

ORGAN PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand)

The people who walked in deep shadows
have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in deep shadows,
on them light has shined.**

Let us sing a new song.

Let the seas thunder!

Let the trees shout for joy.

Breathe in deep the starlight,
the animals, the child.

Let us ponder all these things in our heart.

Glory to God, and peace on earth!

For Jesus Christ is born!

Hymn 273 * O come, O come, Emmanuel

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

Rejoice! Rejoice! ...

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:

Rejoice! Rejoice! ...

WORDS of WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER ending with the words

...Forgive us, merciful God. **Break the bonds
that trap us so that we might find ourselves
tethered to your hope for each of us and for
our communities, that we might be
strengthened to view the world as you do.**

Hymn 305 * In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty winds made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away,
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have worshipped there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

The Birth Narrative according to St. Luke

New Testament, page 75

St. Luke 2:1-12 The birth of Jesus

Hymn 310 * See him lying on a bed of straw

See him lying in a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore –
the Prince of glory is his name.

*Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!

Oh, now carry me...

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Beth'lem's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.

Oh, now carry me...

St. Luke 2:13-20

Songs of joy

Hymn 301 * Hark! The herald angels sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the Incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth:

SERMON

Rev. James Brown

Hymn 306 * O come, all ye faithful (Communion elements are brought forward)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, (3x) Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him...

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him...

COMMUNION PRAYER

Once upon a time, long, long ago ... and lift our hearts with praise as did the angels long ago:

Hymn 760 * *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

...Jesus reminds us that God is like a Father, never far away. And so we pray with him:

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.

WORDS of INSTITUTION

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

SHARING the BREAD and the CUP

Please come forward using the centre aisle, and return to your seat using one of the side aisles.

ORGAN MEDITATION (during communion)

"The Holy Boy" John Ireland (1879-1962)

PRAYERS for the WORLD

Response: Come, Lord Jesus,
shine in our world.

Hymn 309 * *Still the night, holy the night
(Seated - candles will be lit during this hymn)*

Still the night, holy the night!
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,
Mary and Joseph in stable bare
watch o'er the child beloved and fair,
sleeping in heavenly rest. (2x)

Still the night, holy the night!
Shepherds first saw the light,
heard resounding clear and long,

far and near, the angel-song,
"Christ the Redeemer is here!" (2x)

Still the night, holy the night!
Son of God, O how bright
love is smiling from thy face!
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,
Saviour, since thou art born! (2x)

CLOSING LITANY *(Standing)*

In the confidence of faith in our Creator:
We carry the light out into the world.

In the strength of the risen Christ Jesus:
We carry the light out into the world.

In the presence of the life-giving Spirit:
We carry the light out into the world.

In the faith that the darkness will end:
We carry the light out into the world.

Hymn 320 * *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing. (3x)

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy. (3x)

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love. (3x)

BLESSING *(Standing)*

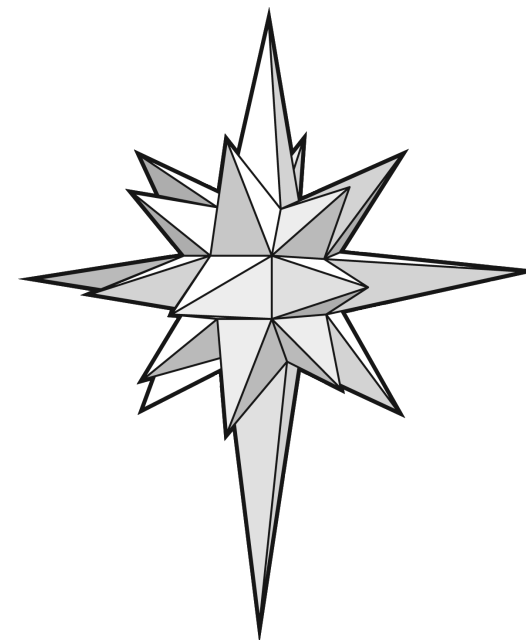
Threefold Amen (Hymn 819)

ORGAN POSTLUDE

**The offering gathered as you leave church is
for international HIV / AIDS relief projects
and for the ongoing work of the ECC.**

English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

Christmas Eve 2018



Holy Communion

"Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus"

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

Liturgists:

Rev. James Brown *Church of Scotland*
Rev. Dr. Robert Haworth *United Church of Christ, USA*
Pastorin Heike Lengenfeld-Brown
Protestant Church of Westphalia

Reader: Dirk Erlenkämper

Organist: Christof Hilmer

Worship every Sunday at 12.30
