

English-speaking Christian Congregation, Bochum

10 October 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.
(Hebrews 4:14)

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES (L) = Leader; (C) = Congregation

- (L) Whether we come in certainty or in confusion, in anger or in anguish;
(C) ***this is God's time; God's time for us.***
- (L) Whether we come in silent suffering or hidden sorrow, in pain or promise;
(C) ***this is God's time; God's time for us.***
- (L) Whether we come pondering our own or another's need,
feeling our private wounds or the wounds of the world;
(C) ***this is God's time; God's time for us.***
- (L) Be with us now, O God, with your creating power.
Be with us now, O Christ, with your healing touch.
Be with us now, O Spirit, with your transforming breath.
(C) ***This is our time; our time with God.***

HYMN 189 *Be still, for the presence of the Lord...*

- 1 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.
- 2 Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight – our radiant king of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

- 3 Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace:
no work too hard for him – in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

OPENING PRAYER

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING *Job 23:1-9, 16-17* (Old Testament, page 518)

- I still rebel and complain against God;
I cannot keep from groaning.
- ³ How I wish I knew where to find him,
and knew how to go where he is.
- ⁴ I would state my case before him
and present all the arguments in my favour.
- ⁵ I want to know what he would say
and how he would answer me.
- ⁶ Would God use all his strength against me?
No, he would listen as I spoke.
- ⁷ I am honest; I could reason with God;
he would declare me innocent once and for all.
- ⁸ I have searched in the East, but God is not there;
I have not found him when I searched in the West.
- ⁹ God has been at work in the North and the South,
but still I have not seen him.
- ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Almighty God has destroyed my courage.
It is God, not the dark, that makes me afraid –
even though the darkness has made me blind.

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

HYMN 570 *When the storms of life are raging*

- 1 When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me,
When the world is pounding me, like a ship upon the sea,
Lord, who rules the wind and water, stand by me.
- 2 In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
in the midst of tribulation, stand by me,

When the hosts of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail,
Lord, who never lost a battle, stand by me.

- 3 In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;
in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me,
When I've done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand,
Lord, who knows all about me, stand by me.
- 4 In the midst of persecution, stand by me;
in the midst of persecution, stand by me,
When my foes in war array, undertake to stop my way,
Lord, who saved Paul and Silas, stand by me.
- 5 When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me;
when I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me,
When my life becomes a burden and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
Lord, the Lily of the Valley, stand by me.

REFLECTION *The Dark Night of the Soul* (Rev. James Brown)

HYMN 555 *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound*

- 1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

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 803 *We will walk with God*

We will walk with God, my brothers, we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sisters, we will walk with God.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

BLESSING

ORGAN POSTLUDE

NOTICES

► ***Welcome to today's English-language worship!***

- **3G rules apply**, so please show your vaccination or immunisation pass as you enter church, or a negative Covid test result (no older than 48 hours).
- **Children and school pupils** count as (and mostly are) already tested.
- Feel free to **sit where you wish**, observing 1.5 metres distance if you prefer.
- You may remove your **mask** once seated, but should wear it when singing.
- A warm welcome too to all **virtual worshippers** joining us on the livestream.

► **Music in worship:** The *ECC Choir* welcomes 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 practise *African-style choruses* for worship.

► **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 **World Council of Churches** prayer cycle focuses on Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/costa-rica-el-salvador-nicaragua-panama>

► **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 the forthcoming 5-week **Bible study series** on Christian Discipline (Prayer, Study, Simplicity, Service, Celebration) from Monday 8 Nov. to Monday 6 Dec. from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Kirchencafé (with extra Zoom option).

► There will be an **offering basket** as you leave church. Please give generously to support the ongoing work of our congregation. For bank transfer donations:

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