

### Watchword for the Week

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
(Isaiah 35:4)  
(Moravian Daily Texts 2019)

### ORGAN PRELUDE

*Please stand as the Bible and the Advent candles are brought in procession into the worship space.*

### WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

(based on Isaiah 35:1-10)

Dare we reimagine the world?  
Dare we speak of hope in the silence?  
Dare we pour colour into the shadows?  
Dare we gather in such promise,  
on the threshold of Incarnation?

In the desert, **flowers will bloom.**  
On the highway, **flowers will bloom.**  
In the coldest hearts, **flowers will bloom.**  
In the darkest places, **flowers will bloom.**

Let us worship the one who brings us here  
and whose word is the poetry of hope.

**Hymn 281 \*** *People, look East*  
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (\*)

### OPENING PRAYER

God, you invite us to come to you rejoicing;  
rejoicing that your kingdom is near;  
rejoicing that your promise is true;  
rejoicing that here, you welcome us, children of  
the living God, co-creators with you in the world.

We rejoice that you welcome us as we are,  
with all our faults and failing,  
with all our unrealised potential.

**Loving, welcoming God, we confess all our  
wrongdoing, all we have neglected to do, the  
ways we didn't love each other as we might.  
Forgive us, and call us to try again to serve  
you and one another. Call us too to reflect  
your indiscriminate love. Amen.**

### THE DESERT WILL REJOICE

Isaiah 35:1-10 (Old Testament, page 697)

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



You are invited to bring the Good News to life today by taking part as a character in today's tableau – or by reflecting on the Scripture and hymn texts, and on the accompanying action.

**Hymn 273 \*** *O come, O come, Emmanuel*  
➤ Those who wish may put on costumes

### GOD IS WITH US

Matthew 1:18-25 (New Testament, page 4)

**Hymn 286 \*** *Tell out, my soul, the greatness*

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 1:46-55 (New Testament, page 74)

**Hymn 359 \*** *He came down...*  
➤ Mary & Joseph go to the manger with Baby Jesus

### MEEK AND LOWLY

Luke 2:8-12 (New Testament, page 75)

**Hymn 318 \*** *Lord, you were rich*  
➤ Shepherds and sheep come forward to the manger

### GLORY AND PEACE

Luke 2:13-19 (New Testament, page 75)

**Hymn 323 \*** verses 1-3 *The first Nowell*  
➤ Angels enter and gather at the manger

### COME TO WORSHIP

Matthew 2:1-11 (New Testament, page 4)

**Hymn 324 \*** *Angels from the realms*  
➤ Wise Men – and Women – gather the offerings  
and bring them forward to the manger

**PLEASE follow the WISE MEN forward  
and gather around the manger**

### DEDICATION PRAYER

**Here is our promise to you, O God,  
our promise of love in this gift  
to give ourselves over and over  
to the reshaping  
and the redemption of this world.  
May what we lay here  
be gifts for the kingdom  
that transform into justice  
and grace and peace. Amen.**

### NOTICES and PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**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.**

**Hymn 774** *Jesus, name above all names*  
*Jesus, name above all names,  
beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord;  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

### SHARING GOD'S PEACE

**Hymn 476 \*** *Mine eyes have seen the glory*

BLESSING and **Threefold Amen (No. 819)**  
*Please remain standing until the Bible is carried out.*

### ORGAN POSTLUDE

# Notices

- **“All are welcome in this place.”** *Good you're here!* Please add your name and post or e-mail address to the book at the back of church to receive details of upcoming events.
- **Today's worship team:**
  - Duty elder:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner
  - Liturgy:** Jade Ableitner
  - Reader:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner
  - Organ:** Katharina Zentgraf
- Our **offering** during worship is our main source of income. **Please give generously.**
- After worship, the **Kirchencafé** is open till 3 o'clock for tea, coffee and fellowship.
- The WCC **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week focuses on **China, Hong Kong and Macau**. Link from [www.ecc-bochum.de](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)
- **Looking ahead:**
  - Tuesday, 24 December**  
19.30 *Christmas Eve Communion*
  - Wednesday, 25 December**  
12.30 *Christmas Day Communion*  
Gift-themed family worship
  - Sunday, 5 January 2020**  
12.30 *Epiphany | Covenant Sunday*
- Please support our **Advent Appeal** for *donations of packed biscuits, cookies, chocolates or cakes* giving some Christmas cheer to clients of our local Bahnhof Mission.
- Contributions for **Mulleriyawa Ward 8**, the International Presbytery project for 2019 can be made by bank transfer (see insert) throughout December or given personally to our Treasurer Marcus Sarpong.
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



## Church address

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English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

# 15 December 2019



## Advent 3

## Christmas Pageant

**"Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus"**

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

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

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