

Watchword for the Week

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
(Psalm 80:19)
(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 7:10-16)

The journey to incarnation.
The way into the future.
The path of promise.
The prophetic pilgrimage.
The ancient adventure.

God is soon among us, **Emmanuel.**
God is soon one of us, **Emmanuel.**
God is soon in flesh, **Emmanuel.**
God is soon beside us, **Emmanuel.**

Come, let us walk into the light of God

Hymn 316 * *Love came down at Christmas*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

PRAYER of APPROACH

Loving God, how humbling,
how common, how everyday
is your incarnation.

May we have eyes to see
what is truth and what is glitter.

May we have ears to hear
the breathing of the Word
among all our words

**Loving God, how humbling,
how common, how everyday
is your incarnation.**

Loving God, we are sorry
that our love is less than you seek; less,
even, than we expect from ourselves.

When we are envious,
or boast through undue pride in our successes;
when we dishonour others
or we seek to promote our self-interests;
when our anger is roused, our frustration
fuelled by the challenges of the day,
and we can put up with almost nothing
beyond our own aims and concerns,
we recognise we have fallen short
of your law of love.
We say sorry.

(Silence)

We turn again to you:
**We trust ourselves to you afresh,
for you are the God of love.
You put up with anything,
you always look for the best,
you never look back,
and you are faithful to the end.
Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Hymn 279 * *Make way for Christ the King*

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-16 OT p. 676 (675)

St. Matthew 1:18-25 NT p. 4

People may stand for the Gospel reading.

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

Hymn 19 * *Ye gates, lift up your heads on high*
(Hymn of the Month, December 2019)

SERMON God **is** with us
Jade Ableitner, Probationer Minister

Hymn 301 * *Hark! The herald angels sing*

OFFERING *Offerings are gathered*

DOXOLOGY (Hymn 807*)

Offerings are brought forward

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly hosts,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

DEDICATION PRAYER

**In a season of giving, we give of ourselves,
a symbol of which is here on this table.
May this be the good news, not in word or
print, but in living relationships, subtitles for
the world that tell those we need and those
who need us that love is among us.
May we give of ourselves to this. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS *See Notices overleaf*

Hymn 312 * *Away in a manger*

PRAYERS for OTHERS

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

The LORD'S PRAYER *Hymn 652 Second Form (b)*
(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 306 * *O come, all ye faithful*

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:** Herold Dehling
 - Reader:** Gundi Dehling
 - Organ:** Hendrik Ziser
- 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 **Japan, North Korea, South Korea** and **Taiwan**. Link to prayers and information from 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
Children are invited to bring their Christmas presents to church
 - 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 the **Mulleriyawa Ward 8** project 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.



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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

22 December 2019



Advent 4

“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