

## ORGAN PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand)

Come among us, Jesus,  
you whom the angels worship  
and children welcome:

***Come, Jesus, and meet us here.***

Come among us, Jesus,  
you who hurled the stars into space  
and shaped the spider's weaving:  
***Come, Jesus, and meet us here.***

Come among us, Jesus,  
you whom walked the long road to Bethlehem  
and lit a flame that dances forever:  
***Come, Jesus, and meet us here.***

**Hymn 257 \*** *Singing, we gladly worship*  
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (\*)

Refrain (sung twice):

*Singing, we gladly worship the Lord together.*

*Singing, we gladly worship the Lord.*

*Those who are travelling the road of life  
sow seeds of peace and love.*

Come, bringing hope into a world of fear,  
a world which is burdened down with dread,  
a world which is yearning for a greater love  
but needs to be shown the true way.

Come, bringing joyfully in both your hands  
some kindling to light the path of peace,  
some hope that there is a more human world  
where justice and truth will be born.

Whenever hatefulness and violence  
are banished for ever from our hearts,  
then will the world believe the day is near  
when sadness and pain shall find their end.

WELCOME and WORDS of PROMISE  
Isaiah 9:2-7 *Old Testament, page 678 (677)*

OPENING PRAYER based on Isaiah 9:2-7

Into the dark streets of this night,  
into the uncomfortable corners of our hearts,  
***shine your light and shatter our yokes.***

So that heartfelt joy might increase,  
that real burdens might ease,  
Emmanuel, God with us,  
***shine your light and shatter our yokes.***

Unto us a child is born!  
Unto us a saviour is given!  
Fill our hearts and hopes with those  
untameable names: Wonderful Counsellor,  
Mighty God, Prince of Peace.  
***In your name, may we shine your light  
and shatter our yokes. Amen.***

**Hymn 543 \*** *Christ, be our light!*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

### The Birth Narrative according to St. Luke

*New Testament, page 75*

St. Luke 2:1-12 ***The birth of Jesus***

**Hymn 304 \*** *O little town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in your streets is shining  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

St. Luke 2:13-20 ***Songs of joy***

**Hymn 301 \*** *Hark! The herald angels sing*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with the angelic hosts proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the new-born King'.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the Incarnate Deity,  
pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!

SERMON *Rev. James Brown*

**Hymn 306 \*** *O come, all ye faithful  
(Communion elements are brought forward)*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him, (3x) Christ, the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created;  
*O come, let us adore him...*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
*O come, let us adore him...*

### COMMUNION PRAYER

Once upon a time, long, long ago ... and lift our  
hearts with praise as did the angels long ago:

**Hymn 760 \*** *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!*

**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.**

### WORDS of INSTITUTION

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy upon us.**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy upon us.**  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.**

### SHARING the BREAD and the CUP

*Please come forward using the centre aisle, and  
return to your seat using one of the side aisles.*

### PRAYERS for the WORLD

Come, Lord Jesus, **shine in our world.**

**Hymn 309 \*** *Still the night, holy the night  
(Seated - candles will be lit during this hymn)*

Still the night, holy the night!  
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,  
Mary and Joseph in stable bare  
watch o'er the child beloved and fair,  
sleeping in heavenly rest. (2x)



Still the night, holy the night!  
Shepherds first saw the light,  
heard resounding clear and long,  
far and near, the angel-song,  
"Christ the Redeemer is here!" (2x)

Still the night, holy the night!  
Son of God, O how bright  
love is smiling from thy face!  
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,  
Saviour, since thou art born! (2x)

### CLOSING LITANY

*(Standing)*

In the confidence of faith in our Creator:

**We carry the light out into the world.**

In the strength of the risen Christ Jesus:

**We carry the light out into the world.**

In the presence of the life-giving Spirit:

**We carry the light out into the world.**

In the faith that the darkness will end:

**We carry the light out into the world.**

**Hymn 320 \***

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
*And heaven and nature sing. (3x)*

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
*Repeat the sounding joy. (3x)*

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
*And wonders of his love. (3x)*

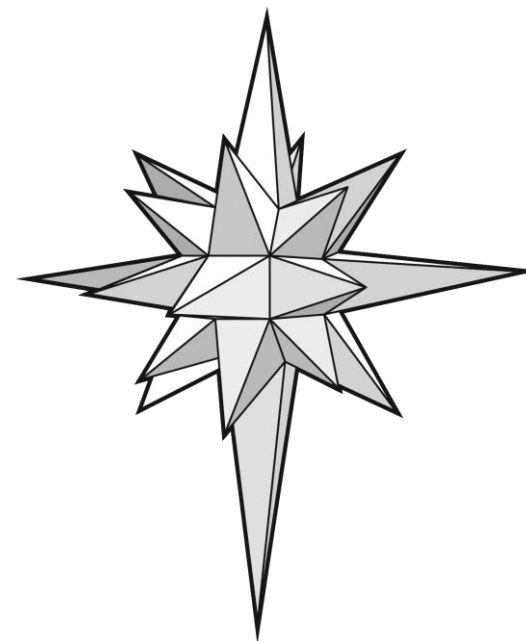
BLESSING and **Threefold Amen** (Hymn 819)

### ORGAN POSTLUDE

**The offering gathered as you leave church is  
for international HIV / AIDS relief projects  
and for the ongoing work of the ECC.**

English-speaking Christian Congregation  
Bochum, Germany

## Christmas Eve 2019



## Holy Communion

**"Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus"**

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

### Liturgists:

Rev. James Brown *Church of Scotland*  
Pastorin Heike Lengenfeld-Brown  
*Protestant Church of Westphalia*  
Mrs Jade Ableitner *Church of Scotland*

**Reader:** Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner

**Organist:** Hendrik Ziser

Worship every Sunday at 12.30