



ECC Bochum Digital Worship

English-speaking Christian Congregation

2 May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.)

PRELUDE: "Glorious Morning" Uzbek Instrumental Music

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)

Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you.

Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you unless you abide in me." (John 15:4)

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 know that my Redeemer lives* (Church Hymnary 423)

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives, *glory, hallelujah!*
What joy and peace this sentence gives, *glory, hallelujah!*
Shout on, pray on, we're gaining ground, *glory, hallelujah!*
The dead's alive and the lost is found, *glory, hallelujah!*
- 2 He lives, to bless me with his love, *glory, hallelujah!*
He lives, to plead for me above, *glory, hallelujah!*
He lives, my hungry soul to feed, *glory, hallelujah!*
He lives, to help in time of need, *glory, hallelujah!*

- 3 He lives, all glory to his name, *glory, hallelujah!*
He lives, my Saviour, still the same, *glory, hallelujah!*
What joy this blest assurance gives, *glory, hallelujah!*
I know that my Redeemer lives, *glory, hallelujah!*

OPENING PRAYER (A prayer from Mongolia)

O God,
that we may receive your blessing,
touch our brows, touch our heads,
and do not look upon us in anger.
In a hard year be our mercy;
in a year of affliction, be our kindness;
dark spirits banish from us;
bright spirits bring close to us;
grey spirits put away from us;
good spirits draw near to us.
When I am afraid, be my courage;
when I am ashamed, be my true face;
be thou over me like a blanket,
be thou under me like a bed of furs.
Amen.



CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN *Pears and apples, wheat and grapes* (Church Hymnary 232, 1-3 + 6)

- 1 Pears and apples, wheat and grapes, many textures, many shapes;
falling leaves in golden drifts, thank you, God, for all your gifts.
- 2 Fishing shoals of glistening fish, every colour you could wish;
fishing boats, for you and me reap the harvest of the sea.
- 3 Deep beneath the ocean floor fuel and power have lain in store,
brought to us through dangerous toil. Thank you, God, for gas and oil.
- 6 Loving Lord, we know you care; let the world your goodness share;
save us from our selfish greed, finding you in those in need.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:1-8 (GNB New Testament, page 138)

"I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit. ³ You have been made clean already by the teaching I have given you. ⁴ Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so

only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me. ⁶ Those who do not remain in me are thrown out like a branch and dry up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. ⁸ My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples.

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

HYMN *May the mind of Christ my Saviour* (Church Hymnary 536)

Words vary slightly on the video; verse 6 not in hymnbook.

- 1 May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling all I do or say.
- 2 May the word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph only through his power.
- 3 May the peace of God my Father in my life for ever reign;
that I may be calm to comfort those in grief or pain.
- 4 May the love of Jesus fill me, as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self denying, this is victory.
- 5 May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,
drawing all my strength from Jesus as I onward go.
- 6 May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win,
and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.

REFLECTION The Bible Bunch: Growth, Fruit & Togetherness (Revd James Brown)

HYMN *Hallelujah! We sing your praises* (Church Hymnary 674)

*Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.*

- 1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread;
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger.
- 2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt;
strong in faith, free of doubt, tell to all the joyful Gospel.

NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Response: God who makes us one,
hear our prayer.

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 *Through the love of God our Saviour* (Church Hymnary 562)

- 1 Through the love of God our Saviour, all will be well.
Free and changeless is his favour; all, all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us,
perfect is the grace that sealed us,
strong the hand stretched forth to shield us;
all must be well.
- 2 Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well.
Ours is such a full salvation, all, all is well.
Happy still in God confiding,
fruitful, if in Christ abiding,
holy, through the Spirit's guiding;
all must be well.
- 3 We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well.
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, 'All, all us well.'
On our Father's love relying,
Jesus every need supplying,
in our living, in our dying,
all must be well.

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: "I know that my Redeemer lives" Seth Yoder (multiscreen)

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).
- The new **online Bible study** *Sing and Study* exploring some of our favourite hymns continues on **Tuesday 27 April** at 19:00 hrs. This week's session will be led by Michelle Mizuno-Wiedner. 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
- This week's **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** encourages us to pray for Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/afghanistan-kazakhstan-kyrgyzstan-mongolia-tajikistan-turkmenistan-uzbekistan>
- **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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The Vine and the Branches

"I am the vine: you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.," John 15:5 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 15:1-8

R P O W M P N S I O N F J X Z
 S E O G A Z Y M H A P B K G X
 N S M L D R W O E P P V T P W
 X C U A Y R M L X N X S A Y K
 B P P L I A C R T N M F R Z A
 X K R N N N A I H W O R D S J
 C S U N L E D A R G J N R K X
 J J N Q B A K E O L G E V Y T
 B E E P W I G J W O U F Y I C
 R B S W N I D Z N R O E U V E
 A U Z N N H T B T Y G R X N J
 N R F D P W H H J Z F N I F H
 C N S I J F M K E G B V Y B G
 H E Q E R H X G A R D E N E R
 U D F V A E W R Z U S S G G E

WORDS
CLEAN
FRUIT

GARDENER
PRUNES
BRANCH

REMAIN
THROWN
FIRE

BEAR
VINE
WITHERS

GLORY
TRUE
BURNED

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