



Sunday Worship

8 August 2021

English-speaking Christian Congregation, Bochum

ORGAN PRELUDE

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life."
(John 6:47)

WORDS OF WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

(Based on Psalm 130 – responses in bold-face italics)

Our of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

***O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplication***

If you were to keep watch over sins,
O LORD, who could stand?

***Yet with you is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.***

I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.

***My soul waits for the Lord more
than those who keep watch for the morning.***

People of God, wait for the LORD,
for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

***with the LORD there is plenteous redemption,
for the LORD shall redeem his people from all their sins.***

HYMN *Great God, your love has called us here* (Church Hymnary 484)

- 1 Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

- 2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.
- 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.
- 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
- 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

OPENING PRAYER & SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 (GNB Old Testament, p. 317)

King David gave orders to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai: "For my sake don't harm the young man Absalom." And all the troops heard David give this command to his officers.

⁶ David's army went out into the countryside and fought the Israelites in Ephraim Forest. ⁷ The Israelites were defeated by David's men; it was a terrible defeat, with twenty thousand men killed that day. ⁸ The fighting spread over the countryside, and more men died in the forest than were killed in battle.

⁹ Suddenly Absalom met some of David's men. Absalom was riding a mule, and as it went under a large oak tree, Absalom's head got caught in the branches. The mule ran on and Absalom was left hanging in mid-air.

¹⁵ Then ten of Joab's soldiers closed in on Absalom and finished killing him.

³¹ Then the Ethiopian slave arrived and said to the king, “I have good news for Your Majesty! Today the Lord has given you victory over all who rebelled against you!”

³² “Is the young man Absalom all right?” the king asked.

The slave answered, “I wish that what has happened to him would happen to all your enemies, sir, and to all who rebel against you.”

³³ The king was overcome with grief. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he cried, “O my son! My son Absalom! Absalom, my son! If only I had died in your place, my son! Absalom, my son!”

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

HYMN *We lay our broken world* (Church Hymnary 721)

1 We lay our broken world
in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war, and fear,
oppressed by power and hate.

2 Here human life seems less
than profit, might, and pride,
though to unite us all in you,
you lived and loved and died.

3 We bring our broken towns,
our neighbours hurt and bruised;
you show us how old pains and
wounds for new life can be used.

4 We bring our broken loves,
friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see
that love must be reborn.

5 We bring our broken selves,
confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing
grace new purpose is inspired.

6 Come Spirit, on us breathe,
with life and strength anew;
find in us love, and hope, and trust,
and lift us up to you.

REFLECTION “Hate begets hate; violence begets violence” (Revd James Brown)

HYMN *He came down that we may have...* (Church Hymnary 359)

1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love,
hallelujah for evermore.
(CANTOR: Why did he come?) [*repeat verse*]

2 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace,
hallelujah for evermore.

3 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy,
hallelujah for evermore.

NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray the Lord's Prayer 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 is well.'
On our Father's love relying,
Jesus every need supplying,
in our living, in our dying,
all must be well.

BLESSING

ORGAN POSTLUDE

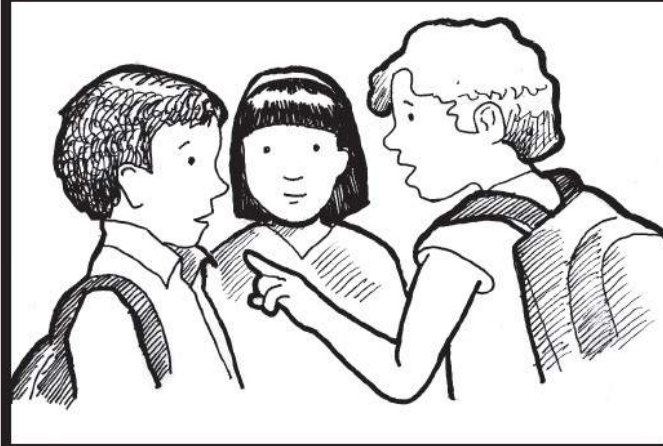
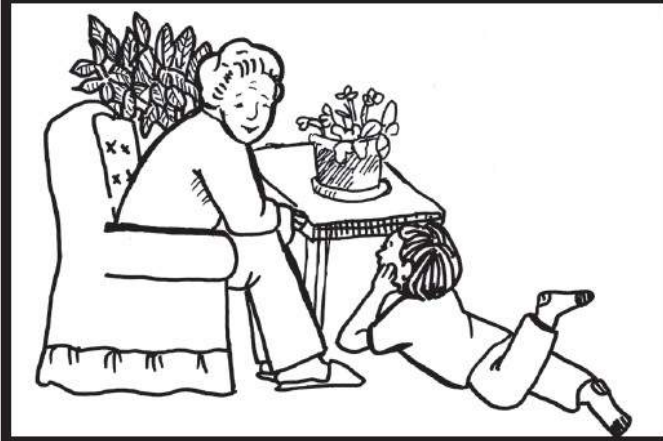
NOTICES

- Welcome to today's **Sunday worship**. As Bochum is now rated Covid Incidence Level 1 (10.1 to 35.0 seven-day incidence per 100,000), the following Covid-19 prevention measures now apply for indoor worship:
 - ▶ Please sit only where you see a white card marked "**Sitzplatz**". You may sit together with other members of your household, but the statutory 1.5 metres distance must be observed otherwise.
 - ▶ Fill out the "Green Card" you were given as you entered church and give it to one of the stewards as you leave. This essential tracing information will be treated confidentially and destroyed after a period of four weeks.
 - ▶ Medical or FFP2 masks should be worn at all times while in church (including during congregational singing of hymns).

Thank you. Choir members who are leading our congregational singing have all had negative Covid tests within the past 48 hours.
- Please note that, due to Covid prevention measures in place, there is no offering during worship. There will be an **offering basket** as you leave church, however. Please give generously to support the ongoing work of our congregation.
- Our worship will be **streamed live** on our website for those who prefer not to attend in person or are unable to do so. A link for the livestream can be found on our website (www.ecc-bochum.de). To help the IT team, please share your feedback and suggestions via Pastor Jimmy. *A warm welcome to all virtual worshippers!*
- Our **six-week vacation Bible study Take a Break** exploring rest, recreation and leisure continues on **Tuesday, 10 August** at 7.30 p.m. (19.30 hrs) with a session on Jubilee. The venue is Dirk & Sylke's *Naturgarten*, Umlandstraße 15a (follow the sign and the ribbons along the path to the left just beyond the bridge).
- **Reading the Bible together** through 2021 continues, 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 **WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** focuses on Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/cameroon-central-african-republic-equatorial-guinea>
- **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 PAGE



God wants us to love each other. We can choose to be kind to others or nasty.
Colour the pictures that show people being kind or helping others.