



English-speaking Christian Congregation

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:** St Francis Choir, Eswatini/Swaziland

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

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!  
(Psalm 130:2)

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

Let us enter into the presence of God.

God, Creator Spirit,

You are Breath:

***breathe new life into us.***

You are Fire:

***inflame our coldness with love.***

You are Wind:

***let us ride on your whirling wings.***

You are Refuge:

***our shelter is in you.***

**HYMN** *Heaven shall not wait* (Church Hymnary 362)

- 1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience,  
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:  
Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted;  
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

- 2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes,  
the proud to fall, the élite to tend the least:  
Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege –  
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.
- 3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas,  
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:  
Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action;  
his cross and company make his purpose plain.
- 4 Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,  
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:  
Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection;  
his power and love are for now; and then for evermore.

## **OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING:** 1 Samuel 8:4-20 (GNB Old Testament, page 271)

Then all the leaders of Israel met together, went to Samuel in Ramah, <sup>5</sup> and said to him, "Look, you are getting old and your sons don't follow your example. So then, appoint a king to rule over us, so that we will have a king, as other countries have." <sup>6</sup> Samuel was displeased with their request for a king; so he prayed to the Lord, <sup>7</sup> and the Lord said, "Listen to everything the people say to you. You are not the one they have rejected; I am the one they have rejected as their king. <sup>8</sup> Ever since I brought them out of Egypt, they have turned away from me and worshiped other gods; and now they are doing to you what they have always done to me. <sup>9</sup> So then, listen to them, but give them strict warnings and explain how their kings will treat them."

<sup>10</sup> Samuel told the people who were asking him for a king everything that the Lord had said to him. <sup>11</sup> "This is how your king will treat you," Samuel explained. "He will make soldiers of your sons; some of them will serve in his war chariots, others in his cavalry, and others will run before his chariots.

<sup>12</sup> He will make some of them officers in charge of a thousand men, and others in charge of fifty men. Your sons will have to plough his fields, harvest his crops, and make his weapons and the equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup> Your daughters will have to make perfumes for him and work as his cooks and his bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive groves, and give them to his officials. <sup>15</sup> He will take a tenth of your grain and of your grapes for his court officers and other officials. <sup>16</sup> He will take your servants and your best cattle and donkeys, and make them work for him. <sup>17</sup> He will take a tenth of your flocks. And you yourselves will become his slaves. <sup>18</sup> When that time comes, you will complain bitterly because of your king, whom you yourselves chose, but the Lord will not listen to your complaints."

<sup>19</sup> The people paid no attention to Samuel, but said, “No! We want a king,  
<sup>20</sup> so that we will be like other nations, with our own king to rule us and to lead us out to war and to fight our battles.”

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

**HYMN** *The King of Love my Shepherd is* (Church Hymnary 462)

- 1 The King of Love my Shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine for ever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow  
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what wonder and delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever!

**REFLECTION** “What are we letting ourselves in for?” Revd James Brown

**HYMN** *Meekness and Majesty* (Church Hymnary 356)

- 1 Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity,  
in perfect harmony – the man who is God:  
Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity,  
kneels in humility and washes our feet.  
*Oh, what a mystery – meekness and majesty:  
Bow down and worship, for this is your God;  
this is your God!*

- 2 Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,  
yet learns obedience to death on a cross:  
suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice –  
and, as they crucify, prays, 'Father, forgive'.
- 3 Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,  
love indestructible in frailty appears:  
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,  
lifts our humanity to the height of his throne.

## 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 *Soon and very soon* (Church Hymnary 749)

- 1 Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!*
- 2 No more crying there – we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there – we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there – we are going to see the King!  
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!*
- 3 No more dying there – we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there – we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there – we are going to see the King!  
*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!*

### CLOSING RESPONSES (responses in bold-face italics)

Look at your hands.

See the touch and the tenderness:

***God's own for the world.***

Look at your feet.

See the path and the direction:

***God's own for the world.***

Look at your heart.

See the fire and the love:

**God's own for the world.**

Look at the cross.

See God's Son and our Saviour:

**God's own for the world.**

This is God's world:

**We will serve God in it. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE / 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**

**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](http://ecc-bochum.de)).
- **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 Lesotho, Namibia, and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland): <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/lesotho-namibia-south-africa-eswatini>
- **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/>



**Agnus Day** on the subject of **kings** (John 18:33-37):



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

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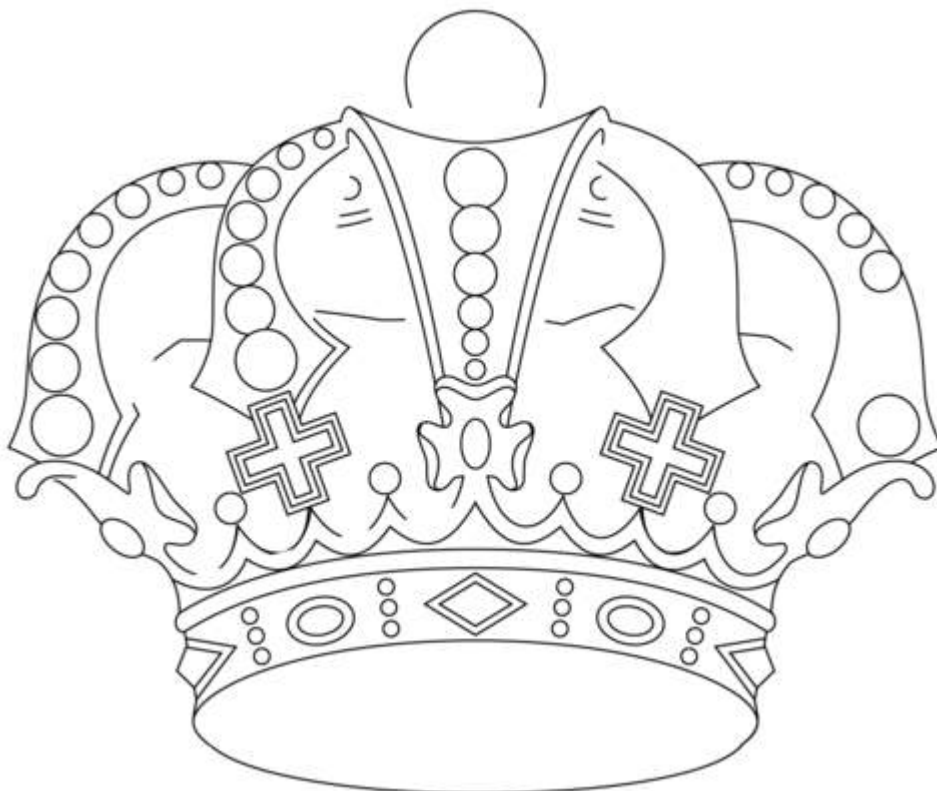
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**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY**

**Colour this picture of a king's crown**



**Memory verse:** May your kingdom come;  
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
(Matthew 6:10)