

Watchword for the Week

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near.

(Isaiah 55:6)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2019)

Your ways are not our ways, Holy One.

Our ways lead us to desire material gain and social standing.

Your ways remind us that our
greatest strength comes from love.

***Our ways ask, who is the greatest sinner?
Who deserves more good?***

Your ways call us to recognize all
brokenness and strive to heal it.

***Our ways claim that your love is
evident by our wealth and privilege.***

Your ways reveal that your love is true
for all humanity and in all creation.

***Our ways are often a struggle
for control and certainty – unwilling
to risk our comforts and safety.***

Your ways are an invitation to let go
and be willing to risk suffering
to be part of your redeeming love on earth.

***Our ways, we see more clearly now, are not
your ways. Forgive us, we pray. And help us
to find your way, as we journey together this
road tread by Jesus himself, our saviour and
guide. Lead us, we pray. Amen.***

Hymn 9 * v. 1, 4-6 O God, my refuge
(Hymn of the Month, March 2019)

WORDS of ASSURANCE

People of God, let us allow our thirst to lead us
to God's loving grace. Be assured, children of
God, that we are offered forgiveness in
abundance – ever flowing with new life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Hymn 178 *God is good, we sing and shout it*
(Hymn of the Month, August 2017)

*God is good, we sing and shout it,
God is good, we celebrate.
God is good, no more we doubt it,
God is good, we know it's true.*

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 55 1-9 OT p. 720 (721)

St. Luke 13:1-9 NT p. 96

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 562 * *Through the love of God*

SERMON Rev. James Brown

Hymn 502 * *Take my life, Lord, let it be*
(Offerings are gathered and brought forward)

DEDICATION PRAYER

***As we dedicate this offering, we also
dedicate our thirst. Use it to help transform
the world. As we dedicate these gifts, we
also dedicate our hunger. May it motivate us
all to act in the world and create new light.
Bless this giving and this worship toward
true renewal. Amen.***

NOTICES AND PRAYERS for OTHERS

Living Spirit of God, ***quench our thirst.***

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 237 * *Look forward in faith*

BLESSING and ***Threefold Amen*** (No. 819)

ORGAN POSTLUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME & CALL to WORSHIP

(Based on images from Isaiah 55)

Everyone who thirsts:

***Come to the waters,
seek the Lord,
repent and return
so that you may live.***

All who are hungry for righteousness:

***Come to the waters,
seek the Lord,
repent and return
so that you may live.***

All who need the help of God:

***Come to the waters,
seek the Lord,
repent and return
so that you may live.***

Hymn 462 * *The King of Love my Shepherd is*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

PRAYER of APPROACH

Water of Life, ***we thirst.***

Bread of the World, ***we hunger.***

Giver of All Mercy, ***we ache for a sense of
your presence in our world.***

We, like many before us, are tempted by the
temporal pleasures and easy answers of the
cultures in which we live. We know that our
great joy and fulfilment is in your love and grace,
and our most faithful living is in our ability to
share and create wholeness. Pour into our lives
anew; nourish our spirits afresh; touch our souls
with your hand and help us to find our way. Be
with us on this journey as we worship, we pray.

Notices

- **“All are welcome in this place.”** *It's good you're here!* If you wish to be kept up-to-date with events via the **ECC News**, please add your name and postal or e-mail address to the book at the church entrance.
- **Today's worship team:**
 - Duty elder:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner
 - Reader:** Robert 'Bob' Haworth
 - Organ:** Christof Hilmer
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.** Last Sunday's offering totalled € 125.14.
- After worship, the **Kirchencafé** is open till 3 o'clock for our coffee hour with tea, coffee, (home baking) and continued fellowship.
- **Lenten Conversations:**
 - Session 4: Tuesday 26 March:**
 - Topic:** *Who Am I?* (Mark 8:27-38)
 - Venue:** Dehling family, Uhlandstraße 60
 - All sessions begin at 19:30 hrs (7.30 p.m.)
- **African Singers!** There will be a short meeting with Pastor Jimmy in the church halls after worship to plan ahead!
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **Czech Republic, Poland** and **Slovakia**. Link: www.ecc-bochum.de
- 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

24 March 2019



Lent 3

“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