

From the New World

In the last few weeks, in my quiet times, I have kept hearing Antonin Dvorak's symphony "From the New World" in my mind. Here is a link to one particularly wonderful performance by the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Andrés Orozco-Estrada: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOofzffyDSA>

Dear Intercessors, we are on the threshold of a new era. The Bible describes it as follows: *"They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks."* (Micah 4:3). This is not just referring to defending and fighting physically against others, but also to facing all the "enemies" in and around us, and dealing with the continuous struggle within ourselves. In the end, all the problems that we have with others have their root in the fact that we are not able to love and fully accept ourselves. But in all the turmoil, confusion, conflicts, and the hard times, the "new" is already on its way to us. And we can sense and feel it as we enter again into His peace.

Jesus keeps encouraging us to no longer manage our everyday life and work, and all our relationships and challenges, on our own - not even by asking Him for a "quick blessing" - but only by living completely within His peace and presence. "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." (Romans 16:20).

Jesus lovingly seeks to enter our hearts and to show us how hardship, pressures within us as well as continuous evaluation and judgment of ourselves, of others, and of the external circumstances separate us from His peace. I have never experienced Jesus' gentle love and care so deeply as I write these words.

And He wants to reveal His kingdom of peace to us. We can live in it now, for it is within us. During my prayer times, Jesus invites me again and again to explore his kingdom with Him, and I experience the power that emanates from it. Recently I felt that a mighty eagle, many times larger than me, was carrying me across the sea of glass to the throne of God. I was surrounded by hundreds of mighty angels as I heard the Father say, "Have no fear! Your future is secure."

In summary: (a) The peace of God guides us like a compass into the future. (Jeremiah 29:11). (b) God's peace rests in his dominion over the chaos of the world. His peace and might go hand in hand. (c) God's peace puts an end to our struggle to pray and live in our own strength, and at the same time makes us creative, just like Him, for we drink directly from the fountain of life. Everyone born of God and of his peace overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4). (d) By living in His peace everything changes. We are rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the kingdom of His Son. (Colossians 1:13). (e) Whatever we surrender (submit, release) to the dominion of his peace will be firm, lasting and cannot be defeated.

Meditation, music, walking in nature or simply a "quiet time" will help us to calm our souls and surrender our spirit to God.

His peace dwells in us. He dwells in us. We are united forever. We can never lose it. His kingdom of peace has indeed entered our lives anew!

Alexander Schlüter

Looking at Germany through the eyes of God

Before we go into our prayer time for our country, let us first pray that God opens the eyes of our hearts more widely and reveals to us what lies in his heart for the future. How many prayers have already fallen like seeds on the spiritual soil of our country in the past decades. We often put all our efforts into prayer for the needs that we perceive around us. But then only a little time and energy remain to meet with God and to know what is on His heart. As intercessors we need a time of intimacy with God's heart, for God has so much more to say to us! He loves to talk to us eye to eye, heart to heart. And he wants to lift all our burdens from us and give us a new ease in our prayers.

Alexander Schlüter

Energy transition in Germany - with divine guidance

The last three nuclear power plants in Germany were shut down on April 15th. The production of diesel and petrol engines, for which the German car industry has been the market leader for decades, will now come to an end. Gas and oil heating systems are no longer to be installed in our homes. Indeed, our current prosperity, welfare, economy and knowledge basis are being run down and obsoleted with

higher-grade technologies, for which technical and personnel replacements are not readily available.

The increasing chaos on the railways is a clear example of the incompatibility of political demands with the current state of our infrastructure and the available staffing levels. The political agenda also fuels disruptive actions by climate activists and strikes in the public sector and in state-owned companies.

Germany has been entrusted with many things over the course of history: with the gospel of Jesus Christ, as a country of poets and philosophers and as a nation with economic stability. We should not bury this fortune under ideological "houses of cards" and continue to gamble it away until what is left is also taken from us as well. (Matthew 25:14-30). Rather, we should continue to grow for the good of the country and for our neighbours - not based on the materialism in the past, but on our God-given identity as a nation. From there the fallen eagle can rise again.

Prayer:

- **That Christians in society bring new light to the basic values and principles that have made Germany and Europe successful, with full regard for human life, and free. (Matthew 5:13-16)**

- **That families and the economy are protected from escalating financial burdens, regulations and political disputes and that Germany gets some breathing space to live and work again. (Psalm 23).**

Karen Heepen

AI generated disinformation

Countless images, videos and text messages flood social media every day. They contribute widely to the formation of opinions, convey worldviews, promote beliefs and convictions of many unknown to us and, of course, spread general information.

