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WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine,  
that we may be saved. *Psalm 80:19*

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**Project Choir:** You will be found

WELCOME and CALL to WORSHIP  
(based on Isaiah 35: 1–10)

Dare we reimagine the world?  
Dare we speak of hope in the silence?  
Dare we pour color in the shadows?  
Dare we gather in such promise,  
on the threshold of incarnation?

In the desert, *flowers will bloom.*  
On the highway, *flowers will bloom.*  
In the coldest hearts, *flowers will bloom.*  
In the darkest places, *flowers will bloom.*

**Hymn 281** People, look East

OPENING PRAYER

God, you invite us to come to you rejoicing,  
rejoicing that your kingdom is near,  
rejoicing that your promise is true,  
rejoicing that here, you welcome us, children of  
the living God, co-creators with you in the world.

We rejoice that you welcome us as we are,  
with all our faults and failing,  
with all our unrealised potential.

*Loving, welcoming God, we confess all our  
wrongdoing, all we have neglected to do, the  
ways we didn't love each other as we might.  
Forgive us, and call us to try again to serve  
you and one another. Call us too to reflect  
your indiscriminate love. Amen.*

THE DESERT WILL REJOICE

Isaiah 35: 1–10 OT, p. 697

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CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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*You are invited to bring the Good News to life today  
by taking part as a character in today's tableau – or  
by reflecting on the Scripture and hymn texts, and on  
the accompanying action.*

**Hymn 273** O come, o come Emmanuel  
– *Those who wish may put on costumes –*

GOD IS WITH US

Matthew 1:16–25 NT, p. 4

**Hymn 286** Tell out, my soul, the greatness

ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 1:46–55 NT, p. 74

**Hymn 359** He came down ...  
– *Mary and Joseph go to the manger –*

MEEK AND LOWLY

Luke 2: 8–12 NT, p. 75

**Hymn 359** Lord, you were rich  
– *Shepherds and sheep come forward to the manger*

GLORY AND PEACE

Luke 2:13–19 NT, p. 75

**Hymn 323** The first Nowell  
– *Angels enter and gather at the manger –*

COME TO WORSHIP

Matthew 2: 1-11 NT, p. 4

**Hymn 324** Angels from the realms  
– *Wise Men (and Women) gather the offerings and  
bring them forward to the manger*

*Please follow the Wise Men forward  
and gather around the manger*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS for OTHERS

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

**Project Choir:** Harbour

The LORD'S PRAYER

*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 774** Jesus, name above all names

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

**Hymn 476** Mine eyes have seen the glory

BLESSING

**Project Choir:** Be Blessed  
... in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of  
the Holy Spirit

**Hymn 819** Threefold Amen

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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## NOTICES

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# English-Speaking Christian Congregation

Bochum, Germany

## 18 December 2022

- Musical support for today's worship service is provided by the Project Choir "Workout Singen", directed by Vera Hotten (Evangelische Pop-Akademie Witten).
- Today's worship team:
  - Minister:** Rev. Dr. Anja Stuckenberg
  - Duty Elder:** Justus Masa
  - Reader:** Herold Dehling
  - Organist:** Thomas Schwarz
  - Choir Director:** Vera Hotten
- The offering basket is the congregation's main source of income. Last Sunday's offering totalled 200,00 EUR; the offering during the Sing-Along Concert on 10 December 2022 totalled 362,57 EUR. **Please give generously.**
- The **Kirchencafé** will be open until 3 o'clock for tea, coffee and continued fellowship. Please help leave everything tidy and clean.
- You are cordially invited to the special ECC Christmas services:
  - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship: 24 December 2022, 18:30
  - Christmas Day Worship: 25 December 2022, 12:30
- The WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle this week focuses on **People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Macao.**

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**Church Address:** Evangelische Pauluskirche,  
Grabenstraße 9, 44787 Bochum

### Pastors:

- Rev. Emmanuel Mote-Ndasah  
Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, PCC  
e-mail: motendasah(at)gmail.com
- Rev. Dr. Anja Stuckenberg  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA  
e-mail: astuckenberg(at)gmail.com

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

## 4th Sunday of Advent 2022

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

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Worship every Sunday at 12:30  
Ecumenical – International – English-Language

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