

### Watchword for the Week

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; beside me there is no god.

(Isaiah 44:6)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2017)

If I asked the darkness to enfold me,  
and the light around me to turn to night,  
the darkness would not hide me;  
for the night is as bright as the day to you,  
and the darkness cannot extinguish your light.

***It was you who formed me; as I was knitted together in my mother's womb. And I am so fearfully and wonderfully made.***

**Hymn 533** \*4-5 *Will you love the 'you' you hide?*

### WORDS of ASSURANCE

(based on Psalm 139)

God, you are in all places, in heaven and earth.  
Your works are wonderful; that I know.  
And I know that your promise is true, you will be with me always. ***Thanks be to God. Amen.***



### CHILDREN'S TIME

#### SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 28:10-19a OT p. 29

St. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 NT p. 20

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

**Hymn 710** \*1-3 *"I have a dream"*

SERMON Rev. James Brown

**Hymn 241** \* *Isaiah the prophet has written*  
*(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)*

### DEDICATION / AFFIRMATION

(as used in the Iona Abbey Commitment Service)

***We believe and trust in God who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus – the Word made flesh – to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the power of the Spirit.***

***We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect for creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and hope.***

***In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.***

### NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS

Lead me, Lord: (Hymn 800)

***Lead me, Jesus. Lead me, Jesus.***

***Lead me, Jesus. Lead me, Lord. (2x)***

### The LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray in your own preferred language / version.)

***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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

**Hymn 710** \*4-5 *So dream the dreams*

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

### ORGAN PRELUDE

#### WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(as used in the Iona Abbey Commitment Service)

To Pharisees minding their business,  
and fishermen mending their nets,  
Jesus says: ***"Follow me!"***

To the money-handlers, the lawyers,  
the intellectuals, the power-brokers,  
Jesus says: ***"Follow me!"***

To the carers and the cleaners,  
the married, the single,  
the young and the old,  
country-folk and city-dwellers,  
Jesus says: ***"Follow me!"***

Then and now,  
together and apart,  
willing or doubting,  
ready or not,  
Jesus says: ***"Follow me!"***

**Hymn 533** \*1-3 *Will you come and follow me?*

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

#### PRAYER of APPROACH

(based on Psalm 139)

God, you know me as I am,  
you are acquainted with all my wills and ways.  
You gather me in, and enfold me in your grace.  
Yet I find this knowledge so hard to understand.

Is there any place I go  
that is away from your spirit?  
Is there anywhere I could flee from your  
presence? ***If I fly to farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and hold me fast.***

# 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:** Wolfgang Rochowiak
  - Organist:** Ingeborg Maiwald
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.**
- 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 **Belize, Guatemala, Honduras** and **Mexico**. Link to prayers and further info from: [www.ecc-bochum.de](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)
- The **International Presbytery prayer blog** contains prayers, meditations, and poems: [www.irenebom.com/prayer\\_matters](http://www.irenebom.com/prayer_matters) and it is updated regularly with new material. Theme of the month for July is **"Water"**.
- Please note there will be **restricted access** to Bochum City by car on **Sunday, 30 July** on account of the **Sparkassen GIRO** cycle race taking place that day, and make alternative arrangements to get to church.
- 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.



## Church address

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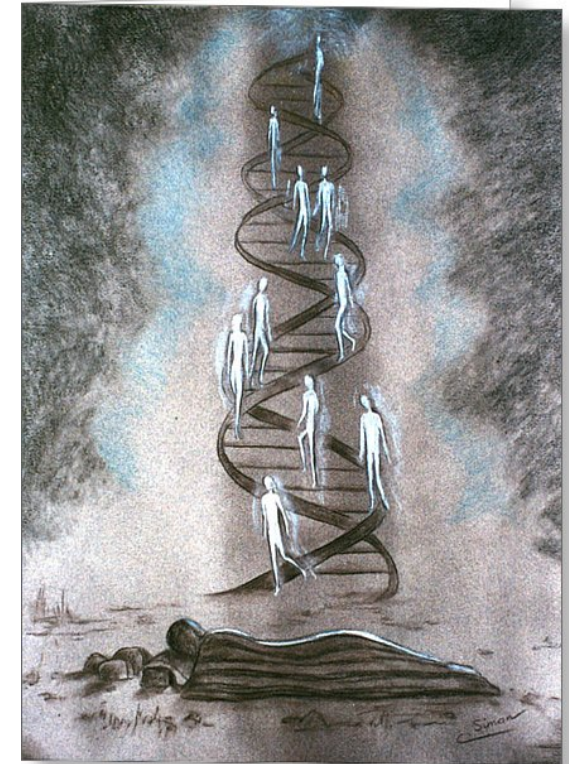
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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

23 July 2017



"Jacob's Ladder" by Cati Simon  
Pastel on paper, 50 x 40 cm

**"Pax intransitibus, salus exeuntibus"**

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

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

ECUMENICAL • INTERNATIONAL • ENGLISH-LANGUAGE