

Sunday Worship

29 August 2021

English-speaking Christian Congregation, Bochum

ORGAN PRELUDE

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)
Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.
(James 1:9)

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING RESPONSES (responses in bold-face italics)

Leader: We gather to worship the Lord.

Group A: Not with empty rituals.

Group B: Not with doctrines and traditions.

All: *But with all our hearts.*

Leader: The Lord our God is king.

Group A: God rules with justice and equity.

Group B: God loves righteousness and hates wickedness.

All: *God's kingdom will last forever.*

Leader: We gather to worship the Lord.

Group A: With ears ready to listen.

Group B: With hearts ready to receive.

All: *With faith ready for action.*

Leader: The Lord is faithful and true.

Group A: The Lord is our beloved.

Group B: We are the Lord's beloved.

All: *We gather to worship the Lord.*

HYMN *Come down, O Love Divine* (Church Hymnary 489)

- 1 Come down, O Love Divine, seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing!

- 2 O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heart consuming;
and let your glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
- 3 Let holy charity my outward vestment be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing;
tur lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
- 4 And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
we cannot guess its grace, till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

OPENING PRAYER

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING: James 1:17-27 (GNB New Testament, p. 288)

Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning. ¹⁸ By his own will he brought us into being through the word of truth, so that we should have first place among all his creatures.

¹⁹ Remember this, my dear friends! Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not achieve God's righteous purpose. ²¹ So get rid of every filthy habit and all wicked conduct. Submit to God and accept the word that he plants in your hearts, which is able to save you.

²² Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. ²³ If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. ²⁴ They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. ²⁵ But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice – you will be blessed by God in what you do.

²⁶ Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourself. ²⁷ What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world.

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

HYMN *When I needed a neighbour* (Church Hymnary 544)

- 1 When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter:
Were you there?*
- 2 I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
- 3 I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
- 4 When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?
- 5 When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
- 6 Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter:
I'll be there.*

REFLECTION "They Do It with Mirrors" (Revd James Brown)

HYMN *Sent by the Lord am I* (Church Hymnary 250)

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Sent by the Lord am I;
my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.
Sent by the Lord am I;
my hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2 The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is mine to do,
to set it really free.
Oh, help me to obey;
help me to do your will. |
|---|---|

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 *As a fire is meant for burning* (Hymn 252: Tune: Ode to Joy, 173)

- 1 As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the Church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Preaching Christ, and not our
customs, let us build a bridge of care,
joining hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.
- 2 We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
by our gentle, loving actions,
we will show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we will live to God's delight.
- 3 As a green bud in the springtime
is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
so may we reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

BLESSING & ORGAN POSTLUDE

NOTICES

- **Welcome to today's worship!** 3G rules now apply for worship. This means that, before entering church, you must provide evidence of full immunisation (vaccination pass), full recovery from a Covid infection or a negative test no older than 48 hours. *Without one of these, it would be a breach of the law to allow you into church!*
 - ▶▶ The official ruling of our host Presbyterium, endorsed by our own Church Council, is that FFP2 masks should be worn while singing, especially as worshippers tested negative but not yet immunised may be present.
 - ▶▶ Although now not obligatory, we strongly advise that you opt to sit where you see a white card marked "**Sitzplatz**". Families / households may sit together, but you are otherwise advised to observe 1.5 metres distance.
- **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)
- The week's **WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** focuses on Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/cape-verde-the-gambia-guinea-guinea-bissau-senegal>
- There is no offering during worship, but please note that there will be an **offering basket** as you leave church. You are encouraged to give generously to support the ongoing work of our congregation. Giving by bank transfer is also most welcome:

ECC Bank Account: "Englische Gemeinde"

IBAN: DE89 4305 0001 0001 4132 36

SWIFT-BIC: WELADED1BOC (Sparkasse Bochum)