

PEACE IS POSSIBLE



23-25 March 2018
PEACE COLLOQUY
Dunfield House

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Facebook: BRITISH ISLES PEACE COLLOQUY 2018

www.peaceprojects.club



Community of Christ

Dear Member and Friend of Community of Christ!

Thank you for your interest in this first Peace Colloquy at Dunfield House in Kington. We are looking forward to a weekend of great fun with time for learning and activities together.

What is a Peace Colloquy?

Peace Colloquies have become a tradition in Community of Christ, but these gatherings have mainly been held at the Temple in Independence, Missouri as a yearly world church event or as an appendix to the World Conference, as was done in 2016. Members and Friends of Community of Christ gather normally for a couple of days of conversation, exploration and dialogue on a topic or a theme related to peace and to discover how our shared learning may be applied in the work of our faith community. The Peace Team for the Eurasia field thought it a great opportunity to bring the colloquy to the British Isles Mission Centre and link it to the British Isles Mission Centre Conference in 2018.

The Theme of the Colloquy: Peace is Possible

This first peace colloquy in Community of Christ in the British Isles will have the following theme: Peace is possible! Through a series of seminars provided to us by peace academics, practitioners and activists, we will explore how peace is possible in the world today. As a community, we need to better understand what peace is and how peace counters the violence and logic of Empire. “Not as the world gives, give I unto” said Jesus (John 14:27). With this in mind, we will explore how these different ways of pursuing peace also relate to Community of Christ sacraments. Although we are often concerned about outward religious observance of a sacrament, we will see through this colloquy the deeper transformational potential a sacrament has in terms of peace for the community and the individuals involved in it. We suggest here that it is through greater intentional preparation and follow through of a sacrament that our community can work towards Shalom. For a more detailed programme of the event, please refer to the next pages.

Palm Sunday: A story in which Jesus counters the violence and logic of Empire (Matthew 21:1-11)

Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem is the opposite of that of a commander-in-chief. He comes riding in on a donkey, not a war-horse. There are clear political undertones to his staged entry into the city. He is acclaimed Son of David, and is thus making royal claims. In addition, the crowds celebrate him as the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior. He comes with the support of a people who have heard him, followed him and who now celebrate him as their hero, as *the* Son of God – in a sharp contrast to the Emperor of his day. He is inclusive and affirming of people from all quarters of life. He puts women, children and the sick at the center of his ministry.

As a people, seeking to live by his message, we are invited to join in with the crowds and shout in the streets: not at the sides of tanks, nor cheering on our warrior-kings, but by making way for the Prince of Peace in this world. As “peaceable demonstrators” for Christ, we have a different kind of calling, a different kind of allegiance. We are called to dream: not of a country of old, but of a future promised land. We are called to demonstratively prepare for this other kingdom, “not of this world” ... (John 18:36). We are called to prepare for God’s peaceable reign.

Come and celebrate, worship, deliberate and converse on this Palm Sunday weekend. Let’s make this first peace colloquy in the British Isles something to remember!

FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2018

4pm	ARRIVALS
9pm	ALL ARE WELCOME PEACE SONGS

SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2018

8am	BREAKFAST			
9am	MORNING SEMINAR: PEACE IS POSSIBLE THROUGH... NONVIOLENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ON THE NONVIOLENCE OF JESUS Sam Walton (tbc) and Rev. Dan Woodhouse			
	PEACE IS POSSIBLE THROUGH...*			
10.30 am	EDUCATION <i>Silvia de Michelis</i>	HISTORY <i>Karen Wade</i>	ADVOCACY <i>Chris Davey</i>	INTERVENTION <i>Daniel Kirkpatrick</i>
11.30 am	Facilitated discussion on BAPTISM	Facilitated discussion on EVANGELIST BLESSING	Facilitated discussion on PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION	Facilitated discussion on LAYING ON OF HANDS
12.30 pm	REPORTING BACK IN GROUPS WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? WHAT WAS NEW? TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANTS			
1pm	DAILY PRAYER FOR PEACE			
1.15 pm	LUNCH			
2pm	FREE TIME – WALKS AND CHATS: PERSONAL AND GROUP REFLECTIONS Sam Walton (tbc) and Rev. Dan Woodhouse will share some of their experiences and ideas about nonviolence and about what it means to be a peace church			
	PEACE IS POSSIBLE THROUGH...:			
3.30 pm	SPIRITUALITY <i>Chris Davey</i>	VISIONING <i>Silvia de Michelis</i>	EVALUATION <i>Daniel Kirkpatrick</i>	COMMUNICATION <i>Sandee Gamet</i>
4.30 pm	Facilitated discussion on CONFIRMATION	Facilitated discussion on BABY BLESSING	Facilitated discussion on COMMUNION	Facilitated discussion on MARRIAGE
5.30 pm	REPORTING BACK IN GROUPS WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? WHAT WAS NEW? TESTIMONIALS FROM PARTICIPANTS			
6pm	DINNER			
7pm	FREE TIME – PREPARATION FOR EVENING ACTIVITY			
8pm	COMMUNITY CELEBRATION FUN FILLED @ DUNFIELD			

*There is a full peace programme planned for children who will be in attendance for the whole weekend. Additional details will be communicated in a later news update.

SUNDAY 25 MARCH 2018

8am	BREAKFAST				
9am	NO TRAMP OF SOLDIERS' MARCHING FEET MORNING SONG				
09.30 am	WELCOME: COFFEE AND TEA				
	FACILITATED QUORUM DISCUSSIONS ON RESOLUTION(S)				
10am	Children Quorum	Young adults Quorum	Members and Friends Quorum	Deacon, Teacher and Priest Quorum	Elder, Seventy and High Priest Quorum
10.45 am	MATT. 21:1-11 PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP COMMUNION AND EVALUATION THE PEACE CHURCH OPTION BEFORE US				
12 noon	LUNCH				
1pm	DAILY PRAYER FOR PEACE				
1.15 pm	BRITISH ISLES MISSION CENTRE CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION(S)				
3.30 pm	COFFEE AND TEA				
3.45 pm	SING A NEW WORLD INTO BEING CLOSING WORSHIP				
4pm	DEPARTURES				

Introduction to a Resolution on Nonviolence

In the Christian world today, active steps are taken by churches towards reviving the role nonviolence and just peace play as central parts of our shared faith. Just Peace is fundamentally different from the concept of 'just war' and much more than criteria for protecting people from the unjust use of force; in addition to silencing weapons it embraces social justice, the rule of law, respect for human rights and shared human security. With regards to nonviolence, Community of Christ was urged in the recent added section of Doctrine and Covenants to "remember that the way of suffering love that leads to the cross also leads to resurrection and everlasting life in Christ's eternal community of oneness and peace".

Questions for reflection:

- How can we align ourselves with the peace witness of historic peace churches?
- What role should nonviolence play, as an integral part of the gospel of Jesus Christ and of our understanding that in the pursuit of peace, peace is the way?
- What does suffering love mean to you? How can we practice this in the world today?
- What does it mean to become a people of the temple, and to be a church pursuing peace on and for the earth? What does it take to become a peace church?
- Within your context, what do you think this resolution would be able to address or respond to?

How does a resolution get to World Conference?

Every three years the church gathers for a World Conference. One of its primary purposes is to discuss and decide the business of the church. Issues the leadership or membership feel important for the church to deliberate are submitted through documents called "resolutions". Resolutions come to a Mission Centre Conference to be discussed. Following discussion, a vote is taken to determine if the body agrees to send the resolution to the World Conference for consideration by the delegates. Once the resolution is passed by a mission centre, the Mission Centre President sends it to the World Church Secretary for placement on the legislative agenda and consideration at World Conference. Prior to World Conference the First Presidency evaluates each proposal to formally determine its ruling on whether or not the proposal is "in order."

