



Autumn 2018

church and peace

Newsletter

Hoddesdon 2018

– Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

Profile – Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

New staff – Welcome to Marina Hueber



Called to nonviolence on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

Path to just peace must overcome, step-by-step, logic of violence and investing in war

At its yearly gathering Church and Peace has called the churches to make nonviolence their point of orientation on the ecumenical Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.

'Justice and Peace shall embrace (Psalm 85:10) – Journeying together for reconciliation in a fractured Europe' was the theme for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and international conference on 21-24 June.

Gathering in Hoddesdon, UK, 93 peace church pilgrims travelled further on the ecumenical path from 'just war' to 'just peace'. They came from across a Europe of rising walls of division and increasing militarisation. Host was the Britain and Ireland region where Brexit is widening societal fractures and injustice.

On Friday evening participants traced the ecumenical pilgrimage since the Conciliar Process for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation began in 1983.

Memories of waystations revealed footprints of nonviolence left by the peace church path at gatherings and programmes of the World Council of Churches, European Ecumenical Assemblies, and countless other encounters.

The journey together was transforming individuals and churches as they confronted wounds of violence and injustice, said Church and Peace Chair Antje Heider-Rottwil.

'Justice, not violence' has been the foundation for keynote speaker the Revd

Inderjit Bhogal's life pilgrimage, which birthed the City of Sanctuary movement.

Migration was the most crucial issue facing society today, the Methodist minister said, one mirrored in the biblical stories of journeying and movement. Violence and unjust peace are driving migration, with much poverty caused by investing resources in war. Churches need a 'theology of the sacredness of the other' (Jonathan Sacks) and a firm commitment to 'learn war no more'.

Panellists looked at the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace as path of life, transformation and healing in the churches. Janet Benvie said the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship worked to put forward nonviolent alternatives, such

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Church and Peace

The European ecumenical network of peace churches, and peace-church oriented congregations, communities and service agencies

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On the move and active

Dear friends of Church and Peace,

Being on the move is a key characteristic of the lives of people, animals and even plants. What would nature be like, if pollen was not carried on the wind in spring and the flowers pollinated? Anyone who suffers with an allergy is unlikely to share my enthusiasm for the image of pollen being carried by the wind, but perhaps they can follow my train of thought. Just as the pollen is on the move and active, so too are the various people who are on a pilgrimage of justice and peace. They achieve great things as a result of their active commitment.

The international conference in the UK this year highlighted some of the places already encountered on this journey. And for many of the participants, the conference was a welcome resting place on the pilgrimage of justice and peace.

In this newsletter you can read about people and organisations in Europe with whom we are journeying together in our work for reconciliation. We highlight places of pain which are a source of concern to us, such as the discussion about the EU's

Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027). And we want to encourage people to join on the peace church path and to bring about change. Concrete steps forward include, for example: developing a scenario of the future with new thinking about security, i.e. security without weapons; persisting in celebrating an annual peace week in Bosnia in a visible manner; and maintaining an intensive dialogue with committed members and friends in the UK, in spite of Brexit.

The theme of the conference was the vision of Psalm 85: 'Justice and peace shall embrace.' Later, it says in verse 11: 'Fidelity springs up from earth and justice looks down from heaven.' Just as pollen is scattered by the wind and bears fruit, so many of us let ourselves be sent out so that peace and justice may sprout.

With best wishes,

Lydia Funck

Hoddesdon 2018*Called to nonviolence ...**continued from page 1*

as supporting the UN nuclear weapons ban treaty. Hansuli Gerber, Mennonite, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, observed that the 'journey is more of a combat than a pilgrimage of encounter or rest. It is a struggle.' Pilgrims must accept their fragility, yet still not let go of hope.

Psalm 85 provided a vision of justice and peace for an inclusive Europe, said the Revd Karen Hinrichs, Evangelical Church in Baden, during the closing worship service. God's people on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace are building this 'culture of nonviolence'.

