Watchword for the Week

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather his lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom. (Isaiah 40:11)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2017)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(Verses from Psalm 85 – New English Bible)

LORD, thou hast been gracious to thy land and turned the tide of Jacob's fortunes.

Thou hast forgiven the guilt of thy people and put away all their sins.

Let me hear the words of the LORD: are they not words of peace,

peace to his people and his loyal servants and all who turn and trust in him?

Love and fidelity have come together; justice and peace join hands.

Fidelity springs up from the earth and justice looks down from heaven.

The LORD will add prosperity, and our land shall yield its harvest.

Justice shall go in front of him and the path before his feet shall be peace.

Hymn 274 * Comfort, comfort now my people **People's Choice Hymns** are marked with an asterisk (*) (Two Advent candles are carried into church lit)

PRAYER of APPROACH

We gather in your presence, God, in our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus, and you know by experience what human life is like.

We come with our faith and with our doubts; we come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are, because you invite us; and you have promised never to turn us away.

Loving God, you gather us here today, here, where many have come before us seeking your healing, strength and love. You know us, God: you understand who we are. You know what troubles and puzzles us, what makes us smile and what makes us sad. **You listen to our questions and our prayers.**

and the people we struggle with.
Sometimes we hurt others;
sometimes we hurt ourselves.
So, we bring our own hurt
asking for your healing;
and we bring the hurt we have caused others,
asking for forgiveness.

You know the people we love, God,

Hymn 527 *

Lord, make us servants

As we sing this hymn, you are invited to write prayer requests on the insert page and place them in the basket at the altar steps at any time you wish. If you prefer, you may put your prayer requests in the offering basket later.

CHILDREN'S TIME

DECLARATION of FORGIVENESS

Listen to these words of Jesus, words that we can trust: "Don't be afraid." "I love you." "Your sins are forgiven." "I will always be with you."

Write these words in our hearts, loving God, let them take root in our living. *Amen.*

Hymn 282 v. 1+2 Christmas is coming! (Hymn of the Month, December 2017)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

SCRIPTURE READINGS 🕮

Isaiah 40:1-11

OT p. 702 (701)

St. Mark 1:1-8

NT p. 45

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 279 * Make way for Christ the King (Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

If you wish, you may also now put your prayer requests in the offering basket.

DEDICATION PRAYER (in unison)

May the gifts we offer and the talents we have been given help to smooth the way for those who struggle, rebuild the lives of those who have fallen, and bring grace and comfort to all your people, loving God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS Hear our prayer, *and let your Kingdom come.*

The LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION and PRAYER

God our Maker, you call us to be your presence in the world. Here, through our hands and prayers, bring healing, hope and peace. **Amen.**

CHORUSES:

- Come, bring your burdens to God, (3 x) for Jesus will never say no.
- Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est. (Where there is charity and love, God is there.)

As we sing, those who wish prayer for themselves or others can move forward to the altar space to form a **circle of prayer** standing there.

PRAYER for the LAYING-ON of HANDS Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter you, body, mind, and spirit, and heal you of all that harms you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn 266 *

God the Omnipotent!

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: Heike Hundeiker Gundi Dehling Reader:

- > Our offering during worship is our main source of income. Please give generously. Last Sunday's offering totalled € 168.30.
- > After worship, the **Kirchencafé** is open for tea, coffee, and continued fellowship.
- > The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle this week focuses on Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. Link to prayers from: www.ecc-bochum.de
- > Advent Bible Study Session #3 is on Tuesday, 12 December at 7.30 p.m. Open fire, tea & talk at the Dehlings, Uhlandstr. 60.
- > Advent and Christmas Season Dates:

Sunday, 17 December 12:30 pm 3rd Advent Sunday Christmas Pageant

Sunday, 24 December 19:30 pm Christmas Eve (NB: no 12:30 worship)

Monday, 25 December 12:30 pm Christmas Day Quiet communion

Sunday, 31 December 12:30 pm Old Year's Day Rev. Dr. Bob Haworth

Sunday, 7 January 2018 12:30 pm Epiphany / Covenant Gifts and Giving

> Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.





TECC TE



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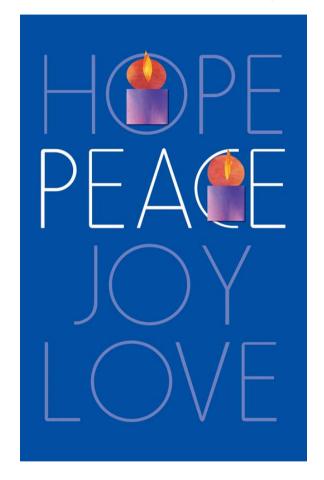
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Facebook ECC.Bochum Twitter / Instagram: ecc_bo

English-speaking Christian Congregation Bochum, Germany

10 December 2017



"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