



from Garth...

## In the Heart of Europe



Gill and I have been to Switzerland for a couple of gigs and a meeting up with friends in mid October. We were hosted by very good and longtime friends Ben and Barbara Jakob. We first met Ben and Barbara at a Christian Festival in Davos almost 50 years ago!! I was singing a few songs and Ben was playing trumpet in the brass band! Since then we've kept in touch and Ben has periodically organised gigs for me. This trip was part gigs and part holiday. We started with a Home Concert - normally I've

not done these but this one had the advantage of a fantastic view of the Alps out of their lounge window!

## Sightseeing in Zurich

Then we spent a couple of days sightseeing in Zurich. We spent time on Lake Zurich - even spotting Tina Turner's house - she lives right on the lake!

## Chagall Windows - pause, ponder and pray



We went to various churches including The Fraumünster Church, where the stained glass windows in the choir are by Marc Chagall - he only started stained glass painting at the age of 70. Pablo Picasso said of him, "**He must have an angel in his head.**"

It was a very inspiring place to pause and ponder and pray.

Also we visited Zwingli's church - 'the architect of the Swiss reformation'. An inscription at Grossmünster reads, "In this house of God Zwingli's Reformation took its start."

Here we had the opportunity to light candles and sit quietly.

## The Road From Eiken to Davos

Next we were driven up to **Davos Wolfgang**.

*Travelling on the road from Eiken to Davos*

*Watching all the beauty of the mountains and the trees  
I see the rivers and the green slopes around them  
The beauty of creation seems to speak to me*

*It speaks to me of peace that has no ending  
It speaks to me of beauty that is true  
It speaks to me of laughter and a world full of meaning  
But most of all it speaks to me of you*

Somewhere around '73 or '74 I started doing a summer chaplaincy at an Anglican Church up in Davos - about 50 yards from where the World Economic Forum is held, though that wasn't happening then. We were allowed to stay in the flat attached to the church if I did the Sunday services - and I even ran a small youth group! The song Eiken to Davos was written because we broke down in a little place called Eiken near Basel - I hadn't realised how small Eiken was but once I'd written the song I found Swiss people asking me "Where is Eiken?"! **As a family we have many happy memories of those trips and the song resulted in various invitations to go and sing in Switzerland.**



On this trip we were meeting up with a friend from those days, Kathy Brunner, who used to look after the church. It was great to meet with her and four other members of the family, Max, Sarah, Joanne and Katie. Kathy lives in a beautiful place called Davos Wolfgang, and she took us for a walk round their local lake which you can see from the photo is very beautiful.

It was nice to be singing the song **The Road From Eiken to Davos** again - Ben who was my translator had translated it into German, so I'll put a little bit of that at the end of the newsletter. As I enjoyed the revival of this song so much, Isobel has made a video of it, beautifully put together with photos of our trip - taken by Gill, and Ben Jacob - which **you can see on YouTube here**

**When we posted this on Facebook I was delighted to get some lovely**

responses from people who remembered those times and were actually in that youth group!

## **Dona Nobis Pacem - Grant Us Peace**



*Reformed Church of St George, Scuol*

After our visit with Kathy Brunner, Kathy put us on a train to Scuol down near the Italian border. We stayed at a hotel in Scuol that night and then Ben and Barbara took us for a sightseeing walk in the town, and as we crossed a bridge over a river we caught sight of the beautiful Reformed Church of St George. **St George, from Lydda in Palestine, is traditionally seen as healer, reconciler and protector.**

We came round on our walk to the church and went inside - we were the only ones in the church and Ben and Barbara stood in front of the altar and sang 'Dona Nobis Pacem' - Grant Us Peace. **In that quiet and beautiful setting it was inspiring to hear the prayer for peace in our wounded world of conflict, climate change, and muddle.** Barbara then asked me if I would sing The Road From Eiken to Davos - it was the first time I'd sung it on this trip and in that beautiful place with wonderful acoustics I found it a very special moment.

