

# Prayer service for persecuted Christians

Everyone is welcome to Viborg Cathedral on 13th November 2022 at 16:30 to share in a prayer service for the world's persecuted Christians. This will be the ninth year this special service has been held.

Throughout history, about 70 million Christians have lost their lives for the sake of the faith. In the twentieth century alone, 45 million people have been killed because they were Christian. Freedom to express one's religious beliefs has come under increasing pressure over recent years. This is true both for Christians and for people of other faiths and beliefs.

## Focus on Afghanistan

The prayer service in Viborg Cathedral will be led by Bishop Henrik Stubkjær. It is an opportunity to show solidarity with the many Christians who are currently experiencing persecution and discrimination. This year the service focuses on Afghanistan which currently tops the



humanitarian organization Open Doors' list of populations being subjected to considerable persecution.

Kenneth Kühn will be the main speaker. For the past six years, he has led the European part of ELAM ministries. This is an organization dedicated to spreading the Christian faith in Afghanistan and Iran; as well as among Persian-speaking refugees around the world. He will talk about how we can best support the emerging Church in Afghanistan, and Afghans living in our own country.

## Candle lighting and music

The service will begin with a procession. People from different countries will carry candles through the cathedral. During the service, there will be an opportunity for everyone to light a candle as symbol of our prayers for the persecuted Christians of the world. The asylum choir from *Kærshovedgård* will also take part. The service will be presented in Danish and simultaneously translated into English and Farsi.

## Reception in the parish house

All participants will receive a card on which is written Francis of Assisi's prayer for peace. They will be encouraged to take it home so that they can continue to intercede for persecuted Christians. After the service, everyone is invited to the parish house beside the cathedral for light refreshments. Kenneth Kühn will also speak further there about Afghanistan.

This event has been organised by a working group under Viborg's Diocesan Committee for the Church in the World. It has been organised in fellowship with Skt. Kjelds Catholic Church, Viborg.

## More info

*If you have questions about the service or need further information, photos, etc., please contact the diocesan pastor - Peter Fischer-Nielsen. E-mail: [pfn@km.dk](mailto:pfn@km.dk); Phone: 2399 8840.*