Visit the Church and Peace website to download materials from the conference: <https://www.church-and-peace.org/en/documents/international-conference-2018/>

More on the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace: <http://t1p.de/dz59>

**Annual General Meeting****New members**

- Tertiary Community of the Community Christusbruderschaft Selbitz, Germany (corporate)
- Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Christian CND), UK (associate) (see pp. 6)
- Six individual members from Belgium, Denmark, France and Germany

Elections

- New Board member Maria Biedrawa (French branch of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, graduate of gewaltfrei handeln's peace diaconate programme)

Speaking to European developments

- Affirming commitments of Conference of European Churches (CEC) Assembly in the direction of nonviolence and urging further reflection (see pp. 5)
- Critiquing EU budgetary priorities and increased military spending (see pp. 4)
- Expressing concern at increasingly hostile approaches to movement of people, including a visa refusal for the conference
- Urging welcome in the face of criminalisation of migration and assistance to uprooted peoples

Transformative pilgrim encounters – Olivera Savić from Serbia (l) with Lule Potera from Kosovo: 'I love you, I forgive you. ... We can see each other like people who are serving the Lord, we can build bridges. That is our mission, to be a peacemaker.'

Conference Workshops

Teaching peace to children | De-escalation and dialogue in the Ukraine | Just peace in the marketplace | Embodied prayer, contemplation and action for peace | Christian hope vs. nuclear 'deterrence' | Providing sanctuary in Europe | Language of biblical nonviolence and just peace | Multiple identities | Restorative circle for group conflicts



Photo: Church and Peace

Hoddesdon 2018 - AGM

EU risks becoming predominantly military alliance

AGM 2018 statement on EU budgetary priorities driving militarisation

The European ecumenical network Church and Peace, gathered for its Annual General Meeting and international conference 'Justice and Peace shall embrace (Ps. 85:10) – Journeying together for reconciliation in a fractured Europe' in Hoddesdon, United Kingdom, 21-24 June 2018, in a region already marked by Brexit and envisioning its further consequences, is deeply concerned about the European Union's plans to boost spending on military instruments instead of investing in civilian peacebuilding.

As more details of the proposed Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027¹ are communicated, we observe that the EU is increasingly steering a course away from Europe as a peace project and towards a military alliance. Recent proposals by the European Commission, endorsed by the European Council, on Military Mobility, the European Defence Fund and the European Peace Facility underline the plan to spend around 30 billion euros on defence during 2021-2027.²

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-budget-future-2018-may-02_en

² EUR 6.5 billion on Military Mobility, EUR 13 billion on European Defence Fund via the EU budget, and EUR 10.5 billion off-budget via intergovernmental pooling.

In light of the ever-more deadly conflict situations throughout the world, we also reject plans to merge all twelve existing external financing instruments into one and to devote at least 10 percent of this enormous budget of around 89 billion euro in current exchange rates to migration control. While simplification of processes and, to a certain degree, increased flexibility can be argued for, nonetheless, merging a number of core instruments and thus eliminating separate funds for development, civilian peacebuilding, democracy and human rights weakens these essential foundations of a strong civil society and is simply unacceptable.

Joining our voice with the Conference of European Churches (CEC) Assembly at Novi Sad on 8 June 2018³, Church and Peace rejects the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and calls on the European Parliament and Member States as co-legislators, to ensure that there are three separate instruments - development, human rights and democracy, and civilian peacebuilding - for 2021-2027.

³ http://www.ceceurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/GEN_PUB_01_Public_Committee_Draft_Report_APPROVED_EN.pdf

We are committed to fostering peace and reconciliation in Europe and therefore must raise serious questions about the proposal by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini to establish a European Peace Facility.⁴

While we would very much welcome a multi-billion euro fund for civilian peace initiatives, we reject the idea of labelling as an act of 'peace' a fund which will finance joint costs of military transport to out-of-area operations; military training and equipment, including the provision of lethal equipment; and other military action in the field of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). While the EU is planning to invest tens of billions of euro in military responses to regional and global challenges, funds available for civilian approaches will be reduced by more than half of what was available for the budgetary timeframe 2014-2020. This trend urgently needs to be reversed.

Church and Peace calls on politicians and on the churches in particular to:

- **Engage** in discussion on the

⁴ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/46285/node/46285_en

future budget priorities of the EU;

- **Insist** on the significance of the EU as a project of peace and reconciliation;
- **Urge** investing resources and people to build peace with justice by taking decisive steps towards global justice, for instance through the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and reconciliation.

