

Watchword for the Epiphany

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2019)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

(from Psalm 72 – New Revised Standard Version)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with
righteousness and your poor with justice.**

May he defend the cause of the poor,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor

**May he be like rain falling on mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

May the kings of Tarshish and the isles
render him tribute, may the kings
of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

**May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.**

For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

**He has pity on the weak and needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

From oppression and violence he redeems their
life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

**Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.**

Hymn 623 * *Here in this place (Gather us in)*

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

PRAYER of CONFESSION

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows
of our world and of our hearts.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess
our sins before God and one another.

Merciful God, you have given

**light to the world in Jesus Christ,
but we have preferred to live in darkness.**

Your justice protects the weak and

**the distressed, yet we seek
the shelter of privilege and power.**

Your righteousness redeems the poor

and the needy, yet we seek

the status of wealth and possessions.

Your peace upholds the oppressed

and the defenceless, yet we seek

the security of weapons and retribution.

Forgive us our sins,

and lead us to true repentance,

that we may trust you in all things;

through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE of GRACE

This is the good news: Christ is the light of the
world, who grants forgiveness and healing of
our sins. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

OT p. 723 (725)

St. Matthew 2:1-12

NT p. 4

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 210 * *Awake, my soul, and with the sun*

SERMON

Rev. James Brown

Hymn 326 *

As with gladness men of old

(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

DEDICATION / AFFIRMATION of FAITH

God said, "Let there be light."

**We believe in a bright and amazing God,
who has been to the depths of despair
on our behalf; who has risen in splendour
and majesty; who decorates the universe with
sparkling water, clear white light, twinkling
stars and sharp colours, over and over again.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Light of the
World; that God believes in us, and trusts us,
even though we make the same mistakes
over and over again.**

**We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one
another as brothers and sisters, and to the
Maker's business in the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS for OTHERS

God of..., Glorious Light, **hear our prayer.**

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 769 *

Holy, holy, holy!

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

Hymn 778

Lamb of God

INVITATION and COMMUNION

(Please come forward to share)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

NOTICES & PRAYER of COMMITMENT

In gratitude for this moment, this place,
those around us, Christ among us,
we give ourselves to you our God.

Take us out to live as changed people
because we have met the risen Christ
and cannot be the same.

**Ask much of us, expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.**

So may we live to your glory
both as inhabitants of earth and citizens
of the commonwealth of heaven. **Amen.**

Hymn 543 *

Christ, be our light!

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: Eric Chinasa Obimdi
Reader: Eric Chinasa Obimdi
Organist: Thomas Schwarz
- 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 **Iran, Iraq** and **Syria**. Link to prayers from: www.ecc-bochum.de
- **Dates to note:**
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.



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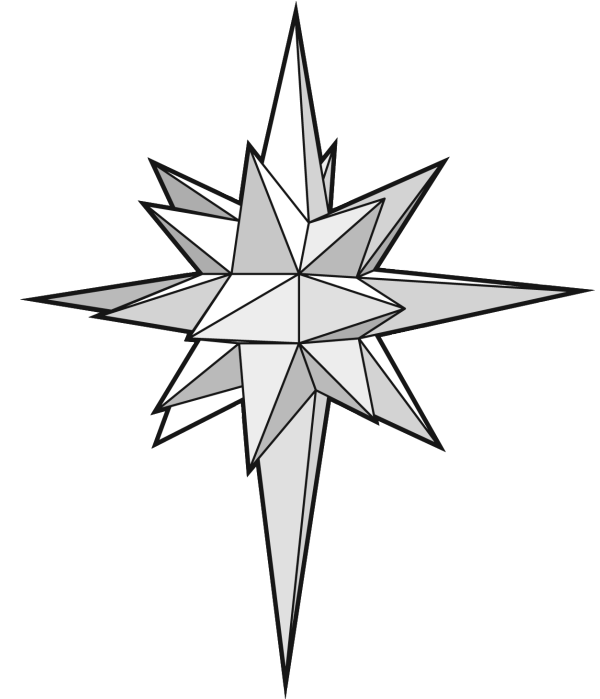
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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

6 January 2019



Epiphany Holy Communion

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

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

ECUMENICAL • INTERNATIONAL • ENGLISH-LANGUAGE