Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2018

November 25 to December 1 **Education Department**

Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit.
(Luke 12:35)

Leaving the comfort zone

"The Sleepwalker" is the title of a book which described Europe before the outbreak of World War 1. The Australian historian, Christopher Clark, considers that those who were responsible were behaving like protagonists who with the certainty of a sleepwalker held their balance for a long time on a tightrope over an abyss; until finally he loses his balance. At the same time, the author warns, a similar escalation of crises which face us today is wholly conceivable (quote from a book-review).

When I read this verse from Luke's Gospel it made me think of the urgent need for vigilance of which we are being warned here. Dire consequences are described for those concerned. At first we see reference to a joyful wedding party; later, the master of the house's arbitrary punishment of his managers. The disciples are confused, and so am I.

"Don't be a Sleepwalker!" - I would like to write this as the title of this week's text, and let it speak to our present day too. During the past weeks, we have seen commemorations for the end of World War 1, 100 years ago; and also for the 80th anniversary of the "Reichspogromnacht" (pogrom against Jewish citizens in Germany). In many nations, right-wing populism is gaining ground. High time for Christians worldwide to leave their private comfortzone. "Be dressed for service" and in public life, hold high the light of God's love. How to do this? That is something for us to think about in the forthcoming weeks of Advent. May God grant us clarity with each candle that we light.

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I suggest that in our private prayers we may be led by the words of the following hymn:

Chorus:
I sing for those of courage
who seek the way forward
who leave behind what held them captive.
I sing for those with confidence
who hear God's call
who even in uncertainty, go with him.

I pray to God for them,
that don't shun the risk
that they fear neither anxiety nor need
that they don't break under the strain
that they are not defeated by hardship
that they wander not from the path
that they don't lose their foothold
that they question themselves
that they listen to friends
that they obey his spirit
that they be not deceived

God, this I pray. Amen

Education Department

The EmK Education Dept. promotes adult training in our churches, groups for parents and children, house groups, get-togethers for pensioners as well as church seminars. It does this through workshops and courses for co-workers. The Education Dept. advises and supports congregations in church development and conflict management. It trains volunteer workers in preaching, counselling and leadership.

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