

# On the Way to 2033

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## A prayer for Advent Season

*In these times of great challenges,  
Christmas reminds us of your coming in fragility.  
A small shoot sprouting from a root,  
you come to us not with the strength of the mighty  
but in the simplicity of a child.*

*Silence in us the cries of this world  
that overwhelm us with their demands!  
Give us eyes to see us grow  
the push that nobody notices!*

*In these times of great anxiety,  
you say to us again like to the shepherds in Bethlehem  
and as to the women near the empty tomb :  
Trust, do not be afraid!*

*"I am above you to bless you,  
with you to drive you,  
in your midst to encourage you  
and in you to renew yourself".*

**Image:** *The Tree of Jesse according to Marc Chagall, extract.*



## A Shoot Sprouts...

Dear friends,

Along with a large part of humanity we experience vulnerability and the unexpected. How many changes have we had to make during this period like no others? And what does the future hold in store for us?

At Christmas God joins us in our fragility. The prophet announces that "a branch comes out of the stump of Jesse, a shoot sprouts from its roots. The Spirit of the Lord is with him always" (Isaiah 11:1).

In Hebrew the shoot or the branch is "Netzer", as seen in the image of the olive tree. This is probably the root of "Nazareth". "Jesus of Nazareth" is the messianic shoot.

God comes to us in smallness and secrecy, while we continue to be fascinated by the great means; his ways are not those of the world and its power games. He comes in the weakness of a child. From a root a small shoot sprouts, just as 33 years later, from a tomb will arise a Living One who will overthrow the powerful from their throne and elevate the humble.

He always tells us: "Do not be afraid"! In our midst he comes when we give him our trust and share it among us.

With the prayer opposite we wish you a Merry Christmas. We join our friendship in Him by thanking you for your interest in the initiative JC2033,...a little shoot that grows under the sun of God and your benevolence!

*Chantal and Martin*

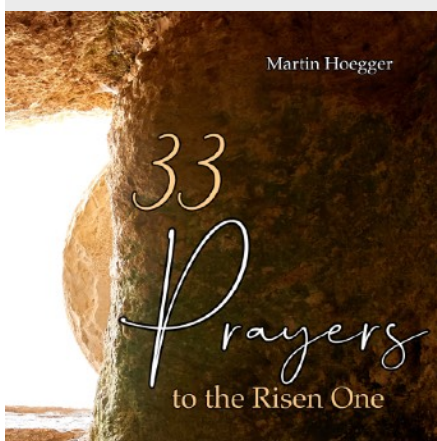
## Tour of Switzerland

To start his retirement, Martin took a four-month sabbatical with no commitments. One of the highlights was a three-week 75 km cycling tour of Switzerland along rivers and streams, discovering part of our country, which gave us a chance to breathe deeply after the first partial lockdown! What good it did us!



## 33 Prayers to the Risen One

I regularly write prayers as the fruit of my meditations on the Word of God. To mark the beginning of my retreat, my friends from JC2033 surprised me by publishing a booklet "33 Prayers to the Risen One". It is beautifully illustrated with images linked to the texts. The number "33", as you can guess, is obviously not a coincidence! This booklet can be ordered at [info@jc2033.world](mailto:info@jc2033.world) for CH 10 CH Fr.-



## Emmaüs Way

Following the success of the Pilgrimage last January, we are organising a new one. Perhaps you will come and live Easter in Jerusalem with us and walk on this path of resurrection, from 2 to 11 April 2021? Nearly 2000 years ago, two disciples, between Jerusalem and Emmaus, had a meeting that marked them forever. In preparation for the celebration of the 2000 years of Christ's resurrection, JC2033 invites you to walk on this path so important for all Christians!

Living Easter time in Jerusalem and on the road to Emmaus is a special experience that refocuses us on the heart of the Christian faith. This walk will also be a spiritual renewal. Information [www.jc2033.world](http://www.jc2033.world)



## Praying together

Every Friday morning at 8:00 am, we gather around the Word of God and pray for each other, for the witness and progress of the JC2033 initiative. Through video-conferencing, we connect with friends from 14 time zones: from Brazil, to Australia, via Singapore, Jerusalem, Holland, etc...

