

Watchword for the Week

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. (Psalm 23:6)
(Moravian Daily Texts 2017)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(Verses from Psalm 23 – *The Message* translation)

God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.
**True to your word, you let me catch breath
and send me in the right direction.**

Even when the way goes through Death Valley,
I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.
**Your trusty shepherd's crook
makes me feel secure.**

You serve me a six-course dinner
right in front of my enemies.
**You revive my drooping head;
my cup brims with blessing.**

Your beauty and love chase after me
every day of my life.
**I'm back home in the house of God
for the rest of my life.**

Hymn 462 * *The King of Love my Shepherd is*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

PRAYER of APPROACH

The whole of Creation shouts its adoration to you, our God; our glorious world proclaims your power and love. Every tree and flower tells of your might, the stars, the sun and moon, the changing seasons, of your amazing care of us.

What are we that you are mindful of us, and humankind that you care for us so much?

What a gracious, faithful God you are,
that your love for us is new every morning
and we awake to a new start
as your new creations, ready to soar and fly,
free from past mistakes and difficulties.

We thank you for this gift of creation, the gift of life, the gift of our lives. We thank you also for the faculties which enable us to enjoy it:
our eyes to see the wonders of your world,
our ears to hear speech and the sound of music,
our lips with which to talk and sing,
our hands for working and our feet for walking.

Make us daily grateful for all your gifts and help us to use them all for your glory. Forgive our neglect of you, our world and our neighbours.

**Help us build a place of love, kindness,
honesty, truthfulness and faith;
a touching place where we can all catch hold
of your vision for us and your world,
where everyone is gathered in.**

Help us always to do what is right,
to think what is right, and to say what is right,
for the benefit of ourselves, those we come into contact with, and for you our Creator,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WORDS of ASSURANCE

God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but God sees into the heart. God forgives you all that weighs upon you, and sets you free to new and everlasting life. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

SCRIPTURE READINGS



Ephesians 5:8-14 NT p. 244 (243)

Hymn 779 * Listen now for the Gospel

St. John 9:1-11, 35-41 NT p. 130

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

Hymn 259 v. 1-2 + 5 Beauty for brokenness
(Hymn of the Month, March 2017)

SERMON Rev. James Brown

Hymn 352(2) * O for a thousand tongues
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

DEDICATION PRAYER

**Loving God, giver of all things, as people
alive to your goodness, we offer these gifts
and the talents of this community to the
service of all our children within our
neighbourhood and beyond, throughout
our nation and our world. Amen.**

Joyful Singers Are you washed in the blood?
My mouth shall sing your highest praise

NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS
Light of the world, **open our eyes!**

The LORD'S PRAYER (Yoruba, Nigeria)
(Please use your preferred language for praying.)
English words at: **Hymn 652**, Second Form (b)

**Baba wa ti mbe li orun; Ki a bowo fun oruko
re. Ki ijoba re de; lfe tire ni ki a se, bi ti orun,
beni li aiye. Fun wa li onje ojo wa Ioni. Dari
gbese wa ji wa, bi awa ti ndariji awon
onigbese wa. Ma si fa wa sinu idewo, sugbon
gba wa lowo bilisi. Nitari ijoba ni tire, ati
agbara, ati ogo, lailai. Amin.**

Hymn 516 * We are marching in the light of God

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: Heinrich Ohlendorf
Music: Ingeborg Maiwald (Organ)
Joyful Singers/ Cynthia Ekokobe
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 151.51.
- 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 **China, Hong Kong** and **Macao**. More info at: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **International churches** in Bochum are organising multilingual worship for 5 June (Pentecost). Contact Pastor Jimmy if you are interested in joining the planning group.
- Join the **Reforma(c)tion 500** challenge to record **Das Vaterunser in 500 Sprachen und Dialekten**. Ask Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner or visit: <http://www.reformation2017.de/>
- **"Exploring the Bible"** study group sessions are in the *Jugendkeller* of the Church Halls at 10:30 am Sundays. Course booklets: € 15.
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



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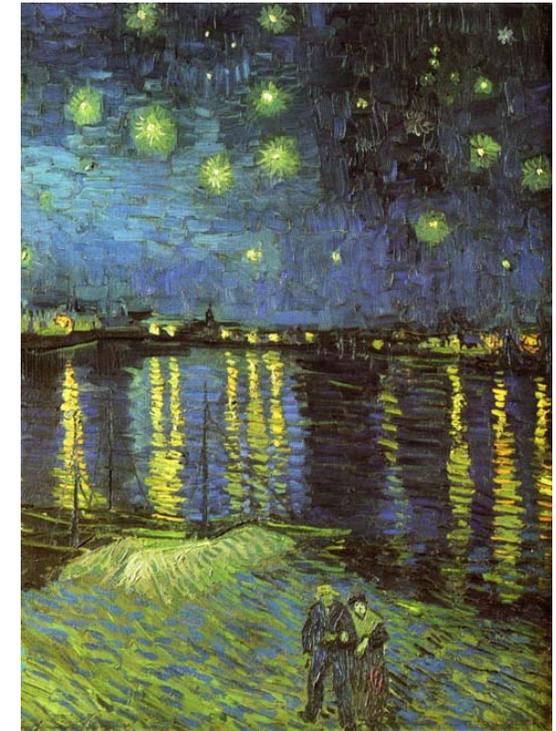
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

26 March 2017



Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)
Starry Night Over the Rhone (1888), detail

Lent 4

"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