

December 31 to January 6

The Bishop

God said: To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.
(Revelation 21:6b)

Loving life

What is heaven like? — Incredible! No words in the dictionary or well formed phrases can describe it. Images, colours and emotions are more likely to help. The end of the Bible reveals a breathtaking vision, painting comparisons and scenes before our eyes that immediately trigger feelings and sensations to give us an idea of heaven.

We see the city of God, as radiant as a beautifully dressed bride. We feel the love of life; joy in sensuality; beauty that we just can't get enough of. And at the heart of it all, God himself, right up close. Our home is with him. Wounds will be healed, pain will cease, tears will be wiped carefully away. The stream of tears now becomes the spring of living water. It

reflects the blue of the sky and God says: "To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring."

What a promise! We feel a longing for that which will refresh and vitalize our lives. We know the longing for that which gives support and strength, offers prospects and bears us into the future. When we address this longing to God, God answers. This heavenly promise is a promise that holds good. Even already today. God gives us what we need. For nothing, for free.

Bishop Harald Rückert
Contact: bischofsbuero@emk.de

I GIVE THANKS

- for our church's longing to refresh its faith and for missionary revival. It gives us new orientation.
- for God's promise that he will always quench our longing. That lets us look ahead to the future in eager anticipation.
- for people from other countries and cultures who enrich and revive our church communities. They expand our field of vision.
- for those who faithfully, confidently pray for our church and for our society. They weave a network that holds.

I PRAY

- for the work now beginning of the „Future Planning Group“ instigated by the Central Conference, that it may give courageous incentives to make us better able to fulfil our calling to make people disciples in order to change the world.
- that we can see with even greater clarity that it is Christ who is with us and who lets us stay together in community despite different perceptions and opinions.
- for the Gospel to shine even brighter among us and beyond our own church communities.

The Bishop

Harald Rückert has been the Bishop of the German Methodist Church (EmK) since 2017 and supervises the three Annual Conferences in Germany. He chairs the Conferences and Commissions, represents the EmK on ecumenical bodies and takes the stationing decisions for pastors following consultations with the people involved. The Episcopal ministry aims to foster Christian unity and guide the church along the right lines in its missionary work so that it can fulfil its calling, which is to "make people disciples of Jesus Christ, in order to change the world".

Contact:
Bishop Harald Rückert
Dielmannstraße 26
60599 Frankfurt am Main

Telefon: 069 242521-0
E-Mail: bischofsbuero@emk.de