

ECC Bochum Digital Worship

English-speaking Christian Congregation

11 April 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

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: "Spem in alium" Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Spem in alium nunquam habui praeter in te, Deus Israel, qui irasceris, et propitius eris, et omnia peccata hominum in tribulatione dimittis. Domine Deus, Creator coeli et terrae, respice humilitatem nostram.

I have never put my hope in any other but in You, O God of Israel, who can show both anger and graciousness, and who absolves all the sins of suffering humanity. Lord God, Creator of Heaven and Earth be mindful of our lowliness.

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)

If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
(1 John 1:7)

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

Christ has risen, ***Alleluia! Christ is risen!***

We gather to worship the risen Christ, Conqueror of death.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

We lift up praise to the risen Christ, Redeemer of all life.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

We give thanks to the risen Christ, Giver of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ has risen, ***Christ is risen indeed!***

HYMN *I danced in the morning* (Church Hymnary 404)

- 1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth –
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be;
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

- 2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John –
they came with me and the Dance went on.
- 3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
and they left me there on a Cross to die.
- 4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black –
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone –
but I am the Dance and I still go on.
- 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high –
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Jesus, risen from the dead, greeted his worried followers with the reassuring and uplifting words: "Peace be with you." And so, following his example, we greet each other with these same words now: ***Peace be with you!***



CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31 (GNB New Testament, page 145)

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰ After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”

³⁰ In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. ³¹ But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

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

HYMN *How often we, like Thomas* (Church Hymnary 432) Tune: Sally Garden

- 1 How often we, like Thomas, need proof before we trust.
Lord Jesus, friend of doubters, come, speak your truth to us.
We long to feel your presence, and gain new faith from you,
to find, without our seeing, the blessing Thomas knew.
- 2 You always stand among us; no doors can lock you out.
Your presence reassures us though we still live with doubt.
As present-day disciples, whose lives by sin are flawed,
we want to come believing, and cry: ‘My Lord, my God!’

REFLECTION *Noli me tangere* – To touch or not to touch? (Revd James Brown)

HYMN *Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you* (Church Hymnary 191)

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

- 1 When you walk through the waters, I’ll be with you,
you will never sink beneath the waves.
- 2 When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.
- 3 When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
- 4 When you dwell in the exile of the stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.
- 5 You are mine, O my child; I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Response: Pour out your blessing, O Lord;
send us your Spirit of peace.

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 *Breathe on me, Breath of God* (Church Hymnary 596) Tune: Carlisle

- 1 Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with life anew;
that I may love the way you love
and do what you would do.
- 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, ‘
direct my heart’s desire,
till every earthly part of me
glows with your holy fire.
- 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of your eternity.

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, evermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE: “Flute Solo” from “Sonata in A” Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

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).
- **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
- A new **online Bible study** *Sing and Study* exploring popular hymns starts **Tuesday 13 April** at 19:00 hrs. Zoom Meeting ID: 882 1296 9022, Passcode: 051157 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88212969022?pwd=TWxWM3UrSkd5YzF0QIM1UWd3T3k5QT09>
- **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 Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. Please keep these countries and their people on your prayers: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/bulgaria-hungary-romania>
- **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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Jesus Appears to Thomas



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