

### Watchword for the Week

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.  
(Psalm 148:13)  
(Moravian Daily Texts 2018)

### ORGAN PRELUDE

### WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

(Psalm 148 – New Living Bible translation)

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

**Praise him from the skies!**

Praise him, all his angels!

**Praise him, all the armies of heaven!**

Praise him, sun and moon!

**Praise him, all you twinkling stars!**

Praise him, skies above!

**Praise him, vapours high above the clouds!**

Let every created thing give praise to the Lord,

**for he issued his command,  
and they came into being.**

He set them in place forever and ever.

**His decree will never be revoked.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,

**you creatures of the ocean depths,**

fire and hail, snow and clouds,

**wind and weather that obey him,**

mountains and all hills,

**fruit trees and all cedars,**

wild animals and all livestock,

**small scurrying animals and birds,**

kings of the earth and all people,

**rulers and judges of the earth,**

young men and young women,

**old men and children.**

Let them all praise the name of the Lord.

**For his name is very great;**

**his glory towers over the earth and heaven!**

He has made his people strong,

**honouring his faithful ones—**

**the people of Israel who are close to him.**

Praise the Lord!

**Hymn 147 \* 1-4 +7** *All creatures of our God*  
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (\*)

### PRAYER of APPROACH

When the days are short and daylight is fleeting, when the wind is sharp and rain drives obliquely, Creator of light and Banisher of darkness, you join us, shining brightly among us as a human being... Jesus Christ.

**We are filled with awe and we worship you.**

Where we have neglected those whom we love, ignored the cries of people in pain, decided to settle for comfort rather than address the true needs of our life and our age, all the while knowing darkness has encroached,

**Forgive us we pray. Remind us of your light. Bathe us in it. Remind us that it removes the darkness and, yet more, that it challenges us to rise to our given potential which comes from you.**

May we, through our faithful discipleship, reflect your light onto others and so reflect your loving care for the world.

**Creator of light, banisher of darkness,  
Light of the World, hear our prayer. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE of GRACE

Hear the good news. You are holy and beloved, God's chosen ones. God has forgiven you, so forgive yourselves and one another. God is yet with us. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S TIME



**Hymn 331 \* 1-2, 4-5** *Unto us a boy is born*

### SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Colossians 3:12-17 *NT p. 254 (253)*

St. Luke 2:41-52 *NT p. 74*

*People may stand for the Gospel reading.*

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

**Hymn 181 (1)\*** *For the beauty of the earth*

SERMON *Rev. James Brown*

**Hymn 694 \*** *Brother, sister, let me serve you*  
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

### DEDICATION PRAYER

**Loving God, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.**

**Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us.**

**Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,**

**that we may be Christ for each other.**

**In his name we pray. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *See Notices overleaf*

### PRAYERS for OTHERS

O God of love, **draw us together in peace.**

### 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 159 \*** *Lord, for the years*

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's worship team:**
  - Duty elder:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner
  - Reader:** Renate Schwarz
  - Organist:** Nicole 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 **East Timor, Indonesia** and **the Philippines**. See [www.ecc-bochum.de](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)
- **Further dates to note:**
  - 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)
  - Sunday, 20 January** (Christian Unity)  
12:30 hrs **Celebrating unity in diversity**
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



## Church address

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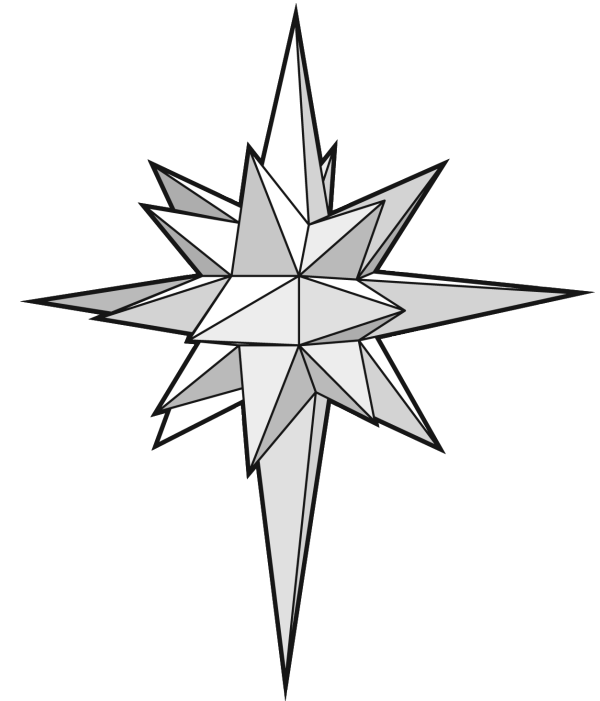
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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

# 30 December 2018



## Holy Family Last Sunday of 2018

**"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