

January 14 to 20

Stuttgart District

**As the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.**  
(John 1:17 CEB)

## Letting grace happen

There are two striking contrasts in our Bible verse: firstly, the "Law" is set in contrast to "Jesus Christ", and secondly, "given" contrasts with "came into being".

The Law was given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai. The people now had to follow what had been given. The law made great demands of every single one of the people of Israel. History has shown time and again that the people rarely lived up to the demands. We too have to ask if we live up to what has been given to us. Do we live up to the responsibility for our children? Do we live up to the expectations of our partner?

The grace of God was not given to us: it came into being through what Jesus Christ said and through his suffering. Those who look to him and trust in

him know for themselves that God loves them, that he loves all people unconditionally. This love came into being on the cross. Grace is not what we do, it is what comes into being for us. When we experience this, then we know that it is not up to us to deserve this grace by living perfect lives. On the contrary, it is a case of letting the grace of God come into being for us by placing all our trust in everything that happened on the cross, all that we need, in order to be with God.

It is more than just a good idea to apply this also to the way we deal with other people, with our children or partners. Here too we can only live up to their expectations if we let grace come into being.

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## I GIVE THANKS

- for all those in full-time ministry who have been called to serve and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- for all who come together in church services in order to encounter God.
- that God's love makes us brothers and sisters and binds us together to churches, circuits, annual conferences and the Church worldwide.

## I PRAY

- that God will give all our ministers constant joy in serving and fruitful thoughts for their preaching.
- for shrinking congregations who worry about an uncertain future.
- for the work and institutions in the Stuttgart District.
- that people will find their way into our churches and that there they will find Jesus Christ.
- that the people in our churches will find the help and support they need.

## Stuttgart District

The Stuttgart District of the South German Conference is the smallest in area, but from the number of people and churches one of the largest Methodist districts in Germany. It includes 33 circuits with a total of 66 churches. 53 pastors are in active ministry in the District, and 36 live here in retirement. The "Children's & Youth Work", the "Training Work" and the EmK's private radio station, "radio m" are all found in the District.

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