

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: Tosangana Najesu (When We Meet Jesus), Zimbabwean Singers

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)
It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name,
O Most High. (Psalm 92:1)

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

Come, God, come walk with your people, for you alone are our strength and glory, and we put our trust in you.

Come, God, come walk behind us, beside us, before us, for you alone are our shelter and direction, and we put our trust in you.

Come, God, come seek and find and put us right, for you alone are the light in our darkness, and we put our trust in you.

Come, God. We know you are near; the sound of your footsteps sets us dancing: *Help us to praise and worship you.*

HYMN Here in this place (Gather us in) (Church Hymnary 623)

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away, see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in – the lost and forsaken, gather us in – the blind and the lame: call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

- We are the young our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face, we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
- Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

 Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away, but here in this place, new light is shining, nor is the Kingdom, now it the day. Gather us in and hold us for ever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 (GNB Old Testament, page 280)

Then Samuel went to Ramah, and King Saul went home to Gibeah. ³⁵ As long as Samuel lived, he never again saw the king; but he grieved over him. The Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king of Israel.

^{16:1} The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you go on grieving over Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. But now get some olive oil and go to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse, because I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

² "How can I do that?" Samuel asked. "If Saul hears about it, he will kill me!"

The Lord answered, "Take a calf with you and say that you are there to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will tell you what to do. You will anoint as king the man I tell you to."

- ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord told him to do and went to Bethlehem, where the city leaders came trembling to meet him and asked, "Is this a peaceful visit, seer?"
- ⁵ "Yes," he answered. "I have come to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me." He also told Jesse and his sons to purify themselves, and he invited them to the sacrifice.
- ⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Jesse's son Eliab and said to himself, "This man standing here in the Lord's presence is surely the one he has chosen." ⁷ But the Lord said to him, "Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is. I have rejected him, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart."
- ⁸ Then Jesse called his son Abinadab and brought him to Samuel. But Samuel said, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen him either." ⁹ Jesse then brought Shammah. "No, the Lord hasn't chosen him either," Samuel said. ¹⁰ In this way Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel. And Samuel said to him, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen any of these." ¹¹ Then he asked him, "Do you have any more sons?"

Jesse answered, "There is still the youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep."

"Tell him to come here," Samuel said. "We won't offer the sacrifice until he comes." ¹² So Jesse sent for him. He was a handsome, healthy young man, and his eyes sparkled. The Lord said to Samuel, "This is the one – anoint him!" ¹³ Samuel took the olive oil and anointed David in front of his brothers. Immediately the spirit of the Lord took control of David and was with him from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

RESPONSE The word of God: Thanks be to God!

HYMN Just as I am, without one plea (Church Hymnary 553)

(verse 4 on YouTube video but not in Church Hymnary; video words differ from hymnary)

- Just as I am, without one plea but that your blood was shed for me, and that you call us, 'Come to me', O Lamb of God, I come.
- Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come.
- Just as I am you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;

- because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come.
- Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight riches, healing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come.
- Just as I am your love unknown has broken every barrier down – now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come.
- 6 Just as I am, of that free love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove, here for a season, then above – O Lamb of God. I come.

REFLECTION Revd Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah

HYMN O Jesus, I have promised (Church Hymnary 644)

- O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; be now and always near me, my master and my friend; I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- Oh, let me feel you near me: the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me, and within; but, Jesus, draw still nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
- Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; Oh, speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.
- O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you, that where you are in glory your servant shall be too; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end: now give me grace to follow; my master and my friend.

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 Thuma mina / Send me, Jesus (Church Hymnary 800)

Original Xhosa text:

CANTOR Thuma mina.

ALL Thuma mina, thuma mina, thuma mina, Somandla

1 CANTOR Send me, Lord.

ALL Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Lord.

2 CANTOR Lead me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Lord.

3 CANTOR Fill me, Lord.

ALL Fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Lord.

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: "A o kwadilwe mo kwalong la Botshelo?" (sung in Setswana) "Is your name written in the book of life?" (Botswana Church Choir)



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).
- 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** focuses on Botswana and Zimbabwe: https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/botswana-zimbabwe
- 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/

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

David was a shepherd boy who looked after sheep. Help him find them. Draw a line to David from the sheep you can find in the picture.

If you like, you can then colour the picture.



Other children's resources at: https://sermons4kids.com/