

# ECC Bochum

English-speaking Christian Congregation

## Digital Worship, 3 January 2021

Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484653256?pwd=ZFFHV25JSmcrS1M2SVVNNkwc091QT09>  
(Click the link to enter. The Zoom worship meeting will open at ca. 12:15 Central European Time on Sunday.)

**PRELUDE:** Carol of the Bells (Ukrainian traditional)

### **Watchword for the Week** (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespass, according to the riches of his grace.  
(Ephesians 1:7)

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

Praise God, the Creator, who made the heavens and the earth!  
***We celebrate in awe of God's beautiful creation.***

Praise God, the Redeemer, who came in flesh to live among us!  
***We gather in awe of God's coming to us.***

Praise God, the Spirit, who fills us with hope!  
***We follow in awe, sustained for the journey.***

Praise God, one in three, and three in one!  
***We worship in awe of God's merciful love.***

### **HYMN** *Lord, for the years* (Church Hymnary 160, verses 1-3 and 5)

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise the everlasting King.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same for ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, glorious in his faithfulness!

- 3 Father-like he tends and spares us, well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes:  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, widely as his mercy flows!
- 5 Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him; dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise him! Praise him! Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace.

## OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE

### CHILDREN'S TIME "As easy as a, b, c?"



### **HYMN** *Who put the colours in the rainbow?* (Church Hymnary 143)

- 1 Who put the colours in the rainbow? Who put the salt in the sea?  
Who put the cold in the snowflake? Who made you and me?  
Who put the hump upon the camel? Who put the neck on the giraffe?  
Who put the tail upon the monkey? Who made hyenas laugh?  
Who made whales and snails and quails?  
Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?  
Who made bats and rats and cats? Who made everything?
- 2 Who put the gold in the sunshine? Who put the sparkle in the stars?  
Who put the silver in the moonlight? Who made Earth and Mars?  
Who put the scent into the rose? Who taught the honey-bee to dance?  
Who put the tree inside the acorn? It surely can't be chance!  
Who made seas and leaves and trees?  
Who made snow and winds that blow?  
Who made streams and rivers flow? God made all of these!

## **SCRIPTURE READING** John 1:1-18 (GNB New Testament, page 116)

In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> From the very beginning the Word was with God. <sup>3</sup> Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. <sup>4</sup> The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

<sup>6</sup> God sent his messenger, a man named John, <sup>7</sup> who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup> This was the real light – the light that comes into the world and shines on all people.

<sup>10</sup> The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. <sup>13</sup> They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

<sup>15</sup> John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'"

<sup>16</sup> Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

**HYMN** *On Christmas night* (Sussex Carol) (Church Hymnary 294)

- 1 On Christmas night all Christian sing, to hear the news the angels bring;  
on Christmas night all Christian sing, to hear the news the angels bring;  
news of great joy, news of great birth, news of our merciful King's birth.
- 2 Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;  
then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?
- 3 When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;  
when sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;  
heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.
- 4 All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;  
'Glory to God, on earth be peace, goodwill to all shall never cease.'

**REFLECTION** “The word on the street” (Revd James Brown)

**HYMN** *Jesus Christ is waiting* (Church Hymnary 360)

- 1 Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;  
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too:  
make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
- 2 Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,  
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too:  
in the Kingdom’s causes let me rage with you.
- 3 Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets,  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too:  
let my care be active, healing, just like you.
- 4 Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,  
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too:  
where good conquers evil, let me dance with you.
- 5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
‘Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.’  
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few:  
walk one step before me, I will follow you.

**NOTICES & PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Response: To you, O Lord, we pray: ***come and save your people.***

**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** *We are marching in the light of God* (Church Hymnary 516)

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos. / We are marching in the light of God.

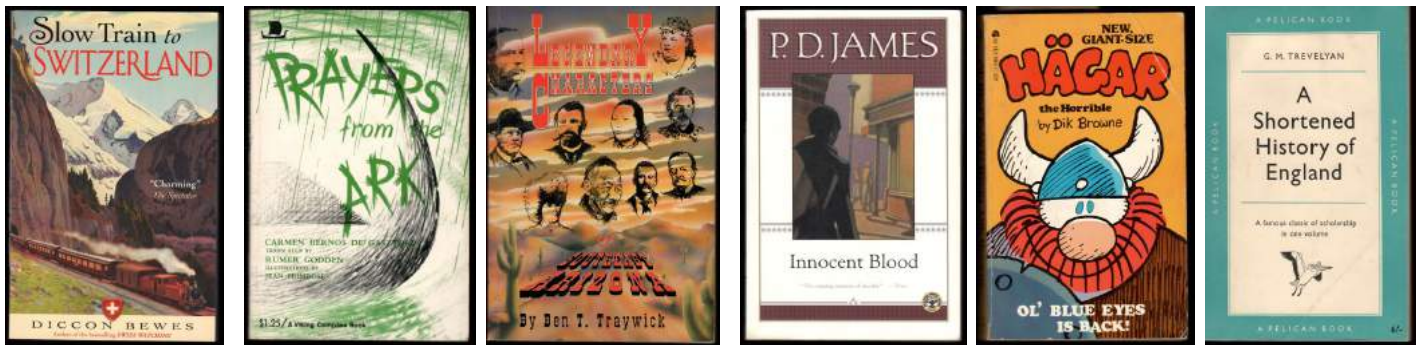
**BLESSING** (spoken together:)

***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.***

**POSTLUDE:** Traditional Irish Blessing

## 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** reflects the extended Christmas story, focusing on countries that appear in the birth narratives: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/egypt-israel-jordan-lebanon-palestine>
- **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 great many **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 pick your own selection of books!



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

**ECC Bank Account: "Englische Gemeinde"**  
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The Word became a human being and lived among us. (John 1:18)

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