

Watchword for the Week

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2020)

ORGAN PRELUDE

Please stand as the Bible is brought in.

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP

Holy One,
we come in secret like Nicodemus:
afraid to let the light shine,
afraid of what others may think.

We come to worship.

***We follow Nicodemus into the night,
seeking Jesus,
seeking the Good News;
offering our service,
our fears,
our actions.***

Hymn 623* *Here in this place / Gather us in*
People's Choice Hymns are marked with an asterisk (*)

PRAYER of APPROACH

God of promise and of hopeful travelling;
God of hard questions and resolute love for all;
as Abram set out in his old age
on a journey into the unknown;
as Nicodemus tiptoed by night to find the man
who, against all reason, had drawn him
and roused his curiosity;
so we continue on our Lenten journey today.

For some of us,
it will be a familiar path,
as we revisit the old stories,
and walk with Jesus on the way to Calvary,
the agony softened by knowing
how the story ends.

For others, this year may be different:
our loneliness may echo his;
our suffering may help us feel his pain;

our experience of loss may draw us close
to those who grieved for him.

Or perhaps, like Nicodemus,
we have questions buzzing in our heads.
Do I really still believe? Do I still belong?

***May we be brave enough, as he was,
to confront our fears,
and ask our questions.
May we dare to step out from the crowd,
and seek you out,
and when we find you, and are found,
may we not be daunted by your challenge
to all that we thought we knew and were.
May we set out boldly on your new way for
us; the way to life in all its fullness.
Amen.***

Hymn 522* *The Church is wherever...*

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Hear these words of Jesus': God did not send
his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be
its Saviour. ***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

CHILDREN'S TIME

Hymn 340 *When Jesus saw the fishermen*
(Hymn of the Month, March 2020)

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

(Children may join the Kids' Church programme)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 121:1-8 OT p. 617

John 3:1-17 NT p. 119

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

Hymn 720* *There is a longing in our hearts*

SERMON Birgit Weinbrenner

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

DEDICATION PRAYER

***Lord God,
you hold out the promise
of new life, a fresh start,
no matter who we are,
what we have done or failed to do.
What can we possibly bring in return
for that degree of trust,
that depth of love?
The good news is that you demand nothing,
not even our response,
before you love us.
And so,
not because we must,
but because we may,
we bring whatever it is we have to give,
knowing that it, and we,
are welcome always.
Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS *See Notices overleaf*

PRAYERS for OTHERS

Response: Show us your way, O God:
teach us how to follow you.

The LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray in your 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)
Please remain standing while 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:** Derick Fonjong
 - Reader:** Heinrich Ohlendorf
 - Preacher:** Birgit Weinbrenner
 - 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 **Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.** Link to prayers and further information from www.ecc-bochum.de
- **“Life of the Spoken Word”** The second workshop with creative speech artist Tessa Westlake is on **Saturday 14 March** here in the Pauluskirche, starting at 10.30 a.m. and lasting approx. 1½ hours.
- Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.



Today's preacher **Birgit Weinbrenner** is a familiar face at the ECC. She has often preached here and is always a welcome guest.

Birgit is an ordained Pastor of the Westphalian Church, and she is currently Director of Studies at the Protestant Academy in Villigst (Schwerte).

Her specialisations include Sustainable Economics, Ethical Investment, and Development Cooperation.



ECC



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English-speaking Christian Congregation
Bochum, Germany

8 March 2020



Rembrandt: *Christ and Nicodemus* (17th C.)

Lent 2

“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