



APC Advent Devotional – December 1st, 2020

"Rejoice!"

Today's Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



Rejoice! What a wonderful command the Apostle Paul gives during his imprisonment in Ephesus to his followers in Philippi. Explicitly again: Rejoice! Do not be sad, do not show anxieties when your life is getting difficult, when everything turns out to be different from what you were used to over many years. Do not harden in times like those we are experiencing now, in the year 2020, during times of Covid-19.

No, Paul reminds us that, instead of frustration and anxieties, to show gentleness to everybody, prayerfully present our requests and needs to God as well as thanking for his love.

Mankind was always yearning for peace, in the early years of Christianity, as in the year 2020. Paul promises to us that the **peace of God** will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Advent is the time when we are celebrating that "the Lord is near." Another reason to rejoice and to sing with the words of a hymn from the 9th century:

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the glooming clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

By Lilo Busch