

Watchword for the Week

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.

(Psalm 145:8)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2017)

As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us, **renew us now in fullness of life and unity of love. Amen.**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

O God, source of all wisdom and understanding, have mercy on your divided and quarrelsome people. Because we have knowledge but lack self-knowledge; because we speak of peace but depart from the paths of peace; because we wish one thing but do another, **Lord have mercy on us.**

By your justice, hold us to account, in your kindness deliver us from evil, through your love restore us to right relationship, that we may live with undivided hearts centred on you. **In penitence, we acknowledge our need of you.**

Hymn 613 1-3 *Gracious Spirit, hear our pleading*
(Hymn of the Month, June 2011)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Hymn 762 * *Glory to God, glory to God*

WORDS of ASSURANCE

Glory to God, who persistently loves us, who is insistently faithful, who comforts with a healing touch, who bears the heaviest of our burdens, and who transforms us with the power of love. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 7:15-25a *NT p. 194*

St. Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 *NT p. 16*

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 212 * *Morning has broken*

SERMON

Rev. James Brown

Hymn 188

Thou hidden love of God
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)
(Hymn of the Month, July 2017)

DEDICATION PRAYER (in unison)

Lord, what we have, we offer: our time, our commitment, our resources. But, most of all, we offer ourselves. Help us to be used in your work, to encourage each other in giving and serving, and to extend your kingdom of love. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (See Notices overleaf)

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING

Wherever you go, may the joy of our gracious God be with you. Wherever you go, may the face of the gentle Christ be with you. Wherever you go, may the embracing Spirit of love be with you. Amen.

PRAYERS for OTHERS (sung response)

Hear our prayer, O God:

♪ **Come, bring your burdens to God; (3x) for Jesus will never say no.**

The LORD'S PRAYER (Biblical Greek)

English words at: **Hymn 652**, Second Form (b)
(Please pray in your own preferred language / version.)

Πάτερ ἡμῶν ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, ἀγιασθήτω τὸ ὄνομά σου, ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, γεννηθῆτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὸν ἄρτον ἡμῶν τὸν ἐπιούσιον δός ἡμῖν σήμερον, καὶ ἄφες ἡμῖν τὰ ὀφειλήματα ἡμῶν ὡς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἀφίεμεν τοῖς ὀφειλέταις ἡμῶν, καὶ μὴ εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν, ἀλλὰ ρύσαι ἡμᾶς ἀπο τοῦ πονροῦ, ὅτι σου ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία, καὶ ἡ δύναμις, καὶ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ἀμήν.

Hymn 519 * *Love divine, all loves excelling*

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP
(as used in the Iona Abbey Morning Service)

The world belongs to God,
the earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful,
to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together;
justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,
these stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Hymn 104 1-3 *The Lord of heaven confess*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

PRAYER of APPROACH

Blessed be God who creates all out of nothing;
Blessed be Jesus who gives all for nothing;
Blessed be the Spirit for whom nothing is impossible; **Blessed be God forever.**

Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives, as your faithfulness is deeper than the deepest ocean,
carry us safely on the tide of your love.

As the refreshing rain falls
on the just and unjust alike, **refresh us with your mercy, for you know our own injustice.**

As a river flows steadily on,
defying all the odds of stone and water,
flow over every boundary and border that separates us from each other.

As we were once held in the waters of our mother's womb, **hold us in the peace and power of your abiding presence.**

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:**
 - Reader:** Dirk Erenkämper
 - Organ:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last week's offering totalled €243.80.
- After worship, you are invited to the **Kirchencafé** next door to the church for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- A **special guest** today, **Rev Kirsten Schönewolff**, is researching bereavement, mourning and funeral rites in African migrant communities. She would like to talk (in confidence) to anyone of African background with recent bereavement experience.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela**. Link from: www.ecc-bochum.de
- Remember in prayer the **PCC Ruhrgebiet** whose **Christian Women Fellowship** and **Christian Men Fellowship** are being inaugurated today in Mülheim, led by PCC Moderator Rt Rev Fonki Samuel Forba.
- Join the **das Vaterunser in 500 Sprachen und Dialekten** challenge! Talk to Michelle or visit: <http://www.reformation2017.de/>.
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

9 July 2017



Ring the bells that still can ring;
Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack in everything;
that's how the light gets in.

(Leonard Cohen)

"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