In Brazil two young people get up at three o'clock in the morning to pray with us in two languages: French and English. You are welcome to join us. To do so contact [mhoegger@jc2033.world](mailto:mhoegger@jc2033.world)

## A new Logo



A stylized open tomb, here is the new logo of JC2033. You may have noticed that the name of the initiative is no longer "Jesus Celebration" ...What does JC evoke? Of course Jesus Christ, who calls us every day to unite us in him, to bear witness to him and to celebrate him! Unity, witness and celebration are the three "DNA" of our movement.



We have also asked a jeweler in the old city of Jerusalem, an Arab Christian, to make a pin representing this logo: a discreet cross on the rolled stone of the tomb. If you want to buy one, contact [info@jc2033.world](mailto:info@jc2033.world)

## A book in Progress

Our many encounters with people from all churches and the focus on the resurrection of Christ have broadened my understanding of the Church. I am in the process of completing a book on the "mystery of the church", from a perspective that is both rooted in my Protestant tradition and open to ecumenical reflection.

I am deepening what theology calls the "notes of the Church: one, holy, catholic (or universal), apostolic". I pursue a biblical, theological and spiritual approach. This mystery is the Risen One among us who gives life to his Church. Was it not in order to gather us together that he was "lifted up from the earth" (John 12:32)?

## Frankfurt

After Munich and Augsburg last year, we went back to Germany, planned to Frankfurt and Düsseldorf. In fact, a few days before our departure, we learned that the canton of Vaud had been put on the "red list" by the German Health Authorities. The meetings therefore took place by means of a video conference.



We met some leaders of the Community of Churches in Germany (ACK) who participated in the Jubilee of the Reformation in 2017. In view of the Jubilee of the Resurrection in 2033 we were very interested to learn about this experience. It was not a confessional and confrontational commemoration of the Reformation, but an "ecumenical culture of remembrance", which opened up new perspectives for church cooperation. We also met the leaders of the two largest federations of Evangelical and Pentecostal churches.

In May of next year we want to participate in the large gathering of churches, the ecumenical "Kirchentag" in Frankfurt. As well as in 2022 at the World Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe (see logo below).



## Anafora - Egypt

A team from JC2033 went to Egypt at the beginning of December to meet several church leaders, including the Coptic Orthodox Patriarch, Pope Tawadros. The latter supports the project of a Conference that will bring together the Church of this great country, in all its diversity.

It will take place in the magnificent monastery of Anafora, in the desert between Cairo and Alexandria. It will be partly transmitted by video-conference. The date will be determined according to the health situation in this country. For more information and if you wish to participate, please consult our website.



*In the monastery of Anafora*

## Other activities

Concerning my other activities: Community of Saint Loup, "Lectio divina" with the School of the Word in French-speaking Switzerland, Retreats, Fasting Group, Spiritual Accompaniment, French-speaking Christian Forum, Focolare, On the Road Together and Together for Europe,...you can consult my report on the website: [www.hoegger.org](http://www.hoegger.org)

Thank you very much for your support!

If you wish, you can financially support my commitment by making a donation to the account of the JCFriends association (please specify for Martin Hoegger).

May God bless and protect you!

My best wishes,

*Chantal and Martin*

JCFriends Association  
En Glapin 8, 1162 St-Prex

CCP: 14-719937-0 IBAN: CH12 0900 0000 1471 9937 0  
BIC: POFICHBEXXX  
Reason for payment: Martin Hoegger

Martin Hoegger  
Millière 9 - 1052 Le Mont sur Lausanne  
Mobile: +41 79 774 41 49  
mhoegger@jc2033.world  
www.jc2033.world - www.hoegger.org

## Protocol for the establishment of Christmas Nativities 2020

*A minute of humour, to conclude!*

1. A maximum of 3 shepherds will be allowed in the Nativity. All must wear masks and must respect social distancing.
2. Joseph, Mary and the Baby Jesus will be allowed to stay together, as they are part of the same family bubble.
3. The donkey and the ox must hold a certificate of non-contamination.
4. The Magi will have to quarantine for about 40 days, whether or not they have a negative Covid PCR test, since they come from outside the country.
5. Straw, moss, fir branches and other decorations will be disinfected with alcohol.
6. The angel flying over the cot will not be allowed, due to the aerosol effect produced by the beating of its wings.
7. The choir will be restricted to one participant only, due to the risk of contamination.
8. No shepherd will be aged 65 or over, a category at risk.
9. All non-essential participants (Romans, fishermen, ...) are forbidden.
10. Pilate will explain to all authorized participants how to wash their hands.

Fortunately God is praised by the angels "in excelsis", in the highest heaven, out of reach of Covid!