

### Watchword for the Week

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
(1 Corinthians 1:9)  
(Moravian Daily Texts 2017)

We give thanks for those who know how to rest, knowing that we are more than what we do.

**God, you have called us by our names.**

We give thanks for the gift of being known. To be known is to be loved.

**God, you have called us by our names.**

May we turn with love towards all those we meet, to offer the gift of naming, knowing and loving.  
**God, you have called us by our names.**

In the life of John, we witness the power of vocation and the power of humility.  
**We each have capacities and incapacities, callings and limitations.**

Often, we respond to each other with comparison, jealousy and pain. **Help us change from the chaos of comparison, and more toward the vocation of life.**

In the life of two cousins, Jesus and John, we witness people who knew their purpose and identity. **Our deepest purpose is love. Make us people who live in our purpose.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the one who invites us to join him where he is. **Amen.**

**Hymn 251 \*** *Here I am, Lord*

WORDS of ASSURANCE (Psalm 40:11)

LORD, I know you will never stop being merciful to me. Your love and loyalty will always keep me safe. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

*(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)*

SCRIPTURE READINGS 

Isaiah 49:1-7 *OT p. 713 (714)*

**Chorus \*** *I have a Father  
I have a Father who will never fail me;  
I have a Father who will never fail me.  
Jesus is my Saviour; he will never fail me.  
Rock of Ages never ever fails me.*

St. John 1:29-42 *NT p. 117*  
*People may stand for the Gospel reading.*

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

**Hymn 334** *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

SERMON *Rev. James Brown*

**Hymn 336** *Christ is our light!*  
*(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)*  
*(Hymn of the Month, January 2017)*

DEDICATION PRAYER

We could wait here for God to warm us with stories of love and hope, **but we will go to be with those in the bleak midwinter of their lives.** We could wait in the security of this sacred space for Jesus, **but we will go to see where he wants us to serve in faith.** We could wait in stillness with the Spirit, **but we will go to light a way for all hidden in the shadows of life.** In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *See Notices overleaf*

**Chorus \*** *He's a miracle-working God  
He's a miracle-working God. (2x)  
He's the Alpha and Omega.  
He's a miracle-working God.*

PRAYERS for OTHERS

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

**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.**

**Hymn 248** *For my sake and the gospel's, go*

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP  
(Verses from Psalm 40)

I waited patiently for the LORD's help;  
then he listened to me and heard my cry.  
**He pulled me out of a dangerous pit. He set me safely on a rock and made me secure.**

He taught me to sing a new song,  
a song of praise to our God.  
**Many who see this will take heed  
and will put their trust in the LORD.**

You have done many things for us, O LORD  
our God; there is no one like you!  
**You have made many wonderful plans for us.  
I could never speak of them all –  
their number is so great!**

In the assembly of your people, LORD, I told the  
good news that you save us.  
**In the assembly of your people I will not be  
silent about your loyalty and constant love.**

**Hymn 113 \*** *God the Father of Creation*  
*People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (\*)*

OPENING PRAYER

We give thanks  
for callings of leadership, callings of service,  
callings of insight, callings of challenge.  
**God, you have called us by our names.**

We give thanks for the gift  
of difficult conversations,  
knowing that we are called into deeper fellow-  
ship and friendship with each other.  
**God, you have called us by our names.**

We give thanks for those who have the courage  
to call others into their own deepest name  
**God, you have called us by our names.**

# 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:** Derick Fonjong
  - Reader:** Belinda Leppkes-Obi
  - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled €99.15.
- **Covenant pledges:** Throughout January, you can covenant your giving to the church for 2017 by completing a **pledge card** and putting it in the offering basket.
- 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 **Cyprus, Greece** and **Turkey**. Follow the prayer link from our congregational website: [www.ecc-bochum.de](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)
- **Looking ahead:**
  - Wednesday, 18 January** 18:00 hrs  
**ECC Choir resumes: practice in church**
  - Sunday, 22 January** 12:30 hrs  
**Christian Unity Sunday**  
Celebrating denominational diversity
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



## Church address

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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

## 15 January 2017



"John the Baptist" – Isenheim Altar (detail)  
Matthias Grünewald (1470-1528)

## 2 after Epiphany

**"Pax intransibus, salus exeuntibus"**

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

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

ECUMENICAL • INTERNATIONAL • ENGLISH-LANGUAGE