

PRELUDE G. F. Händel (1685-1759) "March"

OPENING LITANY "In light and in darkness"

(Please stand) He is the Light of Life:

He is the hope for the world.

Hymn 543 * *Christ, be our light*

People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts,

shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! ...

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! ...

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! ...

Words of Ancient Prophecy

(Old Testament, page 677/678)

Isaiah 9:2-7

The Future King

WELCOME and OPENING PRAYER

Hymn 189 *

Be still ...

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found –
we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the Presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight –
our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him –
in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is moving in this place.

The Birth Narrative according to St. Luke

(New Testament, page 75)

St. Luke 2:1-7

The birth of Jesus

Hymn 315 *

Once in royal David's city

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her Baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
where his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

St. Luke 2:8-20

Shepherds and angels

Hymn 301 *

Hark! The herald angels sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.
*Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:

Living the Truth in Love

(New Testament, page 270/272)

Titus 2:11-14

The day we hope for

SERMON

Rev. James Brown

Hymn 306 *

O come, all ye faithful

(Communion elements are brought forward)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, (3x) Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him...

COMMUNION PRAYER

Once upon a time, long, long ago ... and lift our hearts with praise as did the angels long ago:

Hymn 760 * *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

...Jesus reminds us that God is like a Father, never far away. And so we pray with him:

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.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

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

SHARING the BREAD and the CUP

Please come forward using the centre aisle, and return to your seat using one of the side aisles.

ORGAN MEDITATION (during distribution)

"Il pastor fido" G. F. Händel (1685-1759)

PRAYERS for the WORLD

Come, light of Christ, **love's pure light.**

Hymn 309 * *Still the night, holy the night
(Seated - candles will be lit during this hymn)*

Still the night, holy the night!
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
watch o'er the child beloved and fair,
sleeping in heavenly rest. (2x)

Still the night, holy the night!
Shepherds first saw the light,
heard resounding clear and long,
far and near, the angel-song,
"Christ the Redeemer is here!" (2x)

Still the night, holy the night!
Son of God, O how bright
love is smiling from thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since thou art born! (2x)



CLOSING LITANY *(Standing)*

In the confidence of faith in our Creator:
We carry the light out into the world.

In the strength of the risen Christ Jesus:
We carry the light out into the world.

In the presence of the life-giving Spirit:
We carry the light out into the world.

In the faith that the darkness will end:
We carry the light out into the world.

Hymn 320 * *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing. (3x)

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy. (3x)

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love. (3x)

BLESSING *(Standing)*

Threefold Amen (Hymn 819)

POSTLUDE Stanley B. Saxton (1904-2002)
"Hark, the herald angels" Fantasia

***The offering gathered as you leave church is
for international HIV / AIDS relief projects
and for the ongoing work of the ECC.***

English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

Christmas Eve 2016



*"Angels can fly because they can
take themselves lightly."*

(G. K. Chesterton)

Holy Communion

Liturgists:

Rev. James Brown *Church of Scotland*
Rev. Dr. Robert Haworth *United Church of Christ, USA*
Pastorin Heike Lengenfeld-Brown
Protestant Church of Westphalia

Readers: Herold & Gundi Dehling

Organist: Ingeborg Maiwald

Worship every Sunday at 12.30