Next we went up a ski lift and experienced the grandeur of the mountains, snow on the top but no snow yet for skiing.

Then it was time to be heading back through the mountains to go back to Zurich. **It**

**was on this part of the journey that I felt so conscious that we were at the heart of Europe.** We left Scuol, close to Italy, then we were driving close to the mountains of Austria, then Lichtenstein, and then past Lake Constance with Germany on the other side.

**It was a joy to be in the heart of Europe with its beauty and its history.**

## **The Pastor Played the Dobro**

The final and main concert of the trip was not far from Zurich, in Egg Reformed Church. I had chatted with Matthias Staubli, Pastor of the church, earlier in the week, and discovered that he played the Dobro, and so we asked him if he would play along for a couple of the more country numbers - he was superb and the Dobro is such a nice sound - it's basically a form of slide guitar used in Bluegrass and Country. He joined me for the new song 'Standing Against Apartheid', and you can see a video clip of that [on Facebook here](#)

The song is sparked off by words of Palestinian Clergy who came into Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem, to stand with those being ethnically cleansed. The chorus contains the words of support said by the clergy.

***Justice and only justice***

***Is the only way to peace***

***The only way to hope***

***Is through the door of justice***

Chorus:

***We're standing against apartheid***

***Standing up for justice***

***Standing for equality***

***Standing against apartheid***

***All are made in the image of God***

***So we're standing against apartheid***

The whole concert was a wonderful end to the week. The clip above cuts off before the applause - the warmth of that applause was remarkable - perhaps that was because the audience hadn't known their pastor played the Dobro!

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### **Following up on my last newsletter...**

you can see my interview with Michael Spath of the Indiana Centre For Middle East Peace [on YouTube here](#). Michael asked some excellent questions and our discussion ranged through the place of art in activism, Rosa Parks, the prophet Amos, refugees, Dalits, Elias Chacour, Palestine, and the place of each of us in

bringing hope, healing and justice.

Here's a quote from the interview:

**"Walk the way of caring for the forgotten and the oppressed and you'll make some awfully good friends, and you'll see that life can be a transforming time of encounter, hope, love, justice - all of these good qualities come out of the suffering situations but if you walk by on the other side, you're smaller for that. There's something to do, there's a task to be done."**

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## **Prayer**



**Generous and loving God**

**Thank you for the beauty of your world**

**For the mountains, lakes, trees and rivers**

**And thank you for the beauty of friendship**

**And for the quiet singing for peace**

**In the beautiful church in Scuol**

**At a time when the world has so many wounds.**

**Thank you for times to pause**

**And for the power of your creation to strengthen us**

**As we return to the work each one of us should do**

**Bringing justice, peace and love.**

**Forgive our world for the weapons and the wars**

**For the brutality and injustice**

**We pray for Palestine, Yemen, Ukraine**

**And the other places of conflict**

**Let peace come.**

**And with Remembrance Sunday very much in mind**

**We say these words from the Peace Pledge Union:**

**I pledge to care for our earth with my healing hands**

**I pledge to respect people in each and every land.**

Amen



**Part of the German version of The Road from Eiken to Davos,  
translated by Ben Jacob**

*Auf der Reise von Eiken nach Davos,  
während ich die ganze Schönheit der Berge und Bäume beobachte,  
die Flüsse und die grünen Hänge um mich herum sehe,  
scheint die Schönheit der Schöpfung zu mir zu sprechen.*

*Sie spricht zu mir von Frieden, der kein Ende hat,  
sie spricht zu mir von der wahren Schönheit,  
sie spricht zu mir vom Lachen und einer  
Welt voller Bedeutung, aber vor allem spricht sie zu mir von Dir.*

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## **Concerts**

Garth will be doing a few concerts during Lent and Eastertime 2023 (March & April) - if you would like to host a concert please email [isobel@garthhewitt.org](mailto:isobel@garthhewitt.org) for details

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You can donate to **The Garth Hewitt Foundation here**, and we are gradually making more and more of his music available as MP3 downloads which you can purchase from **the music pages of his website**.



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