

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House
An unapologetic place of social justice and more.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 14, 2010



“The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.”

~ Albert Camus

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House
“Where you are welcome, long before you arrive.”

Since 1888, the doors of this church have been open to those who seek a new way to engage with the Spirit and eat at the welcome table. In those early years, Jan Hus served the needs of the Czech immigrants who founded the church and named it after the martyr Jan Hus. Today, our mission has expanded to include people from many different walks in life who want to share this stage of their journey with others in a God centered community. We continue to honor our Czech founders, however, by singing our closing hymn in the Czech language (it is printed in the bulletin in English as well, so don't be afraid to sing out in English if your Czech is a little rusty).

Worship at Jan Hus is a time for the Body of Christ to affirm God's vision for the world and witness the Gospel of Hope. We believe that God is greater than human language or experience, and to more fully experience our God, we embrace language that acknowledges God the Mother and God the Father. We hold fast to the tenets of the Reformation that call for the priesthood of all believers, therefore ours is a community pulpit, one in which we hear the Scriptures interpreted by both clergy and laity and that allows for a greater reflection of the community as a whole – a diverse expression of the presence of God in each believer and at the core of our collective experience. Sermons are conversations that give us an opportunity to hear how God's voice speaks to each of us. Sermons may invite us into new ways of seeing and hearing God or deepen and affirm those beliefs we hold most true.

It is possible that Jan Hus may seem different than what you expect in church. That's fine – our God loves to challenge us with the unexpected! Please know that you are most welcome here as one who carries within you a piece of the God who loves us all. We are happy to have you with us and thank God for bringing us together on this, the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.



Prelude

Call to Worship

One: We are more than of this world.

Many: We are the stardust of creation and the universe.

One: We live in the condition of humanity

Many: But soar far beyond in the heart of God.

One: This is more than we know.

Many: How grateful we are that there is more than we know!

One: In all the ways we know God and God's heart,

Many: Come, let us worship God together!

* **Hymn 376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Call to Prayer

Unison Prayer (Adapted from the Local Church Ministries of the UCC)

O God, with gladness and expectation, we gather in this space today.

For you are the one who makes all things new.

You are the one who satisfies our hunger and restores our soul.

In this holy space, help us, your daughters and sons,
to know that you always love us.

Through our worship today,

help us to know that if we stray away from you,
you are always ready to receive us with open arms.

Prepare our hearts as we worship you

to welcome and embrace all of your children as you do us.

With gladness and expectation we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Sung Response: Hymn #324

Open my eyes, that I may see

Glimpses of truth Thou has for me

Place in my hands the wonderful key

That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,

Ready my God, Thy will to see;

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The good news is that God sees all we are, accepts us where we are, loves who we are, and offers us a fresh and forgiving Spirit. We can continue our journey together in promise and joy.

Many: **Our thanks and praise to the God of light, and life, and hope!**

One: Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel and your call to serve!

Many: **God's grace dwells in and among us!**

One: Let us greet each other, with a sign of love and peace!

Please offer on another a sign of peace...

Prayer for Illumination

One: Be with us, O God, as we listen to the words of those people whose stories tell the presence of your love and wisdom for all the ages.

Many: **Guide us, O God, in our reflection so that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, in your will discover peace, and in your love find our salvation.**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (The Message)

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you. How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe-the best one-and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Sermon: *Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose...*

*** Hymn 825 God, You Spin the Whirling Planets**

Preparing for the Offering

- One: In this world, someone has too much.
Many: Someone has barely enough, someone has nothing at all.
- One: When we share our commitment and financial support, we act on the imagination of Jesus.
Many: Jesus, who sees enough bread to go around, enough courage to speak the truth, and enough love to overcome all things.
- One: O God, to those of us who have hunger, give bread. And to those of us who have bread, give the hunger for justice.
Many: When the 5,000 were hungry, the disciples came to Jesus and said: "Send the people away, so they may get something to eat."
- One: Jesus answered: "You give them something to eat."

Offertory Music

Blessing the Offering

One: And the people reached in their pockets and pulled out the bread and the fishes and shared them, and there was abundance for all, and even more.

Many: Amen.

Announcements

Prayers of the People

The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us (Unison)

Creator God, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn 294 Wherever I May Wander**

Benediction

Sung Blessing (in English or Czech)

Christians rise and act your creed,
Let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
Raise your work and life anew.
Come then law divine and reign,
Freest faith assailed in vain.
Perfect love, bereft of fear,
born in heaven and radiant here. Amen.

Amen to pozehnani prijdiz na nas vsecky,
Abychom po skonani vesli v raj nebesky,
A tam s angelskou risi, boha take ctilli,
Dejz nam to; o Jezisi, spasitely mily.
Amen.

One: Go in peace to love and serve God!

Many: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Please remember our families, friends, and concerns in your prayers, including:

- For Jean and Maxine (from our prayer board)
- For Iris Moses for freedom from physical pain (from our prayer board)
- For Diane McQuees struggling with cancer (from our prayer board)
- For Albert recovering from heart surgery (from our prayer board)
- Jerry Brody, as he continues to recover from back illness.
- All the soldiers all over the world and their families
- Mona Green, Director of IPS at Jan Hus, recovering well from heart surgery
- The children and their doctors and caregivers at Ronald McDonald House
- The too-many (one is too many) with no permanent housing
- Those who are hungry
- The friends who come to Carter Burden each day
- Those without jobs
- Others you hold dear and in your prayers....



Announcements: Please join us after worship for a light lunch.



Welcome to Analia Alvarez, visiting us from Montevideo, Uruguay.

Please thank Stan and Essie who prepared the sanctuary and light lunch that follows worship, Gina who helps with arrangements and clean-up, and Del for the care and beauty of the flowers that fill our chancel.

Thanks to Stan for setting up the sanctuary and for today's meal.

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| Wed., March 18 | Jan Hus Playhouse Continues with "Kenny and the Virgin Mary;"
Congregation invited! |
| Sunday, March 28 | Palm Sunday; Procession with Epiphany Episcopal Church at
10:30 |
| Thursday, April 1 | Maundy Thursday |
| Friday, April 2 | Good Friday Service, Sanctuary open for Prayer 12 Noon – 3PM |
| Sunday, April 4 | Easter Sunday |
| Sunday, April 11 | 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. Concert/Performance Fundraiser for Haiti Relief |
| Sunday, April 3 | Easter Sunday & Pancake Breakfast |

JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE SESSION

Kerry Flynn, Gary Ireland, Deborah Widerkehr

THE DEACONS

Gina Lee, Essie Rance

THE STAFF

Ministers

Ray Bagnuolo
Herman Brown
Brian Carreira
Drew Paton
David Kelley
Stanley M. Kusz
Christian McLeer
Karl Kamisnki
Jeremiah Frederick
Holly Nedelka
José Reyes
Carol Schachter
Gerard D. Shaw

All the People

Pastor and Head of Staff and Programs
Custodian
HOAP Outreach
HOAP Outreach
Social Worker
Hospitality (Sunday Lunch Preparation)
Music Director
Musician
Musician
Director, Child's Play
Building Superintendent
Church Administrator
Hospitality

THE RESIDENT STAFF

Allison Bombard, Alicia Martin-Schutz,
Gerard D. Shaw

HUSSITE PETS

QT & Madge, Rocket, Allie, Scratches & Marvin's Reptile Friends

8,1,2,7,6,3,4,5