

Watchword for the Week

Bear fruits worthy of repentance. (Luke 3:8)
(Moravian Daily Texts 2018)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

(Isaiah 12:1a, 2-6)

A day is coming when people will sing, **“God is my savior; I will trust him and not be afraid.**

“The LORD gives me power and strength; he is my savior. **As fresh water brings joy to the thirsty, so God’s people rejoice when he saves them.**”

A day is coming when people will sing, **“Give thanks to the LORD!**

Call for him to help you! Tell all the nations what he has done! Tell them how great he is!

Sing to the LORD because of the great things he has done. Let the whole world hear the news. **Let everyone who lives in Zion shout and sing! Israel’s holy God is great, and he lives among his people.**”

Hymn 157 * *Sing of the Lord’s goodness*
People’s Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)
(Three Advent candles are carried into church lit)

PRAYER of APPROACH

Now we look upon the flames of three candles: on flames hope, of peace, and of joy, and we pray that our hearts be drawn to your light, O God.

God of all time, this is the pregnant time, hope conceived of awaits its birth.

May we be the midwives of your joy – alongside, not distant; recognising the pain as proof of your reality, urging the first breath, witness to that first cry and part of the nurturing.

God of all time, this is the time we have been gifted.

May we be gifts to each other so that when others are born, they have their time.

Be born in us, live through us – grow us into the body of Christ, gifts to the worldwide family of God. Amen.

ASSURANCE of GRACE

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are freed to live and love. In Christ, God has freed you from all condemnation. Do not worry. Live in peace. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PAGEANT: Good News come alive!

You are invited to celebrate Good News come alive by taking part as a character in today’s tableau – or by reflecting on the Scripture and hymn texts, and on the accompanying action.

Hymn 282 * 1-3 *Christmas is coming*
➤ Those who wish may put on costumes



ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 1:26-35 (New Testament, page 73)

Hymn 279 * *Make way for Christ the King*
➤ Mary, Joseph, Jesus and an angel go to the manger

THE HUMBLE LIFTED HIGH

Luke 2:4-12 (New Testament, page 75)

Hymn 286 * *Tell out, my soul, the greatness*
➤ Angels, shepherds, sheep move to the front steps

GLORY AND PEACE

Luke 2:13-20 (New Testament, page 75)

Hymn 300 * *The Virgin Mary had a baby boy*
➤ Angels shepherds, sheep gather at the manger

COME TO WORSHIP

Matthew 2:1-11 (New Testament, page 4)

Hymn 323 * verses 3-6 *And by the light...*
➤ Wise Men – and Women – gather the offerings and take them forward to the manger

PLEASE follow the WISE MEN forward and gather around the manger.

DEDICATION PRAYER

Hymn 773 * *Jesus, we are here*
Jesus, we are here (3x); we are here for you.

NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: God, you are in our midst
renew us in your love.

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

SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Hymn 458.2 *At the name of Jesus*

BLESSING Philippians 4:4-7 (NT, page 250 / 249)
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. And remember over the coming weeks to:



JOIN THE TREND – BRING A FRIEND

- **Today's worship team:**
 - Duty elder:** Heike Hundeiker
 - Reader:** Daniel Wiedner
 - Organist:** Christof Hilmer
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last weekend's offerings totalled € 816.82 (Sing-along: € 526.42; Sunday: € 290.40).
- After worship, the **Kirchencafé** is open for tea, coffee, and continued fellowship.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **China, Hong Kong** and **Macau**. Link from www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Further dates to note:**
 - Sunday, 23 December** (Advent 4)
 - 11:30 hrs **Advent Prayer Breakfast** (Halls)
 - 12:30 hrs **Infant Dedication** (Church)
 - Monday, 24 December** (Christmas Eve)
 - 19:30 hrs **Candlelight Communion**
 - Tuesday, 25 December** (Christmas Day)
 - 12:30 hrs **Quiet Communion**
 - Sunday, 6 January 2019** (Epiphany)
 - 12:30 hrs **Communion / Covenant**
- 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

16 December 2018



Advent 3

Christmas Pageant

"Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus"

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

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

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