

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

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times
Sunday, August 8, 2010



“What is at work here is the longing for that *rightness* which, in religious or philosophical vision, is experienced as revelation or idea, and which of its very nature cannot be realized in the individual, but only in human community.”

~ Martin Buber, German religious philosopher, *Paths in Utopia*, P. 7.

Prelude

Call to Worship (Variation on Psalm 50)

- One: God speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- Many: **In the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**
- One: “I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine,” says God.
- Many: **Call on me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you, and you, by your witness, shall let others know of me.**
- One: So, from sunrise to sunset, in the beauty and perfection of God, in deliverance and jubilation, let us trust in God and join with one another in worship and praise.
- All: **Let us lift our hearts and voices! Come, let us worship God together.**

* Hymn 267 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Call to Prayer: A Time of Confession (In Unison)

“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see.”¹ “By faith, we understand, if we are to understand at all, that the madness and lostness we see all around us and within us are not the last truth about the world but only the next to last truth... Faith is the eye of the heart, and by faith we see deep down beneath the face of things – by faith we struggle against all odds to be able to see – that the world is God’s creation even so. It is God who made us and not we ourselves, made us out of God’s peace to live in peace, out of God’s light to dwell in light, out of God’s love to be above all things loved and loving. That is the last truth about the world.”² Forgive us when we forget this last truth, so that we may renew our faith and trust in you and above all to know your love and be loving to all who come our way. For that and more, we pray for your help. Please.

¹ Eugene Peterson’s Translation. This morning’s reading from Hebrews.

² Frederick Buechner. From his book: *Secrets in the Dark: A Life in Sermons*.

Silent Prayers

Sung Response: Hymn #322

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me.
Mold me.
Fill Me. Use Me.
Spirit of the living God Fall afresh on me.

Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

One: We have asked for faith and trust, for peace and light, for love and *lovingness* and to have removed that which blocks their way to us.

Many: **Your forgiveness opens the space in each of us for such gifts to rush in on the wings of your great spirit. Forgiven? Yes. We are forgiven, indeed, and welcome your spirit and peace!**

Passing of the Peace

Let us offer one another a greeting and sign of this forgiveness and 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: Hebrews 11:1-2; 8-16

Faith in What We Don't See

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see.

By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise. Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God. By faith, barren Sarah was able to become pregnant, old woman as she was at the time, because she believed the One who made a promise would do what the One said. That's how it happened that from one man's dead and shriveled loins there are now people numbering into the millions.

Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that—heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them.

Gospel Reading: Luke 12: 32 – 40

"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way God works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how God works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! God wants to give you the very kingdom itself.

"Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bank robbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

"Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their employers to come back from their honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when they arrive and knock. Lucky the employees whom the employer finds on watch! The owner will put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing the wedding feast with them. It doesn't matter what time of the night the owner arrives; the employees are awake—and so blessed!

You know that if the house owner had known what night the burglar was coming, the owner wouldn't have stayed out late and left the place unlocked. So don't you be lazy and careless. Just when you don't expect it, the Son of Man will show up."

Sermon: *We're Already Home!* Ray Bagnuolo

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)

Our Mother/Father, 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.

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!

* Hymn 540 **God Be With You Till We Meet Again**

Postlude (Closing Music)

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

- Working for peace and an end to war
- Reeling from the effects of disasters – human-made and natural
- Struggling with addiction and denial
- Praying for relief from depression and despair
- Caring for elderly member of their families...
- Not ready for help, yet...
- Your prayers, all...

Announcements:

Please thank Essie, Stan, and Brian for preparing the sanctuary and this morning’s light refreshments. Also, please thank Del for the care of the flowers that fill our chancel and around the rest of our building.

Congratulations to Elaine Connolly soon to be ordained and installed as pastor!

Ordination will take place at Jan Hus Church. The tentative date is Sunday, September 26th at around 4:00 P.M. All are invited!

Sunday, August 22 nd	Annie Rawlings, Guest Preacher
Sunday, August 29 th	Drew Paton, Guest Preacher
Sunday, August 29 th	Composer’s Voice! Vox Novus, in collaboration with Remarkable Theatre Brigade and Jan Hus Church presents <i>Composer’s Voice Concert Series Vision of Sound, A Concert of Live Music and Dance</i> . 1:00 P.M. Admission is free. Donations of clothing to accepted!
Monday, September 6 th	Labor Day. All church offices will be closed. The church will be open for all 12-Step meetings.
September 8 th – 10 th	Rosh Hashanah: Beginning of the Jewish New Year
September 17 th – 18 th	Yom Kippur: The day God forgave the Jewish people for the sin of the Golden Calf, known as the Day of Atonement and the most solemn day of the Jewish year.
Sunday, September 19 th	Homecoming! If you would like to participate in plans for our homecoming celebration, please let Ray know.
Membership Classes:	If you would like to become a member of Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, please let Ray know. We are planning our membership classes for the fall. If you’d like more information, see Ray or any other member of the church.

JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where you are welcome, long before you arrive."

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THE SESSION: Elaine Connolly, Kerry Flynn, Gary Ireland,
 Annie Rawlings, Dell Shorter, Deborah Widerkehr

THE DEACONS: Essie Rance

THE STAFF

Ministers	All the People
Ray Bagnuolo	Stated Supply Pastor
Herman Brown	Custodian
Brian Careira	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; www.childsplaynyc.com
José Reyes	Building Superintendent
Carol Schachter	Church Administrator
Gerard D. Shaw	Hospitality

THE RESIDENT STAFF Allison Bombard, Gerard D. Shaw

HUSSITE PETS : QT & Madge, Roc-qui & Bizou + 4, Allie, & Marvin’s Reptile Friends