



# Ich bete für meine Kirche 2018

May 13 to 19

Reutlingen School of Theology (RST)

**Jesus said: When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me. (John 12: 32 CEB)**

## Completely turned around

This is not the election promise of some megalomaniac in the sense of, "If you put me in power, I will empower you too!". It rather describes the extent of madness of the cross of Jesus. Those in power imagined that, in this way, they could remove Jesus from the public stage. But God used the cross to achieve the exact opposite. It was used as a catalyst to draw people to Jesus.

Nothing better could happen to us than to be lifted up to the crucified Son of God. Of course, death by crucifixion was the greatest humiliation that one could suffer. But because it was the Son of God, made man, that so died, meant that his death was

the greatest thing that God could do for us. Through this act, he made our death to be his business – and through Easter, he made his life to become our business.

If we believe this, it doesn't mean that we are somehow raised above all earthly cares and suffering. Rather that the one who conquered death lives in us, and has brought victory for the life of God. This is a divine reality in us, which no earthly tragedy can destroy.

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Translation: Chris Woodhead

## I GIVE THANKS

- for the many people who come every year to study at the RST and to be trained for the ministry – or to "just" learn more about God, the Bible and faith.
- for all the sisters and brothers in our church, who are committed to the work of our school and its future development.
- for the new course on "Christian Spirituality", and for the positive resonance which it has received.

## I PRAY

- that the people who are trained at the RST become true witnesses for Jesus and his kingdom, both in church and society – and that the church continues to receive well-prepared ministers and pastors.
- that the Holy Spirit may give us wisdom in the questions concerning new building proposals (renovation of the classroom block, extension of the library, a new lecture hall and new canteen area).

## Reutlingen School of Theology (RST)

The RST is the institution of theological higher education of the UMC in Germany, Switzerland & Austria. It continues in a 150 year old tradition of training church leaders. In 2005 the RST became a federally accredited university, and can award internationally recognized BA and MA degrees. The community presently consists of 70 students, 7 professors, 5 teachers and 4 colleagues in the house & administration work.

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