

ECC Bochum

English-speaking Christian Congregation

Digital Worship, 13 December 2020

Advent 3: Sing for

JOY



Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484653256?pwd=ZFFHV25JSmcrS1M2SVVNNkcwc091QT09>
(Click the link to enter. The Zoom worship meeting will open at ca. 12:15 Central European Time on Sunday.)

ORGAN Valentin Rathgeber, Pastorelle vor die Weynacht-Zeit, Op. 22, No. 1

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2020)

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES (responses in bold-face italics)

Even if we cannot gather in person:

Emmanuel, God with us

Even if some Christmas traditions have had to go:

Emmanuel, God with us

Even if we might not get to hug family and friends:

Emmanuel, God with us

Even if we cannot sing carols beside each other:

Emmanuel, God with us

Even if Christmas cheer is harder this year:

Emmanuel, God with us

HYMN *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (Church Hymnary 273, verses 1 + 3-5)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 3 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 4 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 5 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING PRAYER

CHILDREN'S HYMN *Joy, joy, joy! With joy my heart is ringing.*

Joy, joy, joy! With joy my heart is ringing.
Joy, joy, joy! His love to me is known.
My sins are all forgiven; I'm on my way to heaven;
my heart is bubbling over with his joy, joy, joy!

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (GNB Old Testament, page 726)

The Sovereign Lord has filled me with his Spirit.
He has chosen me and sent me
To bring good news to the poor,
To heal the broken-hearted,
To announce release to captives
And freedom to those in prison.
² He has sent me to proclaim
That the time has come
When the Lord will save his people
And defeat their enemies.
He has sent me to comfort all who mourn,
³ To give to those who mourn in Zion
Joy and gladness instead of grief,
A song of praise instead of sorrow.
They will be like trees
That the Lord himself has planted.
They will all do what is right,
And God will be praised for what he has done.
⁴ They will rebuild cities that have long been in ruins.

⁸ The Lord says,
"I love justice and I hate oppression and crime.
I will faithfully reward my people
And make an eternal covenant with them.
⁹ They will be famous among the nations;

Everyone who sees them will know
That they are a people whom I have blessed.”

¹⁰ Jerusalem rejoices because of what the Lord has done.
She is like a bride dressed for her wedding.
God has clothed her with salvation and victory.

¹¹ As surely as seeds sprout and grow,
The Sovereign Lord will save his people,
And all the nations will praise him.

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

HYMN *He came down that we may have joy* (Church Hymnary 359)

He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy, Hallelujah for evermore!

SHARING GOD’S PEACE

REFLECTION “Joy! Did you say ‘Joy’?”

HYMN *Christ, be our light!* (Church Hymnary 543)

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.
- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.
- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.
- 5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.

NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS & 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: *People, look East.* (Church Hymnary 281)

- 1 People, look East. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim:
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.
- 4 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

BLESSING (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: ECC Choir: *In the bleak midwinter* (Hymn 305, 1+2+4)

The *LIGHT* shines in
the darkness and
the *darkness*
has *NOT* overcome it.

John 1:5



Other children's resources at: <https://sermons4kids.com/>

NOTICES

- **Digital Worship** is held live every Sunday at 12.30 p.m. on Zoom (virtual doors open at 12:15). The Meeting ID is: 814 8465 3256. The Passcode is: 947371. For **data protection** reasons, private audio or video recordings of our Zoom worship services are NOT permitted. Videos of the hymns, songs and (occasionally) reflection are posted in the worship section of the ECC website for viewing later.
- **Preacher** next Sunday, 20 December, is Revd Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC). Emmanuel has preached in our worship in the past: at Harvest Thanks 2014 and on Christian Unity Sunday 2018. He lives in Bochum and is pursuing doctoral studies in theology at the Ruhr University.
- The next (Zoom) **Bible Study** exploring the ancient practice of *Lectio divina* (divine or sacred reading) is on Thursday 17 December at 19:30 hrs (the third of four sessions). The Zoom Meeting ID is: 882 1296 9022. The Passcode is: 051157.
- The focus of the **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** this week is on China, Hong Kong and Macau. Please hold these countries and their people in your prayers this week: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/china-hong-kong-macau>
- Links to many other **online worship resources** provided by various churches, including the United Church of Christ, the Church of Scotland and others, have been posted on our website at: <http://ecc-bochum.de/online-resources/>
- The **Weltladen** (Fair Trade Store) is selling handmade full-face masks in aid of ECC church funds at € 5 each. (Tuesday to Friday 14-17 hrs, Saturday 11-17 hrs.)
- Almost 2,000 **English books** (mixed content) were donated recently to raise funds for the ECC. Contact Pastor Jimmy to arrange to buy your personal batch of books!



More lectionary cartoons at: <https://www.agnusday.org>

ECC Bank Account: "Englische Gemeinde"
IBAN: DE89 4305 0001 0001 4132 36
SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1BOC (Sparkasse Bochum)