

Watchword for the Week

Paul wrote: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.
(Galatians 4:4-5)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2017)

Our hope for years to come –

We give thanks, O God, for leading us to create new life for ourselves, our families, and our world.

We give thanks, O God, that you give each one of us abilities, possibilities, and goals for developing our lives.

We also pray for concern and hope for the needs and challenges of our world.

Be thou our guard while troubles last –

We give thanks, O God, that your love has been present in times of difficulty, sorrow and suffering.

We have been strengthened by the love and care of others, as we seek to support others in need.

You, O God, bring us comfort, strength, and grace, to guide us through difficult times.

And our eternal home –

We give thanks, O God, for all those who have gone before us, witnessing to your love, justice, and peace.

May we live lives worthy of your calling and know that we share in your realm that has no end.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

God creates everything and calls it good. But often we are timid, afraid, and turn away from God. In the fullness of time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to redeem us. Be assured of God's forgiveness, love, and grace!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME "Getting and Giving"

SOLO "Little Drummer Boy"

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-6 OT p. 680 (679)

St. Luke 2:22-40 NT p. 76

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 305 1+2+5 * In the bleak mid-winter

SERMON Rev. Dr. Robert Haworth

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

DEDICATION PRAYER (in unison)

Living God, you hold nothing back from us. Today we thank you for your gift of Jesus. You also lavish good gifts on us, which we so often take for granted. In giving our gifts to you and your Church, help us to count our blessings and be good stewards of all you entrust to us. May we live to your glory! Amen.

SOLO "Lord of the Dance" (Hymn 404)

ANNOUNCEMENTS See Notices overleaf

PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: Lord of our lives:
Hear our prayers.

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 303 * It came upon the midnight clear
(Tune: Carol – PH 129)

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE

SOLO "Halleluia"

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(Verses from Psalm 90)

Lord God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

A thousand ages in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.

All our days pass away under your watch;
our years come to an end like a sigh.

The years of our life are three-score and ten or by reason of strength four-score.

Yet their span is but toil and trouble; life is soon over and we are gone.

So teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Hymn 161 * O God, our help in ages past

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

PRAYER of APPROACH

O God, our help in ages past –

We give thanks, O God, that you have been with us through all our lives, through the life of our world, in good times and bad.

We give thanks that, in the fullness of time, you have come to us in Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

We give thanks that we have shared together these past weeks with family, friends, and as a church.

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:** Herold Dehling
 - Reader:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner
 - Soloist:** Robert Jakeman
 - Organ:** 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 ***Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel*** and the ***Occupied Territories***. Link from: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **January 2018 Dates:**
 - Sunday, 7 January 2018** 12:30 pm
Epiphany / Covenant Sunday
Sharing God's gifts in Holy Communion;
Remembering the Wise Men and their gifts;
Pledging our own giving of time, talents, &c.
 - Sunday, 21 January** 12:30 pm
Christian Unity Sunday Guest preacher:
Rev Emmanuel Mote Ndasah (PCC);
laying-off of mourning (Celine Hoffmann)
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



Church address

Ev. Pauluskirche, Grabenstrasse 9, 44787 Bochum

Pastor Rev. James Brown (Church of Scotland)
Neustrasse 15, 44787 Bochum
Tel.: 0234 13365 E-mail: [j.brown56\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:j.brown56(at)gmx.de)

Retired pastor Rev Dr Robert Haworth
Tel. 0234 62349212 (United Church of Christ, USA)

Church Council

Maria Adouakou 0234 5896042

Herold Dehling (Secretary) 0234 8935761

Derick Fonjong (Asst. Secretary) 0173 7374123

Heike Hundeiker (Presbytery) 0234 680824

Justus Masa 0162 8799736

Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner 0160 93805969

Eric Chinasa Obimdi 0208 7403398

Jimmimah Ujma 02327 586955

Treasurer Marcus Sarpong 0234 6238133

Kids' Church Maria Adouakou 0234 5896042
Gundi Dehling 0234 8935761

Safeguarding Claudia Lischke-Arzt
0234 97669882

Readers' Rota Mary Otto 02366 37441

Organist Ingeborg Maiwald 0234 383395

ECC Choir Ropudani Simanjuntak 0176 80780770

Joyful Singers Cynthia Ekokobe 0234 6236059
Joyce Ashime 0162 9136894

Webmaster Marcel Adig [adigsys\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:adigsys(at)yahoo.com)

Church Officer Wolfgang Rochowiak 0234 6404559

Bank Account "Englische Gemeinde"
IBAN: DE89 4305 0001 0001 4132 36
SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1BOC (Sparkasse Bochum)

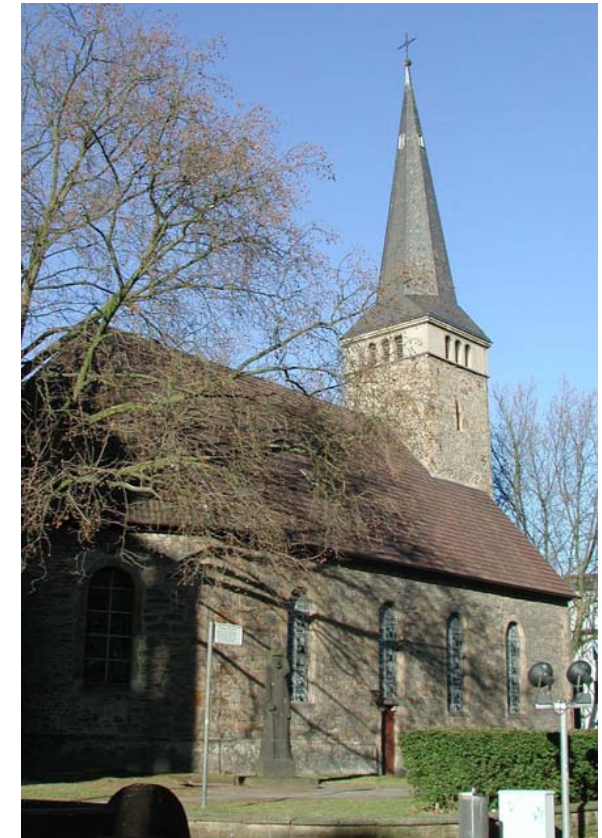
Website: www.ecc-bochum.de

E-mail: [ecc-bochum\(at\)gmx.de](mailto:ecc-bochum(at)gmx.de)

Facebook ECC.Bochum **Twitter / Instagram:** ecc_bo

English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

31 December 2017



New Year's Eve

"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