

ECC Bochum Digital Worship

English-speaking Christian Congregation

With Prayers for Healing

21 March 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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.)

PRELUDE: "Vater Unser" Arvo Pärt (Cai Thomas, Julien Brocal)

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and
right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

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

We gather in your presence, O God,

in our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

and you know by experience what human life is like.

We come with our faith and with our doubts;

we come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are, because you have invited us;

and you have promised never to turn us away.

HYMN *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God* (Church Hymnary 641)

- 1 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you; alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; alleluia, alleluia.
- 3 You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord; alleluia, alleluia.

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING #1 Jeremiah 31:31-34 (GNB Old Testament, page 768)

The Lord says, “The time is coming when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the old covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. Although I was like a husband to them, they did not keep that covenant. ³³ The new covenant that I will make with the people of Israel will be this: I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ None of them will have to teach a neighbour to know the Lord, because all will know me, from the least to the greatest. I will forgive their sins and I will no longer remember their wrongs. I, the Lord, have spoken.”

CHILDREN’S TIME & SHARING GOD’S PEACE

HYMN *Spirit of the living God* (Church Hymnary 619-620)

- 1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me:
break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
- 2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love,
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

REFLECTION #1 “Hoping for a Change – Ourselves” Revd Jimmy Brown

HYMN *God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you
Spirit to keep you in heaven’s sight;
so may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light.*

SCRIPTURE READING #2 John 12:20-26 (GNB New Testament, page 135)

Some Greeks were among those who had gone to Jerusalem to worship during the festival. ²¹ They went to Philip (he was from Bethsaida in Galilee) and said, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.”

²² Philip went and told Andrew, and the two of them went and told Jesus.

²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has now come for the Son of Man to receive great glory. ²⁴ I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains. ²⁵ Those who love their own life will lose it; those who hate their own life in this world will keep it for life eternal.

²⁶ Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am. And my Father will honour anyone who serves me.

HYMN *Unless a single grain of wheat* (Church Hymnary 347)

*Unless a single grain of wheat fall on the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain, nothing more.*

- 1 If we have died with him, then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.
- 2 If any would serve me, then they must follow me;
wherever I am, my servants will be.
- 3 Make your home in me as I make mine in you;
those who remain in me bear much fruit.
- 4 If you remain in me and my word lives in you,
then you will be my disciples.
- 5 Those who love me are loved by my Father;
we shall be with them and dwell in them.
- 6 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
peace which the world cannot give is my gift.

REFLECTION #2 “Hoping for a Change – Our World” Revd Jimmy Brown

HYMN *God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you
Spirit to keep you in heaven’s sight;
so may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light.*

SCRIPTURE READING #3 John 12:27-33 (GNB New Testament, page 135)

“Now my heart is troubled – and what shall I say? Shall I say, ‘Father, do not let this hour come upon me’? But that is why I came – so that I might go through this hour of suffering. ²⁸ Father, bring glory to your name!”

Then a voice spoke from heaven, “I have brought glory to it, and I will do so again.”

²⁹ The crowd standing there heard the voice, and some of them said it was thunder, while others said, “An angel spoke to him!”

³⁰ But Jesus said to them, “It was not for my sake that this voice spoke, but for yours. ³¹ Now is the time for this world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me.” (³³ In saying this he indicated the kind of death he was going to suffer.)

COMMITMENT TO LIFE (responses in bold-face italics)

In the midst of hunger and war,
we celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.

In the midst of oppression and tyranny,
we celebrate the promise of service and freedom.

In the midst of doubt and despair,
we celebrate the promise of faith and hope.

In the midst of fear and betrayal,
we celebrate the promise of joy and loyalty.

In the midst of hatred and death,
we celebrate the promise of love and life.

In the midst of sin and decay,
we celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal.

In the midst of death on every side,
we celebrate the promise of the living Christ.

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 *God to enfold you, Christ to uphold you
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
so may God grace you, heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness into the light.*

VIRTUAL LAYING ON OF HANDS

Please indicate if you wish individual laying-on of hands, ideally by using the raised hand icon. In response, others may activate a suitable icon, or join in saying:

*Spirit of the living God, present with us now,
enter you, body, mind and spirit, and heal you of all that harms you,
in Jesus' name. Amen.*

BLESSING (responses in bold-face italics)

God to enfold us, ***God to surround us.***

God in our sleeping, ***God in our waking.***

God in our watching, ***God in our hoping.***

God on our lips, ***God in our lives.***

POSTLUDE: In Paradisum (Gregorian Chant) Jézau, prisimink mane (Taizé)
sung by Dainava Lithuanian Chorale

NOTICES

Welcome to our digital English-language worship from Bochum, Germany, on the digital platform Zoom! We go live every Sunday at ca. 12:15 hrs CET for a 12:30 hrs start. Meeting ID: **814 8465 3256**, Passcode: **947371**.

