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You'll never walk alone!

**And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age!** (Matthew 28:20)

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Dear friends of go4peace,

On January 3, 2021, sad news from the music world made the rounds: The singer Gerry Marsden had died. Marsden had made the tune "You'll never walk alone" a hit in the 60s. Today this song is sung in many football stadiums – for example not far from here, "auf Borussia" in Dortmund. But how did this come about? The most beautiful story is one from Liverpool: In the 60s, current hits were already being played in English football stadiums. Among them was the number 1 hit of the Liverpool band Gerry and the Pacemakers. The loudspeaker system is said to have failed. And then the crowd continued to sing alone, a cappella: "You'll never walk alone".

This tune - by Richard Rodgers (music) and Oscar Hammerstein (lyrics), was originally the finale of the 1945 Broadway musical Carousel. It tells the story of a carousel worker who commits a robbery out of financial necessity - he wants to provide for the future of his wife and their unborn child, but he dies in the process. "You'll never walk alone" is sung twice in the musical - once to encourage the wife to get over the death of her husband, and a second time in the finale, at the graduation ceremony of the then 15-year-old daughter. This song is about looking confidently to the future, despite all the suffering in the world.

You'll never walk alone! Jesus also made this promise to his friends. The last verse of Matthew's Gospel says, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age!" And God is infinitely creative in how he does this! Let me share one experience: A group of 25 Ukrainians had been very dedicated and committed. So I felt the impulse to invite them all for a big portion of ice cream. When I checked my wallet, I saw that I didn't have enough cash on me. But I didn't want to backtrack on my invitation. The phrase "Give and you shall be given!" came to mind. I felt the confidence in me that a path would open up. As we made our way to the ice cream parlor, we met a man. When he saw all the Ukrainians in my company, he spontaneously handed me 50 €. We were laughing and joking as we said our goodbyes. When we arrived at the ice cream parlor, an elderly woman saw me. She enjoyed our international group so much that she came over on her mobility scooter and also handed me 50 €. Smiling, I glanced at the sky. Because now I had enough money to pay for everyone! – **You'll never walk alone!**

for the go4peace team Meinolf Wacker