

## Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

An unapologetic place of gospel and social justice.

### The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 1, 2010



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#### Meditation

“On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of the conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake some day and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.”

(Teaching a Stone to Talk, Harper & Row, 1982)

## 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**

### **Welcome and Gathering**

#### **Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

One: This is a place where we come to lose...

Many: To let go of our burdens at the foot of the cross.

One: To lose our pride that needs to be shed...

Many: To release the anger that cannot go with us when we leave.

One: This is a place where the tension of the world meets worship...

Many: Let us go further and release it all to the Love of God.

All: Come. Let us sing and pray together. Amen.

#### **\* Hymn 376 Love Divine, All Love Excelling**

##### **Call to Prayer**

##### **Unison Prayer** *If You Look At The Stars<sup>2</sup>*

Praise Me, says God, and I will know that you love me.

Curse Me, says God, and I will know that you love me.

Praise Me or Curse Me.

And I will know that you love me.

Sing out My graces, says God.

Raise your fist against Me and revile, says God,

Sing out graces or revile,

Reviling is also a kind of praise, says God.

But if you sit fenced off in your apathy, says God,

If you sit entrenched in, "I don't give a hang," says God,

If you look at the stars and yawn,

If you see suffering and don't cry out,

If you don't praise and don't revile,

Then I created you in vain, says God.

<sup>1</sup> Lindvall, Michael L. *A Geography of God*. Variation on comments about worship.

<sup>2</sup> Zeitlin, Aaron. In *Siddur Hadash: Worship, Study, and Song for Sabbath*

## **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 one 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 21:1-6**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

**Gospel Reading: Gospel of John 13:31-35**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Sermon:** *Life Preservers and Flares...* Ray Bagnuolo

\* **Hymn 358** **Help Us Accept Each Other**

**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.

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion & Invitation to the Lord's Table**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*One* The Lord be with you. \_\_\_\_\_ *All* And al - so with you. \_\_\_\_\_ *One* Lift  
 up your hearts. \_\_\_\_\_ *All* We lift them up to the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ *One* Let us give  
 thanks to the Lord our God. *All* It is right to give our thanks and praise. \_\_\_\_\_

**One:** It is right, and it is good, and it is joyful to give thanks to you, God of mystery and miracle. And so we sing your praise, joining our voices to all who sing on earth and to the whole company of heaven:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow-er and might. \_\_\_\_\_ Heav-en and  
 earth are full of your glo - - ry. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_ Blest is the  
 one who comes \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_

**All:** Remembering him, we take this bread and wine, Gifts of the good earth, Offering ourselves as a sacrifice of praise, While we sing for joy:

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_

**One:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on your children gathered here and on these gifts bread and wine of earth to body and blood of heaven... our frail flesh and blood to your holy people, that we might show Christ to your world.

**All:** By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes once again and we feast at his heavenly table.

**Words of Institution**

**Blessing the Elements**

**Sharing of the Elements - All are invited.** *We pass the elements to each other, saying: "The bread of life," and "the cup of blessing." We dip the bread in the cup.*

**Prayer after Communion (Unison)**

Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and to all people, glorifying you in everything we do and say, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Installation of Gary Ireland as Elder on Session

Moderator: There are different gifts,

**People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

Moderator: There are different ways of serving God,

**People: But it is the same God who is served.**

Moderator: God works through different persons in different ways.

**People: But it is the same God who achieves the divine purpose through them all.**

Moderator: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

**People: To use for the common good.**

Moderator: Together, we are the Body of Christ,

**People: And individually, members of Christ.**

Moderator: Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of hope and reconciliation led by Jesus. We work and pray to make Christ's church useful in the world, and we call women and men to faith, so that God may be glorified.

Within our common ministry, some members are chosen for particular work as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Elders, or Deacons. In ordination, we recognize these special ministries, remembering that Jesus said: "Whoever among you wants to be great must become the servant of all, and whoever wants to be first among you, must be last."

Elder: Mr. Moderator, speaking for the people of the Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, I bring forward Gary Ireland to be installed as Elder.

Moderator: Gary, God has called you by the voice of the Church to serve in a special way. You know who we are and what we believe; having served faithfully before as Elder; you understand the work for which you have been chosen.

Do you trust in Jesus and acknowledge him as the head of the church, and, through him, believe in One God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer?

**Gary: I do.**

Moderator: Do you accept the Scriptures of the First and Second Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, a unique and authoritative witness to Jesus in the church universal and God's Word to you?

**Gary: I do.**

Moderator: Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed Faith as expressed in the Confessions of our church and will you be instructed and led by them as you lead the people of God?

**Gary: I do.**

Moderator: Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus, under the authority of Scripture and continually guided by our Confessions?

**Gary: I will.**

Moderator: Do you endorse our church's government within the bounds of your conscience, and will you honor its discipline accordingly? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

**Gary: I do and I will.**

Moderator: Will you, in your own life, seek to follow the teachings of Jesus, love your neighbor, and work for reconciliation of the world?

**Gary: I will.**

Moderator: Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church with the message of the Good News of Jesus?

**Gary: I do.**

Moderator: Do you acknowledge that by being installed in Jan Hus Presbyterian Church you are called to serve in a More Light congregation that, in obedience to the teachings of Jesus, abides by a covenant of dissent on Amendment B: G-6.0106b and that you will serve in a congregation that welcomes all its members into full partnership?

**Gary: I do.**

Moderator: Will you be a faithful Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship and instruction? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in the courts of the church, and, in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus?

**Gary: I will**

**People: Jesus came not to be served, but to serve, and calls us to give our life to set others free. And, let us sing!**

**\*Hymn #319 Spirit v. 1 & 3**

**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 (Closing Music)**

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***Please Join Us for Fellowship & a Light Lunch Following Worship***

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

- For those who write and enforce laws that make how you appear reason enough to stop and question you.
- For those who plumb this planet for resources and the consequences of practicing atrophy.
- For the desperation of being without a home and the tension and pressure that builds when living under oppressed and marginalized and sub-human conditions.
- For this congregation and its mission.
- For you and the prayers you bring with you this morning.

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**Announcements**

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

Thanks to The Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church for hosting a Chamber Music Concert to benefit the work of our outreach program! What an amazing night!

Thanks to The Brick Presbyterian Church and their Day of Discipleship team for our "new" patio and all the work they did on Saturday. What an amazing sight!

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

**Sunday, June 6      More Light Sunday**

**JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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THE SESSION: Kerry Flynn, Gary Ireland, Deborah Widerkehr

THE DEACONS: 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 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, Gerard D. Shaw

INTERN: Analia Alvarez

HUSSITE PETS : QT & Madge, Rocket, Allie, & Marvin's Reptile Friends