

## Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

An unapologetic place of gospel and social justice.

God, who restores the fortunes of the lost and downtrodden, is continually doing “a new thing” in order to “make a way” where there has been no way. Our calling, is to be a part of this waymaking. We are called to seek and enable the work of restoration – not only a restoration of monetary or physical resources, but a restoration of relationship with the Holy, through service to those in need. This service is not the “throw money at the problem” gesture of mere charity, but the engagement of true justice-seeking. The restored fortune of genuine mutual relationship is the “new thing,” the “prize” we are to achieve in Christ’s name. – *Worship Service, The United Church of Christ.*

### The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 21, 2010



*A desert is a place without expectation. ~Nadine Gordimer*

## 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

\*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so. Page 2



**Call to Worship** (adapted from Isaiah 43:1-21 and Psalm 126 by the UCC)

Leader: Come, Beloved, for the Great Giver has restored your fortunes –

People: Let us tell of abundance as we shout with joy!

Leader: Come, Growers, for the Creator has brought up rivers in the desert –

People: Let us declare our praise as we plant our fields!

Leader: Come, All, for the Righteous One has set a path through the sea –

People: Let us rejoice as we make our journey!

Leader: Come, People of God, for the Holy One has done great things for us!

People: Let us worship God!

\* **Hymn 339 Be Thou My Vision**

**Call to Prayer**

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

We confess, Anointed One, that we sometimes excuse ourselves from reaching out to those who need your care.

We take your words – that there will always be unmet needs – as a reason not to try to meet the needs we can.

Forgive us, and help us to change.

Renew our determination to live

as faithful followers, faithful disciples, faithful Christians.

Faithful to all traditions that come here seeking you.

Help us to work with you for the well-being of a;; your creation,

o that the fortunes of all your peoples may be restored. 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 God's Love & Forgiveness**

One: We, too, are a part of the Way-Maker's will for restoration.

**Many: We are called, through Christ Jesus, to strive for restoration, but we are not called to do this work alone.**

One: The One who has made a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, will surely equip us for all we are asked to do in Christ's name.

**Many: God will empower us to attain all the potential God has placed within us. Thanks be to God!**

**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.**

**First Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

**Sermon:** *The Surpassing Value of Knowing* Ray Bagnuolo

### \* Hymn 18 The Desert Shall Rejoice

#### 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."**

**All: 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 537 Shalom, Chaverim; Farewell Good Friends

#### 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.

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:

- Gina and Dae Yull, just married
- Jane Schofield, starting her new business in Pennsylvania
- Alexandra Saavedra a resident of Ronald McDonald who passed away this week.
- Larry McGill and Jack Hoffmeister, former parishioners that Ray served in Rockland County
- For Marybelle's son Albert
- For all those prayers you bring with you this morning...

**Please join us after worship for a light lunch after worship today!**



**Today's Announcements:**

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.

Sunday, March 28	Palm Sunday; Distribution of Palms; Procession with Epiphany Episcopal Church at 10:30 A.M. in the Epiphany Garden
Thursday, April 1	Maundy Thursday Service and agape meal – 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 2	Good Friday Service, Sanctuary open for Prayer 12 Noon – 3PM
Sunday, April 4	Easter Sunday; Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, April 11	4:00 – 6:00 P.M. Concert/Performance Fundraiser for Haiti Relief

**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	All the People
Ray Bagnuolo	Pastor and Head of Staff and Programs
Herman Brown Custodian	
Brian Carreira HOAP Outreach	
Drew Paton	HOAP Outreach
David Kelley	Social Worker
Stanley M. Kusz	Hospitality (Sunday Lunch Preparation)
Christian McLeer	Music Director
Karl Kamisnki, Jeremiah Frederick	Musicians
Holly Nedelka Director,	Child's Play; <a href="http://www.childsplaynyc.com">www.childsplaynyc.com</a>
José Reyes	Building Superintendent
Carol Schachter	Church Administrator
Gerard D. Shaw	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



Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House  
351 East 74th Street, New York, NY 10021

# Stories of JESUS

## Before & After EASTER

Thursday, April 1 9:30<sub>am</sub> to 11:00<sub>am</sub>  
Monday, April 5

Children of All Ages Welcome!

Egg Coloring Story Time in Our Garden Arts & Crafts

\$20 donation ~ Reservations Required ~ 1.212.879.2019

## Holy Week at JAN HUS Church

Full schedule available at [www.JanHus.org](http://www.JanHus.org)

Easter Sunday, April 4 ~ Celebration Worship at 11:00am  
Fellowship and light lunch follows