

Watchword for Christmas Day

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's
only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2018)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

(Verses from Psalm 98 – The New English Bible)

Sing a new song to the LORD,
for he has done marvellous deeds;
**his right hand and holy arm
have won him victory.**

The LORD has made his victory known;
**he has displayed his righteousness
to all the nations.**

Sing psalms in the LORD's honour with the harp,
with the harp and with the music of the psaltery.
**With trumpet and echoing horn
acclaim the presence of the LORD our king.**

Let the sea roar and all its creatures,
the world and those who dwell in it.

**Let the rivers clap their hands, let the hills
sing loud together before the LORD;**
for he comes to judge the earth.
**He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with justice.**

Hymn 173 * Sing to God new songs of worship
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

PRAYER of APPROACH

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,
gift of joyfulness in a world of bleakness.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,
gift of peace in a violent world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,
gift of hope in a despairing world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,
gift of wisdom in a foolish world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,
gift of justice in a world of unfairness.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,
gift of forgiveness in a guilty world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,
gift of love in a bitter world.

ASSURANCE of GRACE

In the gift of Jesus, child of God, we are inspired
and enabled to live treasuring God's costly
generosity, safeguarding God's earth, delighting
in its people, and loving our Maker, to whom be
glory for ever. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn 294 * On Christmas night all Christians

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10 OT p. 718 (719)

St. John 1:1-14 NT p. 116
People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 311 * Jesus is born, formed in a womb

SERMON Rev. James Brown

Hymn 606 Lord, you sometimes speak
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

AFFIRMATION / DEDICATION PRAYER

**We believe in God,
who conceived all that is created,
God, who fathers and mothers all people.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's firstborn and only Lord of the earth.
He came from both heaven
and the womb of the virgin Mary;
he lived in solidarity with humankind,
befriending, teaching,
healing and restoring;
he was denied and betrayed by his friends;
and he was done to death by the state.
He descended to the place of oblivion,
rose to life again on the third day,
and ascended to heaven
where he sits at God's right hand.**

**This same Jesus will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
whose dynamic presence
can make all things new.
And we believe in the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: God, in your mercy,
bring healing, bring peace.

The LORD'S PRAYER Hymn 652, second form (b)
(Please pray in your own preferred language / version.)

COMMUNION PRAYER

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

... We give you thanks and praise.
We give you thanks and praise.

So, gladly, we join our voices to those of earth,
sea and sky, in the universal hymn of praise
which echoes through time and eternity:

Hymn 324 * 1+4+5 Angels from the realms

BREAKING the BREAD

Hymn 778 * Lamb of God, you take away

INVITATION and COMMUNION
(Please come forward to share)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

NOTICES and PRAYER

Hymn 322 * Good Christians, all rejoice

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. And remember over the coming weeks to:



JOIN THE TREND – BRING A FRIEND

- Today we celebrate **Holy Communion** – you are **invited to share** in this sacrament, including your children if you so wish.
- **Today's worship team:**
 - Duty elder:** Herold Dehling
 - Reader:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner
 - Organist:** Arno Hartmann
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.**
- After worship, the **Kirchencafé** is open for tea, coffee, and continued fellowship.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **Brunei, Malaysia** and **Singapore**. Link from www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Further dates to note:**
 - Sunday, 30 December 2018**
12:30 hrs **From the old to the new**
 - Sunday, 6 January 2019** (Epiphany)
12:30 hrs **Communion / Covenant**
 - Saturday, 19 January** (Upstairs Hall)
18:00 hrs **"Big Sing" with John Bell**
(Iona Community, Scotland)
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



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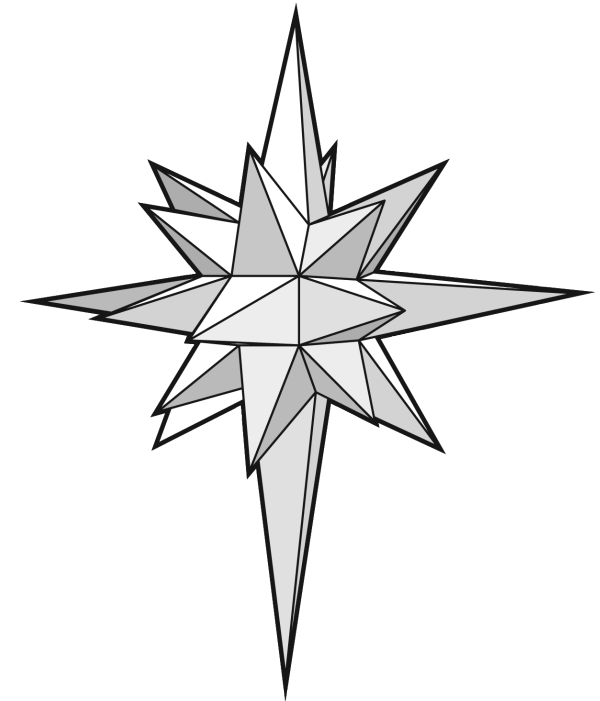
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

25 December 2018



Christmas Day 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