

Watchword for the Week

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us. (Isaiah 63:7)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2017)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(Based on Psalm 148)

God of life, we thank you for our world.

God of life, you redeem our world.

God of life, you enliven the hearts of the brave.

**Mountains and Oceans,
Heavens and Earth, give God thanks!**

God of life, you support those who bring life to places of war.

God of life, you fire the imagination of those who preserve life.

God of life, you strengthen the hearts of those who oppose injustice.

Priests and Prophets, Leaders and Followers, give God thanks!

God of life and light, you bring light to all the hidden corners of our lives. **All peoples, praise the God who calls us all to life!**

Hymn 147 1-4* *All creatures of our God*

People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)
(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Eternal God,

a thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night.

As you have led us in days past,

so guide us now and always,

that our hearts may learn to choose your will,

and new resolves be strengthened;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.

We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good.

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. We have beheld his glory.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn 336

Christ is our light!

(Hymn of the Month, January 2017)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 63:7-9

OT p. 726 (728)

St. Matthew 2:13-23

NT p. 5 (4)

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 161 *

O God, our help in ages past

SERMON

Rev. James Brown

Hymn 237 *

Look forward in faith

(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)



APOSTLES' CREED (No. 628)

ANNOUNCEMENTS See Notices overleaf

PRAYERS for OTHERS

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

God be with you, **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

Hymn 769 *

Holy, holy, holy

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit...

...and we may continue faithful in all things.

In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

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.

COMMUNION

(please come forward to share)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Hymn 159

Lord, for the years

BLESSING and **Threefold Amen**

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 weekend's offerings totalled €783.35 = €594.00 (24/12/16) + €189.35 (25/12/16).
- 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 **Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel** and the **Occupied Palestinian Territories**. Follow the prayer link from: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Looking ahead:**
Sunday, 8 January 12:30 hrs
Epiphany / Covenant Sunday
Wednesday, 11 January 18:00 hrs
ECC Choir resumes: practice in church
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



Illustration (inside worship sheet):
"Sodom and Gomorrah" from the *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493) showing Lot's wife (centre) turned to salt [Genesis, Chapter 19]



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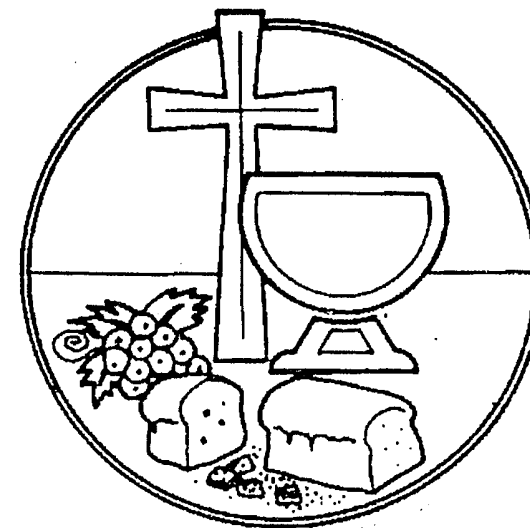
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

1 January 2017



Holy Communion

New Year's Day

"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