



ECC Bochum

English-speaking Christian Congregation

Digital Worship, 27 December 2020

Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484653256?pwd=ZFFHV25JSmcrcS1M2SVVNNkcwc091QT09>

(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. 7

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2020)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

(Galatians 4:4+5)

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

In our looking ahead to a new year,
may the God of hope be with us.

In our lamenting the losses of the past year,
may the God of peace be with us.

In our celebrations of Christmas,
may the God of joy be with us.

In our caring for the world,
may the God of love be with us.

In our living of life in all its fullness,
may we know that God is with us.

HYMN *Lord, for the years* (Church Hymnary 159, verses 1-2 and 4-5)

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

- 2 Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (GNB New Testament, page 4)

¹³ After they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave."

¹⁴ Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until Herod died. This was done to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "I called my Son out of Egypt."

[...]

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go back to the land of Israel, because those who tried to kill the child are dead." ²¹ So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went back to Israel.

²² But when Joseph heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as king of Judea, he was afraid to go there. He was given more instructions in a dream, so he went to the province of Galilee ²³ and made his home in a town named Nazareth. And so what the prophets had said came true: "He will be called a Nazarene."

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

HYMN: *Once in royal David's city* (Church Hymnary 315, verses 1+2+4)

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
where like stars his children crowned, all in white shall wait around.

REFLECTION "We can't? We can!" (Revd Dr Robert Haworth)

HYMN *See him lying on a bed of straw (Calypso Carol)* (Church Hymnary 310)

- 1 See him lying on a bed of straw: a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore – the Prince of glory is his name.
*Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then, the Prince of glory when he came.*
- 2 Star of silver, sweep across the skies, show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise to see the Saviour of the world!
- 3 Angels, sing again the song you sang, sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethl'ems little baby can be salvation to the soul.
- 4 Mine are riches, from your poverty, from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me, child of sorrow for my joy.

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 *As with gladness men of old* (Church Hymnary 326, verses 1-3 + 5)

- 1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onwards, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy-seat.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.
- 5 In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

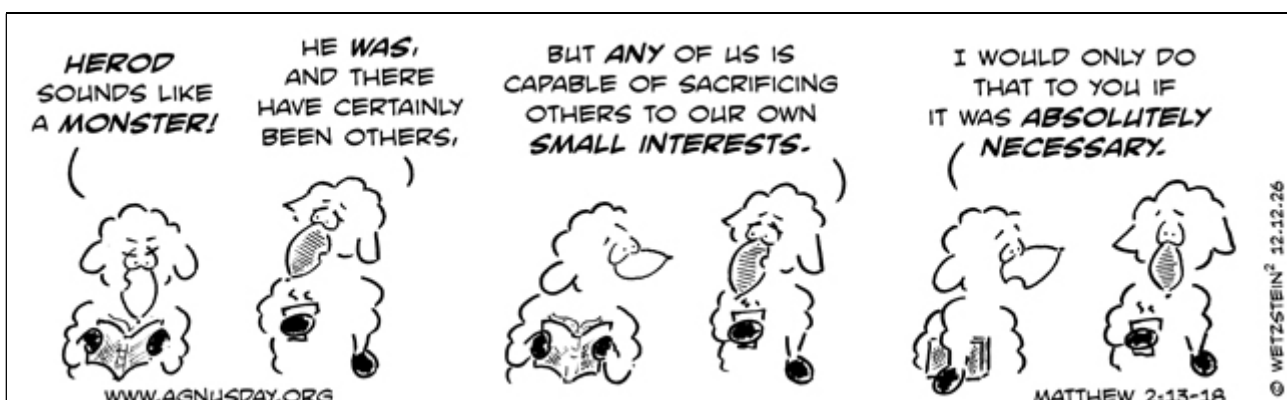
BLESSING (spoken together:)

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. 8

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.
- This week's **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** invites us to pray for stateless people: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/stateless-people>
- **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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CHILDREN'S COLOURING PAGE



**Wise Men Worship Jesus
Matthew 2**

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