Fake-News, as well as manipulated images and videos can always be found among them. However, through to rapid progress in the field of AI (Artificial Intelligence), these are gaining momentum in a new way: it has never been so easy to create deceptively real images and videos. While it used to require expensive and professional software, today free AI tools are available that generate - in a matter of seconds - images and videos of people and events that never happened. Images of Trump's arrest, Putin kneeling before China's Head of State Xi, or of Pope Francis in a white puffer/down (expensive fur) coat are among the most well-known AI-generated images of the recent past.

We are increasingly entering a world in which what we see with our eyes does not necessarily correspond to reality. At the same time, the distinction between real and fake becomes much more difficult. We need a more sensitized approach to media and to information of all kinds and - perhaps more than ever - to be deeply grounded in the Word of God and in communion with the Holy Spirit, who teaches us to distinguish between truth and lies, while leading us into a deeper dependence and relationship with Him.

Let us pray for alertness in spirit, born of an ever growing and deeper communion with God - in prayer and in his Word.

Specially appointed times in his presence will also help us discern where it is relevant for us to engage with issues/information which come to our attention and where he wants our focus to be elsewhere.

Tanja Frank

The voice of the church in the land

Society and politics are experiencing enormous uncertainty, which is likely to increase further. We now clearly feel how fragile democracy and social peace are. In the search for answers to the great questions of our time, we are only at the beginning.

Political prayer always has multiple perspectives. So here God lays various emphases in each of our hearts. We need genuine appreciation for opposing perspectives and an understanding of the need for a complementary perspective. Our prayers therefore always begin by looking towards Jesus and his kingdom - otherwise we are in danger of getting diverted into issues that are purely "political". In a society shaken by polarization and unrest, we want to be part of the answer. God commissions us to paint a new picture of the future. We are called to create something new and to find solutions to the questions of our time. We want to take a firm stand in all the tensions of our time and be an example for true devotion within a Kingdom of God culture that our society can recog-

nise, and which lives by God's power in the cross, and in forgiveness and reconciliation. The church, as the "foundation of the truth" - which is Christ himself - has an enormously important task in this time. Everything we view with love will be transformed. We have tremendous potential within us, together with God, to create, think in an entirely new way, to reconcile and to restore what we have lost.

Prayer:

- **That the body of Christ finds its voice, becomes a light, unfolds its potential and that the essence and joy of the Kingdom of God can be experienced by all people. (Matthew 5:3ff)**
- **For God's protection of our democracy in all the shaking and uncertainty. Lord have mercy on us! (Luke 17:13)**
- **That we, as the body of Christ, can pave the way for the Lord and the future in our country. (Isaiah 40:3)**

Alexander Schlüter

75 years since the founding of the State of Israel

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the founding of the State of Israel. Despite all the military attacks by Arab nations from day one, Israel became one of the most successful nations in the world, home to Jews from all over the world and the only functioning democracy in the Middle East. Israel makes an important contribution to global innovation, prosperity and security in the region. Yet its legitimacy and sovereignty are being attacked from outside like no other country. International law is used by UN institutions as a tool to demonize and weaken the State of Israel. This includes denigrating it as an apartheid state and agreeing to the claim that it is occupying Palestinian land. The EU and UN are funding thousands of illegal Palestinian buildings on land in Judea and Samaria legally assigned to Israeli administration in order to divide the land. This not only fuelled anti-Semitism again worldwide, but has also exacerbated the internal tensions that are escalating in the current controversies surrounding judicial reform and the calling the State of Israel's self-image into question as a Jewish or secular nation.

Israel is the pointer hand on the world clock. If its democratic system of government today is not respected, democracy and the rule of law will fall all the faster in other countries as well. Let us all pray as we approach Pentecost for the revelation of God's plans for Israel at this time:

- **That after its physical restoration as a nation, Israel now emerges into its spiritual identity and calling. (Isaiah 60:1ff; Acts 2:14-36)**
- **Let us bless the March of the Nations from May 14th to 17th in Jerusalem and other Israeli cities, organized by the TOS Church in Tübingen and international partners. (Isaiah 2:3)**
- **We invite you to join with IHOPKC ([International House of Prayer Kansas City](#)) from May 7th to 28th for 21 days of prayer and fasting for the fulfilment of God's promises and plans for Jerusalem and Israel according to Isaiah 62.**

Karin Heepen

The peace of God be with you in your prayer times!

Alexander Schlueter and team

English translation by Phil and Margaret Daniell