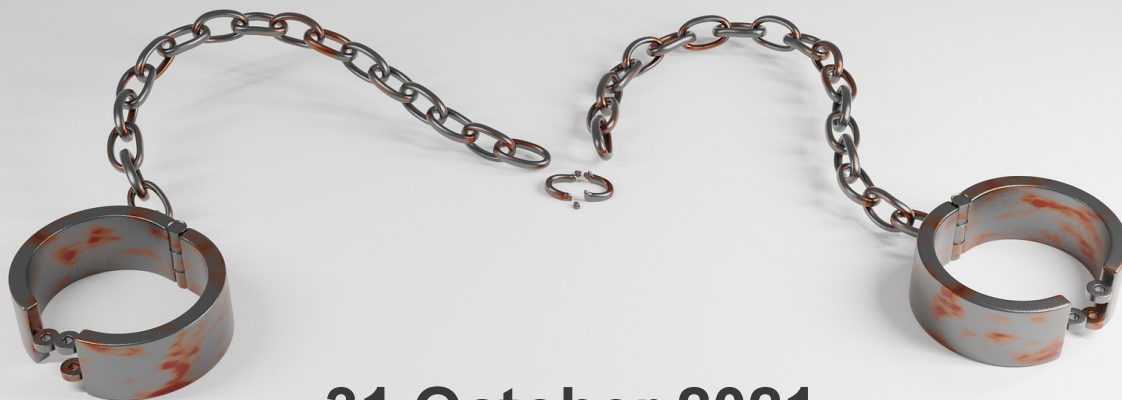


English-speaking Christian Congregation, Bochum



31 October 2021

ORGAN PRELUDE

Watchword for the Week (Moravian Daily Texts 2021)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.
(Deuteronomy 6:4+5)

WELCOME & OPENING RESPONSES (verses from Psalm 146)

Leader: ¹ Praise the Lord.

All: ***Praise the Lord, my soul.***

² I will praise the Lord all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them—

he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed

and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

⁸ ***the Lord gives sight to the blind,***

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,

the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner

and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

¹⁰ ***The Lord reigns forever,***

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

HYMN 555 *Amazing Grace* [words on insert]

SCRIPTURE READING *Romans 3:19-28* (NIV)

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God,
who alone has the power to save
and waits in mercy to forgive.

All: ***God, when we stand at the edge of brokenness
and allow our questions of faith
to distance ourselves from you and others,
forgive us and free us.
When the ways we live as the church
limit our ability to offer compassion,
forgive us and free us.
When we try to be "holy"
without changing the way we are with others,
forgive us and free us.***

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The face of God we seek is a face of compassion,
steadfast in love, and longing to forgive.
Receive the power of God's compassion
so that we might have the capacity for love.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN 111 *Holy, Holy, Holy* [words on insert]

SERMON *Reformations: Like Kittens in the Basket* (Rev. Dr Anja Stuckenberg)

HYMN 251 *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* [words on insert]

NOTICES

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Response: God of mercy: ***hear our prayer.***

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 256 *May the God of Hope Go with Us* [words on insert]

BLESSING

May the warmth of God's presence go with us all.
May the light of God's law bring us joy in relationship.
May we dance in community worshipping God.
Go forth in presence, in joy, in community.
In the name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

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.
- **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.
- Regrettably, we are unable to offer a **livestream** today as we usually do.
- The **offering** will be gathered as you leave church. Please give generously.

►► The **Kirchencafé** is open after worship for tea and coffee. Please help afterwards by clearing away cups and plates, washing dishes and tidying up. Thank-you!

►► This week's **World Council of Churches** prayer cycle focuses on Canada and the United States of America: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle/canada-united-states-of-america>

►► **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.

►► **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/>

►► **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)

►► **Christian Discipline** is the title of our 5-week Bible study series at 7 p.m. in the Kirchencafé on Monday evenings starting 8 November. There will also be a Zoom option for distance participation: ID = 882 1296 9022; Passcode = 051157.

8 November	<i>Prayer</i>	Matthew 6:5-15	Pastor Anja
15 November	<i>Study</i>	Romans 12:1-21	Pastor Jimmy
22 November	<i>Simplicity</i>	Matthew 6:25-34	Pastor Anja
29 November	<i>Service</i>	John 13:1-17	Pastor Emmanuel
6 December	<i>Celebration</i>	lots of Bible verses	Pastor Jimmy

►► There is 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)