

# English-speaking Christian Congregation, Bochum

26 September 2021

## ORGAN PRELUDE

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

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.  
(Psalm 19:8)

## WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES

Verses from Psalm 1: (L) = Leader; (C) = Congregation

- (L): Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers;  
(C): ***but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.***
- (L): That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.  
(C): ***Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.***
- (L): Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
(C): ***For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.***

## HYMN 115 Love is...

- 1 Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
- 2 Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

- 3 Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.
- 4 Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the pathway the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

## OPENING PRAYER

Help us,  
loving God,  
in our journey,  
in our lives,  
in our losses,  
in our loves,  
in our doubts,  
in our certainty,  
in our fears,  
in our joys,  
in our sadness,  
in our hopes,  
help us.

Help us,  
to be your people,  
to hold your love close,  
to share your love widely,  
to see the wonders  
in difference,  
to honor what  
you have created  
to see the variety  
of life and love  
as the gift you have given  
in this age  
and every age.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. ***And also with you.***

*Let us share God's peace with one another by bowing to your neighbors.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 9:38-50

"Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

"Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward."

"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life

crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where

“the worms that eat them do not die,  
and the fire is not quenched.’

Everyone will be salted with fire.

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

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

**REFLECTION** *Realistic* (The Rev. Dr. Anja Nicole Stuckenberg)

### **HYMN 153** *Great is thy faithfulness*

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been, thou for ever wilt be.  
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided –*  
*great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*
- 2 Summer and winter, and seed-time and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

### **NOTICES**

#### **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS**

Gracious God,  
in times of change,  
in times of hope mixed  
with apprehension,  
in times when we look  
for certainty, for answers  
but find only more questions  
we place ourselves in your care.

Today as we continue to emerge  
from more than a year of Covid,  
as this Church and churches  
everywhere seek new ways  
to spread your message and mission,  
while numbers fall,  
while influence fades,  
we pray for boldness,  
to weather this storm

and to emerge stronger,  
more hopeful, more faithful  
as we continue to dedicate ourselves  
to service of you and of each other.

In this world of fear and hope,  
of pain and healing,  
of sadness and joy,  
we pray for your constant presence,  
your constant love,  
your constant care  
to be seen by all peoples,  
that we and they will be  
supported and sustained  
through you.

We pray for all those  
charged with, and seeking  
to lead this country and  
all countries, that they  
will know your constant presence  
and serve all people  
not just their own interests.

Gracious God,  
in these times of change  
we pray that we will know you  
that our faith will be strengthened,  
that we will find support  
in your love and in the care  
of our brothers and sisters,  
help us to be your witnesses  
today and every day.

**Amen.**

## 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 804 *You shall go out with joy*

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,  
and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy, and the trees of the field  
shall clap, shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
and the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
and you'll go out with joy.

## BLESSING

## ORGAN POSTLUDE

## NOTICES

- **Welcome to today's worship!** Please note that 3G rules apply for indoor worship. If you haven't already done so, please show your vaccination or immunisation pass on entering church, or a negative Covid test result (no older than 48 hours).
- **Children and school pupils** do not need to produce any such documents, since they are tested regularly at school and therefore count as tested.
  - **Masks** may be removed once seated, but should be worn for *congregational* singing in order to avoid all risk of aerosol infection.
  - **Physical distancing** is no longer compulsory, but still advisable. Feel free to sit together with others from your family/household, but you may prefer to observe 1.5 metres distance otherwise.
  - Our worship will be **streamed live** on our website ([www.ecc-bochum.de](http://www.ecc-bochum.de)) for those who prefer not to attend in person or are unable to do so. A link for the livestream is on the website. *A warm welcome to all virtual worshippers!*
- **Music in worship:** The *ECC Choir* is always happy to welcome new singers to rehearsals every Wednesday at 6 p.m. (18:00 hrs). Ask Hendrik Ziser. Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah is looking for anyone who would like to sing *African-style choruses* for worship, especially in preparation for this year's Harvest Thanks celebration.
- **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)
- **Prayer** This week the ecumenical family, through the World Council of Churches, prays with and for the peoples of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru:  
<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/bolivia-brazil-chile-peru>
- **Online worship resources** such as Daily Devotional (UCC), Sanctuary First (Church of Scotland), Prayer Matters (International Presbytery), and more can be accessed from our website at: <http://ecc-bochum.de/online-resources/>
- 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.

**ECC Bank Account:** "Englische Gemeinde"  
**IBAN:** DE89 4305 0001 0001 4132 36  
**SWIFT-BIC:** WELADED1BOC (Sparkasse Bochum)





## CHILDREN'S COLOURING PAGE

Salt of the earth.



### MEMORY VERSE

You are the salt of the earth.

Matthew 5:13