Church and Peace Annual General Meeting

Hoddesdon, UK, 22 June 2018



Photo: Church and Peace

AGM welcomes CEC steps towards nonviolence

The AGM in Hoddesdon welcomed decisions by the Conference of European Churches (CEC) at its Assembly at Novi Sad, Serbia, 31 May – 6 June 2018 to move towards nonviolence in response to conflict and violence.

At the same time, Church and Peace members called on the churches to exclude the option of war or military intervention as a 'ultima ratio', as a last resort, and instead to move step-by-step towards nonviolence as a first and last resort.

The CEC Assembly brought together delegates from its 140 member churches and its organisations in partnership such as Church and Peace, under the theme 'You will be my witnesses

(Acts 1:8) - witness, justice, hospitality'.

After worship services, a pilgrimage and committed contributions calling for the common spiritual and social witness of the churches, the Assembly adopted the report of the Public Issues Committee with resolutions on economic and climate justice; refugees and migration; human rights; populism; family; and security, arms and nonviolence. The latter focused on security and EU policies, arms production and export, just peace and nonviolence.

Read more: assembly2018.ceceurope.org/resources/

Hoddesdon 2018 - Host Region

Meet the members

At the AGM 2018 Church and Peace welcomed two groups and six individuals as new members. Our spotlight on the host region introduces the new associate member from Britain and Ireland, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Look for profiles of the other new members in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.



Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Christian CND) provides a focus for Christians in the UK who want to witness on the basis of their faith against nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, while also positively campaigning for peace.

Our 365 members believe that nuclear weapons should be a mainstream issue for Christians as we seek to live out Christ's call to be peacemakers. We believe that there is an exciting opportunity for Christians to work for a better world through rejecting the current status quo in which many

seem to accept nuclear weapons as a so-called 'necessary evil'.

In response to the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, Christian CND works for a world in which the vast resources now devoted to militarism are redirected to the real needs of the human community. Christian CND supports all genuine disarmament measures and all genuine attempts to build community and reconciliation.

Christian CND sees weapons of mass destruction as a sign of humanity's disobedience to God's law for us, as well as a rejection of international law. We therefore reject all 'defence' based on such weapons of mass destruction.

We stimulate debate and education on matters of weapons of mass destruction and militarism at all levels in the churches and we support churches and individual Christians in witnessing and working for a world free of nuclear weapons, and a world order based on peace and justice.

To find out more and sign up for monthly emails, visit christiancnd.org.uk. Follow @ChristianCND on Twitter.



Journeying one step at a time to a new security approach

Martin Birdseye leads the Hoddesdon 2018 workshop 'Christian hope versus nuclear "deterrence"' which focused on the ethics of nuclear weapons and deterrence. Participants explored Christian responsibility for a nuclear weapons-free future and advocacy tools, including a flow-chart to work out one's own moral standpoint and mind maps to articulate specific arguments - in particular the reasons for hope.

Photo: Church and Peace

Hoddesdon 2018 - Host Region

Meet the member groups in Britain and Ireland

Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

'APF is going through a process of strategic review - our membership is both aging and decreasing. Part of this is exploring how we work with other church peace groups. We are learning that together we are stronger. The conference was an important part of learning how we support each other on our pilgrimage of justice and peace.'

Taking along for the ongoing journey: After meeting fellow 'pilgrims' and hearing their stories: inspiration to continue the work for peace

Hoddesdon fact: Was a member of the conference panel discussing the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

Joined the network in: 1991

**Community for Reconciliation**

'The Community for Reconciliation has had a long association with Church and Peace. [Being] involved on the organizing group [gave the chance] to learn more about the organization and to meet with friends from all over Europe and beyond, who are working for peace in their contexts. We have much to learn from each other.'

Taking along for the ongoing journey: It was encouraging to encounter other groups working in a variety of locations with different people in different ways, and to realize that we fitted into this jigsaw of groups working for peace.

Hoddesdon fact: Led a conference workshop focusing on the transition to action for peace through embodied prayer

Joined the network in: 2008

**Friends World Committee for Consultation Europe & Middle East Section (FWCC-EMES)***

'Peace lies at the root of Quaker beliefs and service. Because of the understanding of and commitment to the nonviolent call of the gospel, Quakers renounce violence and military force. Thus, we explore other ways of dealing with conflict that help to uphold the peace witness. [Hoddesdon] brought together those of the Christian fellowship witnessing to justice and peace from across Europe at a time when there is so much pressure within the European Union and specifically in the context of Brexit.'

