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English

– Take courage!

Take courage, I have conquered the world!

(John 16:33)

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Dear friends of go4peace,

more and more bad news reaches us. Another marriage has broken down despite the great hopes of the young people. Again, an apartment has been broken into and people are now afraid to go home because their safe space has been violated. Once again, one country has begun to wage war against another and we see the sorrowful faces of all those who have to flee and often do not know where to go. - "I can't bare to see it anymore!" I hear many people say and I notice how they withdraw more and more. But where should I go when the need becomes overwhelming? Jesus Himself experienced such afflictions. He was aware of the hardship in which life often causes us to fall: "In the world you are in distress; but take courage: I have conquered the world!" In doing so, he invites us to be with him in silence and listening to our hearts, perhaps even to start a conversation. He alone can give this peace that our world cannot give.

More than 80 years ago, at the age of 29, Etty Hillesum was murdered in the Auschwitz concentration camp. In the face of her death, she formulated a prayer that can be found in her diary: "These are bad times, my God. I promise you something, God, just a little thing; I don't want to hang my worries about the future as weights onto the everyday, but this takes a certain amount of practice. Every day is enough on its own. I want to help you, God, that you don't leave me, but I can't vouch for anything in the first place. Only this one thing is becoming clearer and clearer to me: that You cannot help us, but that we must help You, and in this way we ultimately help ourselves. It's the only thing that matters: saving a piece of You in ourselves, God. And maybe we can help resurrect you in the tormented hearts of other people. (...) I am gradually becoming calm again, my God, through this conversation with you. I will have many more conversations with you in the near future and thus prevent you from leaving me." By listening to her heart and talking to God, Etty Hillesum finds a deep peace. Life invites us to this conversation, especially in times of urgency. **Take courage!**

for the go4peace team

Meinolf Wacker