Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche

Ich bete für meine Kirche 2018

December 2 to 8 **Hamburg District**

Look, your king will come to you. He is righteous and victorious.
(Zechariah 9:9 CEB)

What happens with "disarmament"?

This king is different from the glamorous members of today's royal families, whose powers are meanwhile drastically reduced. He is also different from most of the kings in history who used armed force to assert their own particular claim to power. God sends a king of peace. His desire for peace is revealed not only by riding a donkey instead of a war horse but far more by getting rid of all weapons and establishing a kingdom of peace right across the world. What an amazing picture is painted for us by the Prophet Zechariah!

As Christians, we believe and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is this king of peace. As a symbolic gesture, he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was celebrated like a king. Through his death and resurrection, he has made peace between God and man. Even so, since then spreading this peace on earth and putting an end to war and violence has only succeeded in certain times and certain places.

Advent invites us to give free rein to our longing for peace and to our prayers for reconciliation. Often enough, our influence on the major centres of conflict in the world seems increasingly negligible, although this isn't always necessarily true. How about starting an Advent project in our own surroundings? What could happen if we open our hearts to the king of peace and, with his help, proceed with "disarmament" in terms of hurtful comments and behaviour in our families and churches and neighbourhood?

Irene Kraft

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I GIVE THANKS

- for the start of Advent and for the reminder that God comes into the world as a righteous, victorious bringer of peace – still today.
- for the 60th campaign by the "Bread for the World" charity under the heading "Hunger for Justice" which will commence on the 1st Sunday in Advent. The work of this organisation, which began in 1959 initially as a one-off campaign supporting 13 projects, has continued ever since. Today the charity supports around 650 projects, setting signs for hope and peace.

I PRAY

- that the king of peace may find our doors and hearts open this Advent.
- for peace and reconciliation among all peoples and the desire to get rid of weapons of all kinds.
- for the Ghanaian Circuit in Hamburg, which for years now has been looking for a building with enough space to offer a shared home for all three congregations.

Hamburg District

The Hamburg District covers the federal states of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Bremen and Lower Saxony and has two churches in North Rhine-Westphalia. The District has 27 circuits with 33 churches, including four Ghanaian and one international English-speaking congregation, with altogether around 2800 confessing members.

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