Taking along for the ongoing journey: Sometimes as a peace church trying to live out the radical consequences of the Christ's message of living the peace, it can feel a lonely journey. The sense of walking with others was so inspiring and supportive.

Hoddesdon fact: 65 million people displaced worldwide, 90% of this displacement is due to war (from Revd Bhogal's keynote)

Joined the network in: Founding member

**FWCC-EMES is a network of Quaker meetings in Europe and the Middle East, with an executive secretary currently based in England.*

**Hertford & Hitchin Area Meeting**

'Our pilgrimage is of peace in its wider sense. Hertford Meeting, in particular, is part of the Sanctuary Movement and we have Syrian families to settle in. Church and Peace is part of our desire to make political boundaries less meaningful.'

Taking along for the ongoing journey: Press statement and Revd Inderjit Bhogal's talk

Hoddesdon fact: Member group closest to Hoddesdon

Joined the network in: 1997

**Host region facts and figures**

23 participants

9 members based in the region participated

100 % representation of member groups based in the region

10 non-member groups

5 member groups of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO)*, in addition to Church and Peace

**NCPO is a UK-based ecumenical network committed to peace as central to the meaning of church community. Church and Peace Britain and Ireland is a member.*

Celebrating peace

The Center for Peacebuilding (Centar Za Izgradnju Mira, CIM) issued an invitation to the 9th International Peace Week, which was held 16-21 September 2018 in Sanski Most, a town in the north of Bosnia. Several members of Church and Peace were there. Mihael Sečen and Neda Popović of INTeRo, and Ana and Otto Raffai of RAND, in Croatia; Julianne Funk from Switzerland; and Kristina Bulling, Susanne Korhammer and Petra Titze from the schwelle Foundation share their impressions with us.

In Bosnia, peace work is always regarded with a certain amount of scepticism. For Mevludin Ramanović and Vahidin Omanović of CIM, it is therefore all the more important that a statement be made regularly every year: The Peace Week is a highly visible event in the town centre of Sanski Most, regardless of the number of participants and speakers. Everyone is invited; those who come are the few actively committed people, who welcome this meeting of international peace activists as an opportunity to recharge their batteries. This year there were a few young people from the 'Peace Project' in the Allgäu in Germany, long-time CIM companions, young peace activists from Bosnia, and several of us from Church and Peace.

We started with the fishbowl method as a way of reporting on the successes and failures of our peace work. And we gained support from the energy which was generated by sharing with each other the many small steps which have been taken in so many different places.

Patricia Whalen demanded a lot from us, when she told us



Participants of the International Peace Week.

about her work as a judge, from 2012 to 2017, in the War Crimes Chamber of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the busiest war crimes court in the world. She asked us what a society needs for reconciliation. In response to our answer, 'justice and truth', she then asked: 'What does justice look like?' These are difficult questions in a divided country, where mass graves from the war in the 1990s are still being discovered, war criminals are revered as heroes, and there is no prospect of a joint reappraisal of the past.

The next morning we visited the centre where the corpses from the mass graves are identified. This work is still going on 23 years after the end of the war. A dedicated staff member reported on their work: The unspeakable horror of war was so close. And peace work is so incredibly urgent. We needed time to recover.

Some time ago CIM bought a piece of land and created the Peace Farm. Sheep, goats, chicken, geese and a donkey live there; families from the town work

together in the vegetable patch and take the harvest home with them. It is a peaceful place and is full of young people several times during the year when CIM brings them together from all parts of Bosnia as part of its youth work. It is often the first time that the young people get to talk to a Bosnian Serb, a Bosnian Croat, or a Bosniak. They then realise that they can only change things in this country by working together. We found time on the Peace Farm to get into conversation, to collect mushrooms, to laugh, and to build networks.

During these few days we also worked on the subjects of trauma and reconciliation, truth, prejudice, empathetic listening, and inter-religious understanding. And we celebrated the International Day of Peace on 21 September with the inter-religious choir Harmonia.

Next year, from 15 to 21 September, a Peace Week will be celebrated conspicuously once again in the town of Sanski Most, in the north of Bosnia.

