

ECC Bochum

English-speaking Christian Congregation

Digital Worship, 20 December 2020



Advent 4: Sing for

LOVE

Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484653256?pwd=ZFFHV25JSmcvS1M2SVVNNkcwc091QT09>
(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. 2

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2020)

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
(Luke 1:49)

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

(based on Psalm 89 and Luke 1; responses in bold-face italics)

Let us sing a song of the constant love of God.

We will proclaim God's faithfulness for ever.

For God is everlasting; God's love is everlasting.

God's love is as sure as the sky above.

We rejoice in the hope we have in God.

We proclaim God's peace, greater than earthly peace.

Our hearts are filled with joy because of God, our Saviour.

Even in our lowliness, God's love is in our very midst.

So, let us sing a song of the constant love of God.

God's love lasts from generation to generation.

HYMN *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord* (Church Hymnary 286)

- 1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

- 2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has eon;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.
- 3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
- 4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

OPENING PRAYER

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

He came down that we may have love (3x); Hallelujah for evermore!

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38 (GNB New Testament, page 73)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. ²⁷ He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

²⁹ Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. ³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, ³³ and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. ³⁷ For there is nothing that God cannot do."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

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

ECC CHOIR: *Magnificat* (Taizé Chorus)

REFLECTION “How is this possible?” (Revd Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah)

HYMN *Love came down at Christmas!* (Church Hymnary 316)

- 1 Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.
- 2 Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
worship we our Jesus: but wherewith for sacred sign?
- 3 Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

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 *Christ is coming!* (Church Hymnary 475)

- 1 Christ is coming! Let creation from her groans and travail cease;
let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come now, blessed Prince of Peace.
- 2 Earth can now but tell the story of your bitter cross and pain;
she shall yet behold your glory, Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, Lord Jesus, come again!
- 3 Long your exiles have been pining, far from you, and rest, and home:
but, in heavenly glory shining, soon their loving Lord shall come:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Haste the joyous jubilee.
- 4 With that blessed hope before us, harps be played and songs be sung;
let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue:
‘Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!’

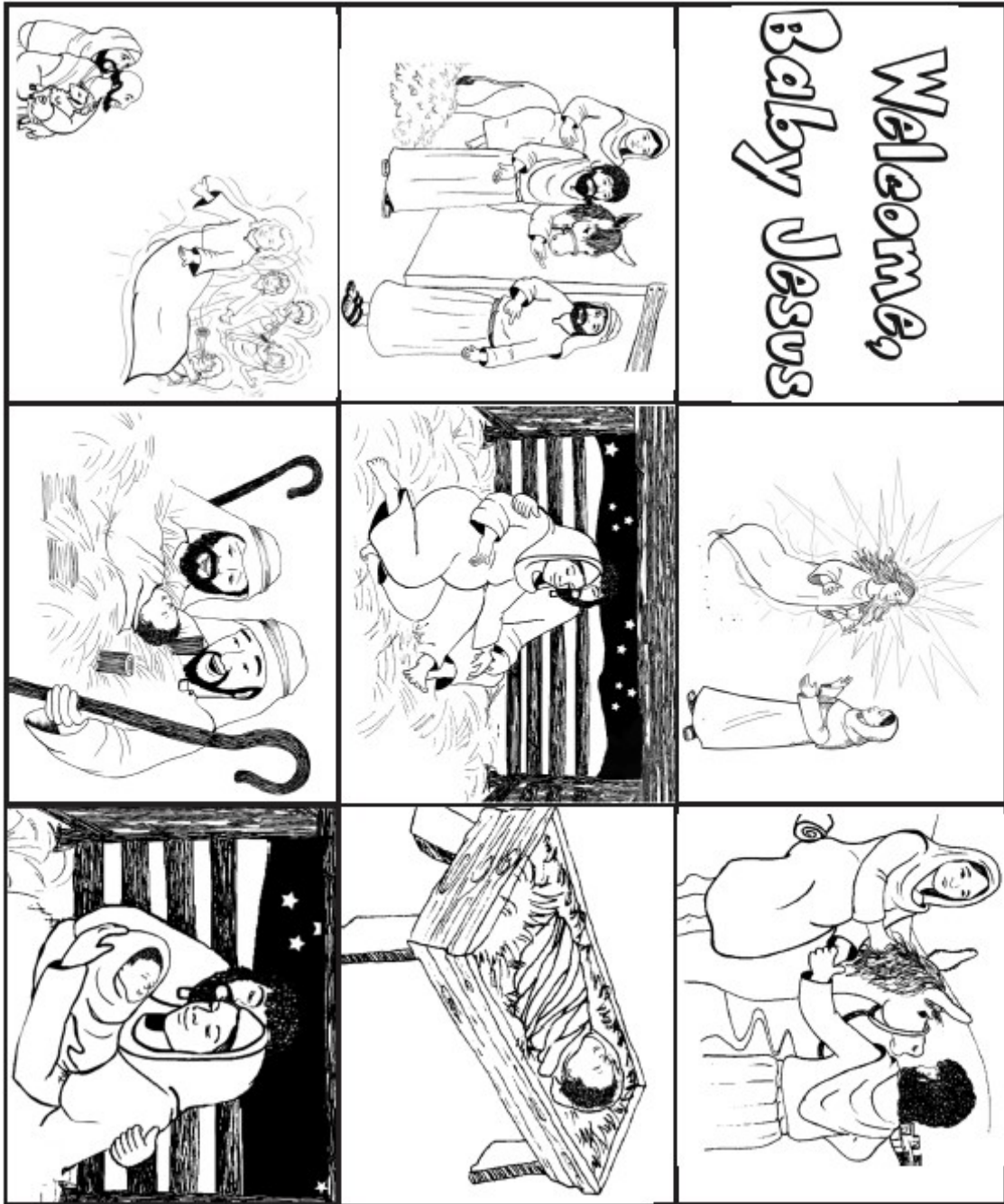
BLESSING (spoken together:)

