

## Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

An unapologetic place of gospel and social justice.

The disciples, seeing Jesus with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as God has sent me, I send you."

### The Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 11, 2010



The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong  
~ Mahatma Gandhi

Know all and you will pardon all.

~ Thomas A'Kempis

## 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**

Leader: Believe.

People: Help us with our un-belief.

Leader: Forgive.

People: Help us with our unwillingness to do so.

Leader: Love.

People: Fill us with the love we need to believe and forgive.

Leader: Come, as you are, seeking God's presence to continue to grow.

People: In search of these things and more, in praise and song, let us worship God together.

### **\* Hymn 108 Christ is Alive!**

### **Call to Prayer**

#### **Unison Prayer**

Could it be that to first forgive one another, at some level, in some way, we first need to forgive God? Would that be so strange, considering the ways in which we all suffer or watch others go through ordeals and tragedies? Who among us has not asked or thought, "God, how could you let that happen?" Maybe for some of us, forgiveness starts at the top. It starts with knowing that such things are never tests. In fact, it is God who suffers with and beside us. Perhaps, if we move closer to God in the times we wish to move away, perhaps we will find the friend who is always with us in joy, sadness, and in between. It's worth a try. Just think of it. Maybe, just maybe, we actually have the ability to comfort one another – including God. There's a thought and a prayer.

#### **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 the forgivers...

**Many: Jesus call us to forgive, as much as we seek forgiveness.**

One: It is true...serenity and peace...are never fulfilled when forgiveness is incomplete.

**Many: So let us seek forgiveness in full and peace in abundance, and let it begin now...**

### ***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: Book of Revelation Chapter 1 Verses 4 – 8**

I, John, am writing this to the seven churches in Asia province:

All the best to you from THE GOD WHO IS, THE GOD WHO WAS, AND THE GOD ABOUT TO ARRIVE, and from the Seven Spirits assembled before his throne, and from Jesus Christ – Loyal Witness, Firstborn from the dead, Ruler of all earthly things.

Glory and strength to Jesus, who loves us,  
who washed our sins from our lives,

Who made us equal, all of us priests,  
forever – and yes, he is on his way!

Riding the clouds, he'll be seen by every eye,  
those who mocked and killed him,

People from all nations and all times  
will tear their clothes in lament.

Oh, yes!

He will say: "I'm A to Z. The Alpha and the Omega. I'm THE GOD WHO IS, THE GOD WHO WAS, AND THE GOD ABOUT TO ARRIVE. I'm the Sovereign-Strong."

Gospel Reading: The Book of John Chapter 20 Verses 19 – 31

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, being in fear, had locked all the doors to the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing Jesus with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as God has sent me, I send you.”

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them? Much better to forgive.”

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw Jesus.”

But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”

Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

Sermon: Much better to forgive Ray Bagnuolo

\* Hymn 341 Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

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:
- Sandra Liu and other children being cared for as they struggle with cancer, blessed with the many fine doctors of the area’s hospital and The Ronald McDonald House, which make it possible for families to be together during this time.
  - Jane Schofield, starting her new business in Pennsylvania
  - Larry McGill and Jack Hoffmeister, Karen Consolini
  - 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:***

Please thank Stan and Essie who prepared the sanctuary and light lunch that follows worship, Del for the care and beauty of the flowers that fill our chancel, and Analia and Brian for their help this morning.

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| Today at 4:00 P.M. | Please join us for our Haiti Relief Fundraiser, see flyer for more information!   |
| Sunday, April 25   | Composer’s Voice Concert – Free! 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.   |
| Wednesday, 4/28    | Chamber Music Concert to Benefit Jan Hus Presbyterian Church Ministry to the Poor and Homeless. 7:30 P.M. at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church at Madison and 73 <sup>rd</sup> . See insert. |

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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	Stated Supply Pastor
Herman Brown	Custodian
Brian Carreira	HOAP Outreach
Amy Conley	Volunteer Coordinator
Drew Paton	HOAP Outreach
David Kelley	Social Worker
Stanley M. Kusz	Hospitality (Sunday Lunch Preparation)
Christian McLeer	Music Director
Karl Kamiski, 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, & Marvin’s Reptile Friends

**If you have clothing you are able to donate, we welcome your generosity.  
We are especially in need of men’s clothing for our outreach program.  
Clothing is always given away without any charge. Always. Tax forms  
available.**

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