Background Statement on a Resolution on Nonviolence

In March 2017, at the creation of a field peace team for Europe, the idea of this resolution was shared and debated. Members in the Eurasia field in Community of Christ are recalling the Christian crusades, the colonial history of mother-nations and the nationalisms that led to two world wars in 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. Furthermore, the world will be commemorating the end of World War I in 2018. A resolution on nonviolence is therefore both timely and right, as the 2019 World Conference will celebrate the 25 years since the Temple in Independence, Missouri, was dedicated to the pursuit of peace, reconciliation and healing of the spirit.

Resolution on Nonviolence

Whereas, Community of Christ has been admonished from its earliest days to hear the words of the Living Christ, and to listen again to the voice that calls us to the great and marvelous work of building the peaceable kingdom of God on earth, even Zion; and

Whereas, Community of Christ has a logo, inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10, that shows how nonviolence is central to the way we conceive of peace; and

Whereas, Community of Christ today is called to become a prophetic people that embodies in the lives of its members the ministries of the Temple through the pursuit of peace, reconciliation and healing of the spirit; and

Whereas, Community of Christ's enduring principles and mission initiatives call us as a people to share Christ's peace throughout all of creation and embody God's love for all creatures; and

Whereas, there are no known Christian writings between 100 CE and 313 CE which approve of Christian participation in warfare; and

Whereas, more recent Biblical scholarship provides disciples with a greater understanding of the nonviolent mission and life of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God; and

Whereas, the founding vision of Community of Christ was of the peaceable kingdom of God on earth, a nonviolent Zion with economic justice for all; and

Whereas, violence clearly affects the weak and the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized disproportionately; therefore be it

Resolved, that Community of Christ affirms its commitment to nonviolence and declares that violence is contrary to Christ's mission; and be it further

Resolved, that Community of Christ rejects all forms of violence, including acts of terrorism, war, and the financing of wars, as well as violence against the earth and non-human life; and be it further

Resolved, that Community of Christ opposes just war ethics and declares them inconsistent with Christ's invitation in the Sermon on the Mount to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44); and be it further

Resolved, that Community of Christ upholds the importance of peace education and that members strive to embody nonviolence as Christ's way to transform conflict and redress injustices; and be it further

Resolved, that Community of Christ members and friends take part locally and globally in the ecumenical and interfaith work of justice and peace for all.

Speakers at the Peace Colloquy 2018

Sam Walton (tbc)

Sam Walton is a Quaker working for equality, justice and peace. Sam has worked for years on police violence towards protest and racism. He co-founded the legal support network Green and Black Cross and NetPol, the Network for Police Monitoring. Sam works for Quakers in Britain as a Peace & Disarmament Programme Manager. Sam Walton and Rev. Dan Woodhouse made headlines in January 2017 for breaking into a BAE Systems airbase in Lancashire.

Rev. Dan Woodhouse

With a heart for community and activism, Rev. Daniel Woodhouse is a newly ordained Methodist Minister currently serving in Leeds. Community and activism, with a focus on anti-arms, became central to his faith in his late teens/early twenties. Then, generally finding a frustrating lack of both in the church, formed a large part of his call to ordained ministry. He now lives in a small community house in Leeds whilst serving three Methodist Churches.

Silvia De Michelis

Silvia De Michelis is a PhD candidate in Peace Studies and International Development at the University of Bradford's Faculty of Social Sciences. Her research interests include peace journalism, human security, international relations and the responsibility to protect. Her research explores the role of conflict reporting within the context of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, with a particular focus on the case of Libya. Silvia has co-edited a book on peace journalism and has served as the editor of 'Peace, Conflict and Development: An Interdisciplinary Journal'.

