

April 14 to 20

Nuremberg District

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

“Eternal” starts now

What would come to mind when hearing this verse for the first time? One would probably associate “lifted up” with an ascent, promotion, a position of power or something similar. When those who believe in him are promised eternal life through his “lifting up”, then it must be something tremendous due to happen in the future. It’s understandable then that Peter, in another situation, wanted to prevent Jesus from getting into a confrontation with the authorities, which could well lead to his death. Understandable too that they all fled when it got so far that Jesus was arrested. What would happen next?

Only later did it dawn on them. Only after the resurrection – which they first wrote off as a rumour or some nonsense being put around by the women. Only after they had touched his wounds and recognized him, were they able to digest what had happened. Slowly they discovered the

first hidden, and then far-reaching truths in the words of Jesus of Nazareth – who became Christ for all. They discovered that the “lifting up” on the cross, in the end, promised life for everyone.

Those who trust, now experience the security and certainty which springs from a life with God. A childlike trust that allows one to fall into the hands of Jesus. Like a child that throws itself into the arms of its mother. This trust comes from a life in the presence of God. Eternal, because through God’s presence nothing remains transitory. It begins today, continues through death and beyond, in the safety of God.

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I GIVE THANKS

- that in the face of death, a new beginning welcomes us.
- for faith, that in the power of the mustard seed, helps us to change ourselves and the world.
- for love which respects you, the others, my neighbour and even my enemy, treating them with courtesy.
- for Jesus, the Christ, who faced death that we might live.

I PRAY

- for the church openings in Bamberg and Ingolstadt, that people may be spoken to and invited, and that the light of Jesus Christ might shine anew.
- for unity among Christians and for unity in our church, both in Germany and worldwide.
- for the changes and discussions, initiated by the Church Commission, which lie ahead as we go on together.
- that we may be pardoned by those people who have been hurt by the church, especially those who are not heterosexual.

Nuremberg District

The 25 circuits in the Nuremberg District are comprised of 43 churches with around 6200 Methodists. Cities, conurbations and open country make up the District in Bavaria and Württemberg. In the Nuremberg District, a positive mix of innovation and tradition is evident. In the conference year 2019/2020 two new churches in Bamberg and Ingolstadt will be opened.

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