pm
Epiphany / Covenant Sunday
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



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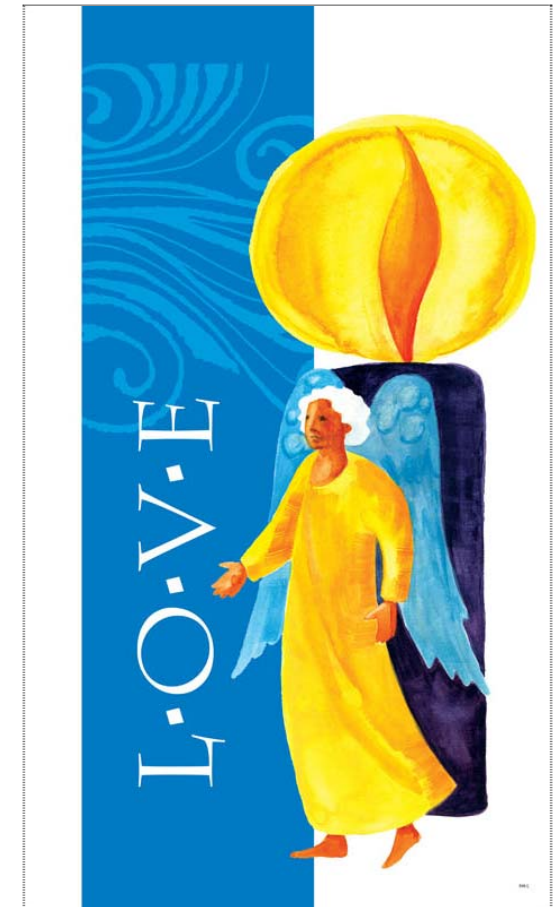
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

18 December 2016



Advent 4

"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