***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.***

ORGAN: Valentin Rathgeber, Pastorelle vor die Weynacht-Zeit, Op. 22, No. 6

CHILDREN'S COLOURING PAGE

Decorate the pictures using coloured pencils or crayons.
Use your page to tell others the story of Jesus' birth.

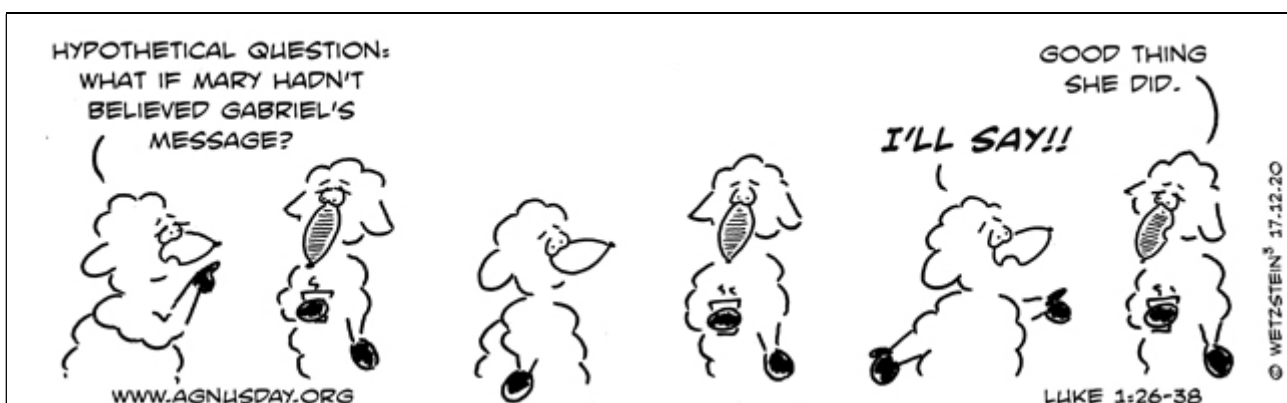


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Other children's resources at: <https://sermons4kids.com/>

NOTICES

- **Digital Worship** live every Sunday at 12.30 p.m. on Zoom (opens 12:15). Meeting ID: 814 8465 3256, Passcode: 947371. No private audio or video recordings to be made, please for **data protection** reasons. Videos of the hymns and (occasionally) reflection are posted in the worship section of the ECC website for viewing later.
- Today's **Preacher** is Revd Emmanuel Mote-Ndashah of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) who is currently pursuing PhD research in theology at the Ruhr University. Emmanuel has preached twice at the ECC before, in 2014 and 2018.
- The next *Lectio divina* **Bible Study** is on Tuesday 22 December at 19:30 hrs (the fourth of five sessions) on Zoom. Meeting ID: 882 1296 9022, Passcode: 051157.
- On **Christmas Eve**, a pre-recorded worship service (approx. 45 minutes) will be posted on the website for viewing at any time on Christmas Eve (or later).
- This week's **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** focuses on Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan. Please hold these countries and their people in your prayers this week: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/japan-north-korea-south-korea-taiwan>
- The **Preacher** for our next live Zoom worship at 12.30 on Sunday 27 December will be Revd Dr Robert Haworth (Pastor Bob). Meeting ID and Passcode as usual.
- **Online worship resources** by various churches, including the UCC, the Church of Scotland and others, are on our website at: <http://ecc-bochum.de/online-resources/>
- A large number of **English books** (mixed content) are still available from the Manse to raise funds for the ECC. Contact Pastor Jimmy to arrange for an appointment to browse the boxes at leisure and buy your own batch of books!



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

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