Watchword for the Week

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.
(Isaiah 55:6)

(Moravian Daily Texts 2022)

ORGAN PRELUDE

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP (From Psalm 63)

A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

my flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

|when I think of you on my bed,

and meditate on you

in the watches of the night; for you have been my help,

and in the shadow of your wings

I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you;

your right hand upholds me ...

Hymn 64

Sing all creation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

... been fully found.

Neither our thoughts nor our ways are Yours, O God. Hearing Your call on our lives, we fall short: Invited to come to You, we ignore Your presence.

Encouraged to praise You, we think we find better things to do.

Rather than trust in Your help, we despair when facing violence, deceit and hate, and find ourselves powerless to respond well.

Rather than prepare for uncertain challenges ahead, we prefer to enjoy the present then lament loss of lives, homes and hope in the face of flood, fire, or drought.

Rather than tend what may yet give life we root out, rip up and discard and in our consuming we find little peace.

Warned to take care in our living, we do our own thing; distressed by disaster, we have no endurance to reconstruct; seeking our satisfaction, we trample on promises made earlier; tickled by trinkets, we hoard rather than give.

Our spirits thirst and faint —
Pardon us as we return to You, have mercy
as we turn from thoughts and ways
which are unworthy of You,
and lead us into life everlasting,
through Christ our Lord.

Sisters and brothers ... and salvation. *Amen.*

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Hymn 253 Inspired by love and anger

SCRIPTURE READINGS 🛄

Isaiah 55:1-9 *OT p. 721* Luke 13:1-9 *NT p. 96*

The word of God: Thanks be to God!

Hymn 395 What wondrous love is this

SERMON "Not an easy read" Rev. Dr. Anja Stuckenberger

Hymn 347 Unless a single grain of wheat

ANNOUNCEMENTS (see Notices overleaf)

(Offering follows the announcements. Please, come forward with your gifts while a prayer of thanksgiving is spoken.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The LORD'S PRAYER *Hymn* 652 Second Form (b) (Please pray in your own 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 224 The spring has come

BLESSING

As we have met, so we part — yet the glory of God which we gathered to praise does not cease,

and the grace of Christ we recognise among us remains always,

and the Spirit's leading we discern in our fellowship continues to guide us.

May the Lord bless you ... and give you peace.

Threefold Amen (No. 819)

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Notices

- > All are welcome in this place. It's good you're here! Please add your name and post or e-mail address to the book at the back of church to receive details of upcoming events.
- > Today's worship team:

Duty elder: Justus Masa Reader: Henrike Macheit Organist: Hendrik Ziser

- > The offering basket is the congregation's main source of income. Last week's offering totalled € 111,33. *Please give generously*.
- > The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle this week focuses on Estonia. Latvia. Lithuania. Link to info: www.ecc-bochum.de
- > On Saturday, 26 March at 6 p.m., there will be a benefit concert for Ukraine with pop and classical music in the Johanneskirche (Ennepestr. 15A). The event is hosted by the Projekt.Orchester Bochum. Entrance is free, 3G rules apply.
- > Ecumenical Prayers for Peace are being held every Friday in the Pauluskirche at 12:00 p.m. Learn more at https://kg-bochum.ekvw.de/
- > The Kirchencafé is open for us today till 3 o'clock for tea, coffee, and fellowship. Please follow 2G rules and respect each person's comfort zone. And please help leave everything clean and tidy! Thank you!
- > The Weltladen Pauluskirche is open Tuesdays through Saturdays afternoons. Volunteers are welcome! Contact Rev. James Brown at j.brown56(at)gmx.de
- > Please switch all **mobile phones** off or to the mute mode / vibration signal during worship. Thank you.





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Church address

Ev. Pauluskirche, Grabenstrasse 9, 44787 Bochum

Pastors Rev. Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah

(Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, PCC)

Rev. Dr Anja Stuckenberger

(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA) Pastors can be contacted at the e-mail address below

Retired pastors Rev. James M. Brown (Church of Scotland)

Rev. Dr. Robert Haworth (UCC, USA)

Church Council

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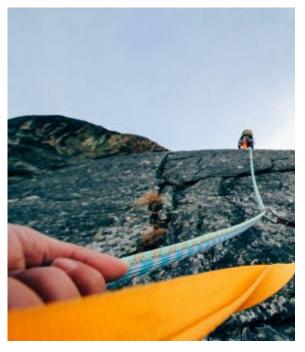
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English-speaking Christian Congregation Bochum, Germany

20 March 2022



Third Sunday in Lent

"Pax intrantibus, salus exeuntibus" "On entering, peace - on departure, blessing" (Pauluskirche Bochum – Porch Inscription 1655)

Worship every Sunday at 12.30

ECUMENICAL · INTERNATIONAL · ENGLISH-LANGUAGE