

Press release issued by the Committee for Ecumenical relations, Mission and Inter-religious meetings in Viborg Diocese.

Prayer Service in Viborg Cathedral

In many countries, Christians are being persecuted because of their faith. That is why, for the fifth time, on 28 October 2018, a prayer service for persecuted Christians will be held in Viborg Cathedral.

The international organization *Open Doors* presented a report earlier this year showing that over 215 million of the world's Christians today practice their faith under difficult conditions. Christian minorities are being persecuted, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The report shows an increase in the number of Christians living under discrimination or persecution.

Hundreds killed in Nigeria

Viborg Diocese has a historical relationship with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. During this summer, hundreds of Church members lost their lives after a number of bloody attacks. The situation led Bishop Henrik Stubkjær to encourage all the pastors in Viborg Diocese to pray for the situation in their church services. The prayer service in October will also be an occasion to pray for the Christians in Nigeria.

Greeting from Nigeria

Clement Dchet, who is born and raised in Nigeria, and now lives in Denmark, will participate in the prayer service. He works as partner coordinator in the organization Mission Afrika, whose mission work has played a crucial role in the development of the Lutheran Church in Nigeria. Recently returned from a visit to Nigeria, he will share news from the church and the situation in the country. During the service, there will be a collection to projects in Nigeria supported by Mission Afrika.

Candle lighting and music

The service will begin with a procession, where people from a variety of countries carry candle lights through the church. During the service, there will be prayers for Christians in different countries. The diocese pastor for ecumenical relations, mission and inter-religious meetings, Peter Fischer-Nielsen, will give the sermon. There will also be music and singing, and residents from the immigration center Kærshovedgård will contribute with some songs.

The Committee for Ecumenical relations, Mission and Inter-religious meetings in Viborg Diocese is organizing the prayer service. The committee hopes that many from throughout the diocese will participate in the service.

Time and place:

Viborg Cathedral, 28. October 2018, 16.30.

Attached to the press release:

Photo with Clement Dchet and Peter Fischer-Nielsen.

Further information:

Peter Fischer-Nielsen, pfn@km.dk, phone: 2399 8840.