Save the date!**Church and Peace Annual General Meeting and international conference****17-19 May 2019****'I will give you future and hope (Jeremiah 29:11) - 70 years of living nonviolence - resisting militarisation'***Ev. Johannisstift Berlin-Spandau, Germany*

Come and mark seven decades of the Church and Peace movement as we renew together our commitment to living Gospel nonviolence and hope. Network members, friends and guests are invited to a special anniversary celebration on 18 May at 3pm at Moabit Reformed Church (Beusselstrasse 15). More details to follow!

**Diary****23-25 November 2018****German-language regional conference****'The way is the goal – Engaging with the UN Sustainable Development Goals'***Thomashof, Karlsruhe, Germany***1-3 February & 5-7 April 2019****German-language peace theology seminar series****'Peace and justice embrace'***Laurentiuskonvent Laufdorf, near Wetzlar, Germany***13-15 February 2019****Church and Peace Board meeting***Laufdorf, Germany***23 February 2019****Britain and Ireland regional day****'Let us do what leads to peace and builds up our common life. (Romans 14:19) Peace is not a fairy tale - we need to work to make it happen'***Bull Street Quaker Meeting House, Birmingham, UK***Web Resources****International Conference 2018**

Keynote speech by Inderjit Bhoghal, ecumenical Pilgrimage timeline by Antje Heider-Rottwilm, sermon by Karen Hinrichs

Church and Peace press releases

Download and share in your networks!

www.church-and-peace.org/en/documents/

Meet the new member of the International Office team

In February a new staff member joined the International Office team. Marina Hueber started work as an administrative assistant and is in charge of office management, personnel and financial administration.

How did you come to Church and Peace?

Over the years I have worked in very different fields. I have 20 years' experience in office management, personnel and financial administration in a tax office, worked in an Internet agency, created websites, edited photos and ran an online business. After many years, I came to a point where I decided I wanted to find a new focus for my work.

As I am living in the Herrnhag Society, an ecumenical community of the Moravian Church, I have come into contact with the non-profit sector. I decided to use my experience and skills to work for non-profit organisations. It was at this time that I received the vacancy notice of Church and Peace through an acquaintance. The advertised job fit very well. I applied and was hired.

What are you looking forward to doing this job?

I am pleased to be able to work autonomously and independently.

I am very happy to be working with people who allow you to work in an atmosphere of respect for each other and with whom you can laugh.

How is it going so far, six months in?

The first months were very strenuous. A great deal of information had to be processed and new contexts understood. I had to find a good way of working with my two colleagues. I feel very comfortable in the office; cooperation with the Board and contact with members are also very good.

Thank you for welcoming me to Church and Peace!



Photo: Courtesy of Marina Hueber
Marina Hueber

England & Scotland

Reclaiming gospel nonviolence

A conference in Perth, Scotland, in June organised by Church and Peace corporate member the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship with the Fellowship of Reconciliation UK explored the basis for Christian nonviolence, lifting up Jesus' witness of refusing to resort to force. Participants hope to organise an interfaith event looking at nonviolence in both Christianity and Islam, as well as take other steps to grow nonviolence in Scotland. Read more: <http://www.for.org.uk/2018/08/27/gospel-nonviolence-action-end-war/>

Europe/Germany

CPT awarded 'Swords to Ploughshares' prize

The initiative 'Dresdner Aufbruch - 8. Oktober' has awarded its 2018 'Swords to Ploughshares' prize to Christian Peacemaker Teams. The group praises CPT's commitment to peace and understanding between parties in conflict through 'almost unorthodox, but clearly Gospel-oriented' work. Awarded annually, the prize commemorates the first-ever peaceful dialogue between citizens and representatives of the GDR regime on 8 October 1989.



Germany

Rethinking security

The Evangelical Church in Baden, an associate member of Church and Peace, has prepared a study in German entitled 'Rethinking Security: From military to civil security - Towards 2040: a scenario'. Three scenarios have been worked out to show what an exit from military security thinking might look like. A positive scenario (sustainable civil security) is contrasted with a scenario extrapolating current trends (creeping militarization) and a negative scenario (close to the abyss). Contact Stefan.Maass@ekiba.de for an abridged version of the study in English.