- For **data protection** reasons, please don't record any part of worship. Hymn and reflection videos will be posted for viewing on the ECC website (ecc-bochum.de).
- **Today's worship team** are Herold Dehling (Duty Elder), Manuela Theile (Reader), Jimmy Brown (Liturgy and Reflection), ECC Choir and Hendrik Ziser (Music).
- **Holy Week Preachers** include Revd Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (Palm Sunday, 28 March) and Revd Elungkiebe Zeliang of Zeme Baptist Church, Nagaland, North India (Easter Sunday, 4 April). **Please note: clocks are moved forward by one hour in the night from 27 to 28 March!**
- **Volunteer as a reader** for Sunday worship. There are still gaps between now and May: https://doodle.com/poll/8iznq2f2fzgw9cin?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
- **Online Bible study** on the *Servant Songs in Isaiah*. Fifth meeting on **Tuesday 23 March** at 19:00 hrs. Zoom Meeting ID: 882 1296 9022, Passcode: 051157 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88212969022?pwd=TWxWM3UrSkd5YzF0QIM1UWd3T3k5QT09>
Contact Pastor Jimmy for a booklet with the passages being studied.
- **Reading the Bible together** through 2021, supported in a Zoom group. Contact Sebastian Stüwe on 0176 76496321 or [sebastian.stuewe\(at\)mailbox.org](mailto:sebastian.stuewe(at)mailbox.org)
- This week's **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** focuses on Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/estonia-latvia-lithuania>
- **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/>



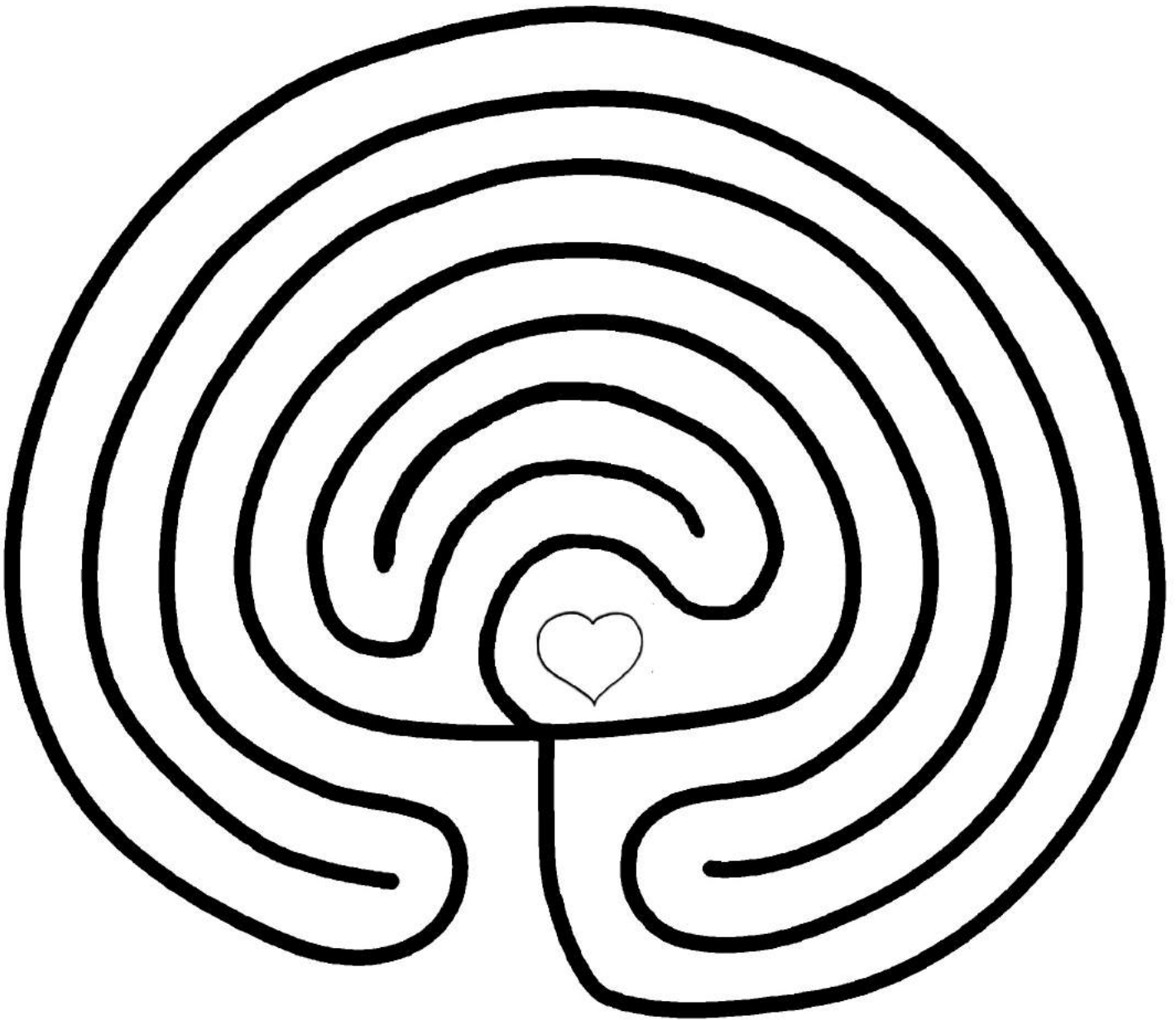
More lectionary cartoons at: <https://www.agnusday.org>

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ACTIVITY PAGE

“God’s a-maze-ing love”

As you move your finger slowly to the “heart” of the labyrinth, say this prayer:
God of love, I am listening to your voice deep inside my heart.



As you move your finger slowly out of the labyrinth, say this prayer:
God of love, show me how to share your love with others.

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