



Zoom access: <https://ruhr-uni-bochum.zoom.us/j/94842267013?pwd=T0pERVZmbUzK3k5dzhnMXRcEc1UT09>

GATHERING MUSIC: *Misa Criolla (Kyrie)*

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2020)

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things. (Isaiah 25:1)

WELCOME & NOTICES

CALL TO WORSHIP (responses in bold-face italics)

We come ***because we are invited.***

We come ***because we hunger.***

We come ***because we will be fed.***

We come ***for healing.***

We come ***for forgiveness.***

We come ***to this place, to this space.***

We come ***because Jesus says to us, "Come!"***

HYMN *Singing, we gladly worship the Lord* (Church Hymnary 257)

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.*

1. 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.

2. 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 peace will be born.
3. 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.

OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S HYMN *He came down...* (Church Hymnary 359)

1. He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love,
hallelujah for evermore. (CANTOR: Why did he come?)
(repeat verse)
2. He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace,
hallelujah for evermore. (CANTOR: Why did he come?)
(repeat verse)

GOSPEL READING St. Matthew 22:1-14 (Good News New Testament, page 32)

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

REFLECTION Please Observe the Appropriate Dress Code

HYMN *For everyone born, a place at the table* (Church Hymnary 685)

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

*And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.*

2. For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair.

3. For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands kind and wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.
4. For just and unjust a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live.
5. For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS (ending with these responses:)

Living God, thank you that
you hold us together in love.

We are the body of Christ.

You help us to grow and mature.

We are nurtured by faith.

You develop our compassion.

We are called to serve.

You make us active and strong.

We are challenged to love. Amen.

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.***

BLESSING (ending with the Grace, spoken together:)

***The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.***

CLOSING MUSIC *Misa Criolla (Gloria)*

THOUGHTS ON TODAY'S TEXT

"The point of the story is that Jesus is telling the truth, the truth that political and religious leaders often like to hide: the truth that God's kingdom is a kingdom in which love and justice and mercy and holiness reign unhindered. They are the clothes you need to wear for the wedding. And if you refuse to put them on, you are saying you don't want to stay at the party. That is the reality."

Tom Wright (2002), *Matthew for Everyone*, 2 vols, London: SPCK

"Christ's disciples [are] those who put on the wedding garments; faith [...] always has a festive element, a note of rejoicing, in spite of everything."

Leith Fisher (2009), *'But I Say to You': Exploring the Gospel of Matthew*,
Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press

"You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct each other with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father."

Colossians 3:12-17 (Good News Translation)

"The humor of the episode is seen in the invited guests' trumped-up excuses, and the irony in the poor and needy, who are outside the boundaries of high society, enjoying the great feast. [...] The beggars and the homeless feast at the great banquet while the respected members of the community exclude themselves with their worthless excuses."

Brad H. Young (1998), *The Parables: Jewish Tradition and Christian Interpretation*,
Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson

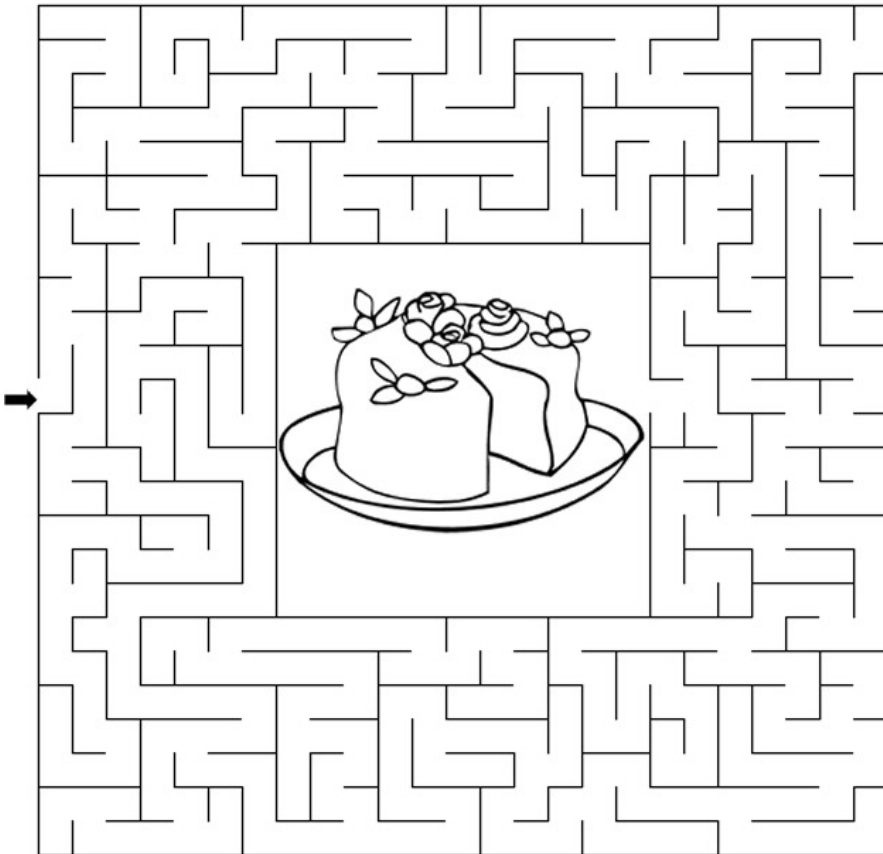
"The witness of the church should be characterized by the joy of inviting people to the banquet God has prepared, a banquet that is both present and future. Far too often the joy has been so muted that people are left with no pointers to the presence of the kingdom."

Klyne R. Snodgrass (2008), *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*,
Grand Rapids, Michigan / Cambridge, UK: Eerdmans

CHILDREN'S PAGE: THE WEDDING FEAST MAZE

You are invited to the wedding feast!

Can you find your way to the wedding cake?



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NOTICES

- **Zoom Worship** is held live every Sunday at our regular worship time of 12.30 p.m. So that numbers can increase, please share the Zoom access link with friends. Worship bulletins are posted weekly on our website <http://ecc-bochum.de/> from where you can always download a copy in PDF file format a few days in advance.
- For **data protection** reasons, no audio or video recordings of our Zoom worship services are permitted. Please comply to respect each other's privacy. Thanks!
- The focus of the **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week is on Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Please hold these countries and their peoples in prayer this week. Prayers at: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle/belize-guatemala-honduras-mexico>
- Links to many other **online worship resources** provided by various churches have been posted on our website at: <http://ecc-bochum.de/online-resources/>
- The **Pauluskirche** is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for individual and private prayer. Standard hygiene precautions apply in church.
- The **Weltladen** (Fair Trade Store) has reopened on Market Days (Tuesday and Friday) from 14-17 hrs and on Saturday from 11-17 hrs. Volunteers are urgently needed so that the store can open more frequently. Please speak to Pastor Jimmy.
- Our **weekly offerings** during worship, always our congregation's main source of income, have been dramatically affected by the corona crisis. If you are able, you are invited to donate by bank transfer in order that the ECC may continue to cover ongoing costs. Bank account details are as shown here. *Thank you.*

Bank Account: "Englische Gemeinde"

IBAN: DE89 4305 0001 0001 4132 36

SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1BOC (Sparkasse Bochum)



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