Serbia

Dialogue on human rights

Individual members Manda and Ivan Prising and project partner Forum za interkulturalnost from Novi Sad organised a discussion on human rights and peaceful coexistence of different societal groups in Serbia at the House of Culture in Sombor in June. Speakers from the University of Novi Sad reported on their research project 'Tell Your Story', which included interviews with marginalised people. The stories aim to raise broader awareness of the possibility to live together nonviolently. www.ispricajskojupricu.rs/

the Network

Join the Jai Jagat 'pilgrimage'

The Jai Jagat 2020 campaign invites Church and Peace to be on the move for justice and nonviolent change. A global march to a People's Action Forum in September 2020 in Geneva begins October 2019, aiming to strengthen local nonviolent action and network internationally. Church and Peace member, the Community of the Ark of Lanza del Vasto is involved in planning. benjaminjoyeux@gmail.com - www.jaijagat2020.org

Germany***New Ecumenical Information Centre staff***

The Ecumenical Information Centre in Dresden, a corporate Church and Peace member, has a new officer for peace and social concerns. In light of recent events in Saxony, Ms Annelie Möller, a social worker from the Mennonite congregation in Dresden who took up her position in April, is focusing on training congregations and peace organisations in civil courage and peace making. She is also involved in the weekly ecumenical prayer for peace in the Dresden Kreuzkirche.

Germany***New coordinator for Ludwigshafen Peace House***

Ms Silvie Kroeker has been appointed new coordinator of the Ludwigshafen Peace House from September 2018. Church and Peace member Ludwigshafen Mennonite Church hosts the project, a community initiative launched in 2016 with the aim to bring people together and promote a culture of peace in the city. Born in Canada, Kroeker has a master's in peace, mediation and conflict research and served as an intern at the Berlin Mennonite Peace Center. She is being supported in her work by Ms Hanna Eich.

Europe***QCEA publishes peacebuilding toolkit***

The Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) has published 'Building Peace Together', a practical resource for nonviolent responses to conflict and contemporary security issues. The toolkit explores peacebuilding principles, conflict sensitivity and due diligence through 80 real-world examples and reflective exercises. www.qcea.org/peace/research-project/

The Last Word

The embrace of justice and peace

A vision for Europe

Righteousness and peace shall embrace! This message of hope from Psalm 85 encourages us as we journey together for reconciliation in a fractured Europe.

This fractured Europe – a part of the Earth where God's spirit and the Gospel are so sorely needed, which is exporting weapons and violence, which is dominated by new nationalist movements and an unjust economic system.

The Europe of today needs a new, broad vision of the future in which all people can find their place.

We find such a vision underlying Psalm 85. The whole of the Bible is concerned with these two great concepts, justice and peace, for all people. Jesus Christ talks about the Kingdom of God and says that the peacemakers and those who hunger and thirst for justice are blessed.

A well-known song from Taizé says, 'The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit'. This is the message of the Gospel summed up in a single theological sentence (Romans 14:17).

This is the great hope and vision for Europe and the whole world: Justice and peace will meet and embrace. And justice will shine down from heaven and transform the Earth. Not because we have the power to transform the world. But because God will sort it out!

This hope we share with believers across Europe and throughout the world. And with all people of goodwill journeying together with us on pilgrimages of justice and peace.

Justice and peace belong together. When we repent and turn away from worshipping the false gods of this day and age, and listen to the voice of God, we will do things differently - and stop doing a lot of things altogether. We will turn away from the false gods: power and Mammon, violence and greed.

Let us hear what God will speak today: through the words of the Bible, through Jesus Christ and his message and all that he did, through the Holy Spirit. God always says the same in every situation and in every language: 'Peace!'

So, we pray to the God of Peace for all our pilgrimages. We pray for strength, love, and patience. We trust in Jesus Christ, who has sown in our hearts the hope for the Kingdom of God. Jesus stretches out his arms and says: 'Peace be with you.'

Karen Hinrichs preaches at the Hoddesdon closing worship service.



Photo: Church and Peace

Karen Hinrich is Oberkirchenrätin of Church and Peace associate member, the Evangelical Church in Baden. She became an individual member at the AGM 2018.

Abridged version of a sermon given at the 2018 international conference. The complete sermon is available at: www.church-and-peace.org/en/documents/international-conference-2018/