Daniel Kirkpatrick

Daniel is a Lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent, specialising in the role of law in conflict. He holds a Kent 50th Anniversary PhD Scholarship and is supervised by Professor Feargal Cochrane and Dr Harmonie Toros. Previously Daniel received a Bachelor's degree in Politics and International Relations (First Class) from the University of Kent before going on to work in donor research for a charity and then as a Parliamentary Caseworker with the UK Parliament. His research focuses on criminalisation policies in South Africa and Northern Ireland in regards to their relationship with conflict analysis theories.

Christopher P Davey

Christopher P Davey is a PhD researcher in Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. His current research seeks to examine the narratives and fluidity of identities in genocide, focusing on the Congolese War of Liberation from 1996 to 1997. This research aims to contribute to how we frame actors in multiple cases of genocide, and offer another case study of postcolonial genocide in Africa. He occasionally teaches for both the University of Leeds and the University Bradford. Current research interests also include legacies of British empire and genocide.

Karen Wade

Karen Graham Wade, who currently serves as a Community of Christ World Service Corps volunteer to the British Isles, recently retired following a long career as a history museum professional in Southern California. In her new volunteer position, Karen has helped establish a British Isles Mission Centre History Team and serves as a consultant to the European Peace Team, focusing on the history of peace throughout Christianity and the Restoration Movement. Karen also is president of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation board of directors, an affiliate organization of the world church that helps support church-owned historic sites.

Sandee Gamet

Sandee Gamet was the Peacebuilding minister for Community of Christ from 1999-2015. As Peacebuilding minister she was responsible for providing training in the areas of conflict resolution and mediation. Sandee Gamet holds a bachelor of arts in music education from Graceland College, Lamoni, Iowa. She also has over 500 hours of training in conflict resolution and mediation. She has a graduate certificate in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University and Master of Arts in Religion from Graceland University. In retirement, she continues to volunteer as a consultant and trainer in peacebuilding ministries for Community of Christ, currently a World Service Corp volunteer in Europe.

Saturday Seminar Series: Peace is possible through...

Jesus was a nonviolent resister and a victim of Empire. It could be argued that all of Jesus' activities and those of his early followers were aimed at countering the logic and violence of Empire. Today, you will hear of 8 different topics related to the nonviolent pursuit of peace. In today's world, how can you as an agent of peace create community with those around you while at the same time challenge the logic of Empire? In what ways can Community of Christ sacraments assist you in this endeavour?

Seminar presentations (45 minutes, including questions and answers)

Questions to help the presenter engage participants with the topic

1. Why is this topic relevant to the pursuit of peace? In what ways can it inform a practice of nonviolence?
2. What are key concepts that pertain to this topic that seminar participants may take away from your presentation?
3. What might be the practical applications of these key concepts to a life in community dedicated to the pursuit of peace?
4. In what ways does an understanding of this topic help us counter the violences and the many expressions of domination in the world today (i.e. the logic of Empire)?

Short facilitated discussion after speaker's presentation followed by a Q and A session

1. What are your responses to what you have heard from the speaker today? Discuss in groups of two.
2. Do you have any questions about what you have heard today? Discuss in groups of two.

Facilitated discussions (45 minutes, including a short presentation of one of the eight Community of Christ sacrament)

Short presentation of a sacrament in Community of Christ and its applicability to the pursuit of peace, followed by questions to explore the countercultural nature of Community of Christ sacraments

Discussion in smaller groups of 5 to 8:

1. Do you see links between the sacrament and the peace theme presented? If so, which ones?
2. Does this way of looking at this sacrament resonate with you?
3. In what ways are we called through this sacrament to the pursuit of peace? In what ways can this sacrament help us resist violences and domination in the world today (the logic of Empire)? Be practical in your response.
4. With this understanding, how would you now go about preparing for this sacrament? Be practical in your response.
5. How can you help your community deepen their understanding of the potential countercultural meaning of a sacrament? Be practical in your response.