

Service of celebration to mark the retirement of Prof. Dr h. c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel in the St Elisabeth Church in Berlin

29.05.2021, 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.



Opening music

Welcome and votum

Reverend Ulrich Lilie, President of Diakonie Deutschland

Prayer

Reverend Ulrich Lilie

Improvisation on the hymn “Nun Danket alle Gott/Now Thank We All Our God by Martin Rinckart

Michael Schütz (piano), Friedemann Graef (saxophone)

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms,
has blessed us on our way,
with countless gifts of love
and still is ours today.

Psalm 34

read by Reverend Ulrich Lilie

Improvisation on the hymn “Anunciaremos tu reino, Señor

(“Let Us Walk The Path Of Righteousness”)

Michael Schütz (piano), Friedemann Graef (saxophone)

Let us walk the path of righteousness,
your kingdom come, God, your kingdom come.
Your kingdom in clarity and peace,
Life in truth and justice

Gospel according to St John, chapter 6, verses 1-13

sermon text read by Maria Loheide, Chief Executive of Diakonie Deutschland

Confession of faith

Our faith is challenged, Corona is calling so much into question.

Allow yourself to be drawn into the following confession of faith, written by Dorothee Mack,
a Waldensian pastor in Milan:

I believe in God the Creator,
who has called us to be stewards of his creation and to preserve it,
so that all his creatures can live in dignity, today and tomorrow.

I believe in the God, who wants us to live and take pleasure in the beauty
of flowers, the shade of trees and the freshness of water, and for this to
continue to be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren.

I do not believe that epidemics and pandemics are the will of God or are signs of his coming kingdom.

I believe that events, which threaten our lives, such as the current pandemic, offer us the opportunity to pause, think things over and reflect on our destructive and non-constructive lifestyles, which are destroying the earth and all who live on it, instead of caring for it and them.

I believe that, today, we are being forced into a real change of direction, so that we can bring a halt to the climate change catastrophe.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our brother and saviour, who showed us what it means to be a human being; who is at our side from death to life, from solitude to community.

I do not believe that faith can save us from all evil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength not to feel broken, desperate or abandoned, but, despite everything, to feel loved, accompanied and borne by hope.

Amen

**Improvisation on the hymn “So jemand spricht: Ich liebe Gott/If A Man Says: I Love God”
by Christian Fürchtegott Gellert**

Michael Schütz (piano) and Friedemann Graef (saxophone)

If a man says: I love God!
and yet hates his brothers,
he mocks God's own truth,
and utterly abases it.
God is love and wants me
to love my neighbour as myself.

Sermon

Reverend Prof. Dr h. c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel

**Hymn: Improvisation on the hymn “Kommt mit Gaben und Lobgesang/
Let Us Talents And Tongues Employ”**

Michael Schütz (piano) and Friedemann Graef (saxophone)

Refrain

Erde, atme auf, Wort, nimm deinen Lauf!
(Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,)
Er, der lebt, gebot: Teilt das Brot!
(Pass the word around: loaves abound!)

Ceremonial release of Reverend Füllkrug-Weitzel from office

by Bishop Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Chair of the Council of the EKD

God helps us to accept and to let go.
God carries us through our parting.

Prayer

Words of blessing from the worship assistants:

Bishop Prof. Dr Jochen Cornelius-Bundschuh, Chairman of the Church Development Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee
Floris Faber, Director of ACT Alliance EU
Dr Klaus Seitz, Head of the Policy Department at Bread for the World
Monsignor Pirmin Spiegel, Director General of Misereor

Intercessions

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber, Vice President of the EKD
Bishop Michael Chalupka, Bishop of the Evangelical Church A.B. in Austria
Martin Keßler, Director of Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt, Chief Executive of Diakonie Deutschland
Dr Dagmar Pruin, President of Bread for the World

The Lord's Prayer

Reverend Ulrich Lilie

Blessing

Reverend Ulrich Lilie

Amen

Michael Schütz

Improvisation on the hymn “Meine Hoffnung und meine Freude/In The Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

Michael Schütz (piano) and Friedemann Graef (saxophone)

Break (10 minutes)

Words of greeting (Presented by Reverend Ulrich Lilie)

Dr Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation and Development (video message)
Dr Agnes Abuom, Chair of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (video message)
Bishop Dr Dr h. c. Markus Dröge, Chair of the Supervisory Board of EWDE e. V.

Music

Michael Schütz

Dr Sushant Agrawal, Director of CASA (Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action), India (video message)
Emele Duitiuraga, former Director of PIANGO (Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), Fiji (video message)

Sven Plöger, meteorologist and climate expert (video message)
Reverend Dr Martin Junge, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation
Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary of ACT Alliance
Reverend Dieter Kaufmann, former President of the Diakonisches Werk
in Wuerttemberg

Music

Michael Schütz

Words of Gratitude

Reverend Prof. Dr h. c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel

Finale

The Executive Board of the Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development
Reverend Ulrich Lilie, Maria Loheide, Dr Jörg Kruttschnitt, Reverend Dr Dagmar Pruin

Piano and vocals

Dr Klaus Seitz, Head of the Policy Department, Bread for the World
Silke Pfeiffer, Human Rights and Peace Desk, Bread for the World

The collection requested at the end of this service is for Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in India.
Any contribution should be marked **“Corona aid worldwide”**.

www.diakonie-katastrophenhilfe.de/projekte/indien-corona-nothilfe

Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e. V.

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