

Peace

- Revd John Marshall

Twice upon a time Maggie and I have been to Berlin. Once we went into the great department store in the main shopping street. There I made the acquaintance of a wonderful ice cream machine, and two elderly German ladies. I had a little difficulty with the machine, but I chose banana ice cream and the ladies helped me – unfortunately I had a great deal of difficulty in finding the stop control. Eventually we found it. Much to my surprise they sold it by weight. However it was delicious.

We crossed the road and found a haven; it was the Kaiser-Wilhelm Gedachniskirche, the Emperor Wilhelm memorial church – the memorial for those who lost their lives in the wars, and a place of reconciliation.

We went into the modern, octagonal hall of worship with its stunning, brilliant, blue glass windows – and were able to reflect and pray. For Maggie it also brought memories of Charles church which stands open to the skies in the centre of Plymouth, as a war memorial.

On our second visit, we walked around the Memorial to the murdered European Jews. It consists of 2711 sarcophagi like concrete columns, and you can join it at any point and reflect and remember. We were able to think back to our visits to Auschwitz.

Of course we were reminded of these events on the 8th May.

Jesus came to the disciples. “Jesus came and stood among them and said “Peace be with you”. John 20.19

When he was born the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.” Luke 2.14

And that reminds us of the time we were warmly welcomed to Lutheran churches at Christmas in Hanover – and that is another story.

Song: Deep Peace a Gaelic Blessing

– you can listen to it here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eve2y-P-Zjk>

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ to you