

### Watchword for the Week

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
(1 Corinthians 1:18)  
(Moravian Daily Texts 2018)

**forgiveness for what we have done to bring harm and destruction to your creation. Forgive us for our neglect of creation and the intolerance that we have shown towards each other. We are sorry for what we have done and would like to commit ourselves to being better stewards of your creation and caretakers of our neighbours, with Jesus Christ as our example. Amen.**

**Hymn 776 \*** *Kyrie eleison*  
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (\*)

### DECLARATION of FORGIVENESS

Hear these words of Jesus, giving hope and forgiveness to us all: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-31 *OT p. 3*  
The word of God: **Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn 154 \*** *How great thou art*

REFLECTION *Seven women from Suriname*  
Response after each statement:  
**God, we thank and praise you.**

SERMON *Pastorin Eva-Maria Ranft*

**Hymn 231 \*** *For the fruits of all creation*  
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)  
(Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos – Hymn 562)

### AFFIRMATION of FAITH

**We believe in God above us,  
Maker and Sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon,  
of water and earth,  
of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of compassion, he died forsaken;  
he descended into the earth  
to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb;  
he ascended into heaven  
to be everywhere present;  
and his kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the church,  
spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and eternal life.  
Amen.**

PRAYERS for OTHERS  
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### The LORD'S PRAYER

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

### COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**  
Let us give thanks to God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

For you, Creator God... the universal hymn of praise which echoes through time and eternity:

**Hymn 769 \*** *Holy, holy, holy*

### BREAKING the BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.**

### INVITATION and COMMUNION

(Please come forward to share)

### SHARING GOD'S PEACE

### PRAYER and NOTICES

**Hymn 220 \*** *The day you gave us, Lord*

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

### ORGAN POSTLUDE

### ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP  
(from Psalm 19 – New International Version)

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
**Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they display knowledge.**

There is no speech or language  
where their voice is not heard.  
**Their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.**

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun;  
**it is like a bridegroom coming forth  
from his pavilion, like a champion  
rejoicing to run his course.**

It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
**nothing is hidden from its heat.**

May the words of our mouths and the meditation  
of our hearts be pleasing in your sight;  
**LORD, you are our Rock and our Redeemer.**

**Hymn 176** *Let's sing unto the Lord*  
(Hymn of the Month, September 2017)  
(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

### PRAYER of CONFESSION

Let us with the whole world confess our  
negligence in caring for God's creation.  
Lord, it seems that we are unable to understand  
how the negligence in our daily lives  
impacts the whole of creation.

**Lord God, creator of the world and God of all  
humanity, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we are here in your presence to ask for**

# 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 we celebrate **Holy Communion** – you are **invited to share** in this sacrament, including your children if you so wish.
- **Worship today** includes material from the 2018 World Day of Prayer liturgy **“All God’s Creation Is Very Good”** from Suriname.
- **Today’s worship team:**
  - Preacher:** Pastorin Eva-Maria Ranft
  - Duty elder:** Justus Masa
  - Reader:** Renate Schwarz
  - Organ:** Christof Hilmer
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday’s offering totalled € 301.85.
- After worship, the **Kirchencafé** is open for tea, coffee and continued fellowship.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **Andorra, Austria, San Marino, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Monaco**. Link from: [www.ecc-bochum.de](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)
- You are also invited to **pray this week** for:
  - ♦ The **Scots Kirk Lausanne**, Switzerland is an “open and affirming Presbyterian church” – Minister is Rev Ian McDonald and their Presbytery Elder Sylvia McKillop (<http://www.scotskirklausanne.ch/>)
  - ♦ **Lydia International Church**, Dortmund: <http://lydia-dortmund.ekvw.de/ueber-uns/lydia-international/>
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



## Church address

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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

## 4 March 2018



## Lent 3

## Holy Communion

“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