

Mystery
Birth of a Baby
Changes the World
Could Such a Mystery
Be so True

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2010



Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

First Sunday of Advent:	Hope
Second Sunday of Advent:	Peace
Third Sunday of Advent:	Joy
Fourth Sunday of Advent:	Love
Christmas	Light of the World

Call to Worship

One: We are closer now.

All: It seemed easier to wait, earlier, when the time was not so near.

One: Patience. Be still. Know God is here.

All: Yes, breathe, be present, and let our hearts be lifted in praise and song.

All: Come. Let us worship God together.

Hymn #1 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

It's easy to be suspicious, to question, to wonder about motives – in ourselves and others. “Be careful,” we're told from childhood. “Look for proof.” “Don't believe everything you hear; believe what you see with your own eyes.”

What about the eyes of the heart? How do we explain the longing for Christmas, let alone believe it. What do we do when the eyes of our heart tell us it is so, and the world tells us, “No.”

Perhaps this is why the Baby Jesus is remembered as much as all of what Jesus did in his time on earth and since. When we see a newborn, we believe – again. It's just the way it is – but not by accident.

So, forgive us God, when we see things as accidents, coincidences, insisting, needing the proof; when we forget to believe in *you* enough to believe in others, even after their newborn hours are long passed.

We pray for reconciliation in these days and weeks, if not directly, then through you. We pray to you. We pray to let it be so. Amen.

Silent Prayer for Reconciliation

Sung Response: Hymn # 339 (verse 1)

Be thou my vision, O God of my heart
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night.
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Blessed are you, God, ruler of all, creator of light and darkness.
In this holy season, as the sun's light seems swallowed up
by the growing darkness of night, we are assured of your ever-present
radiance and forgiveness. We are forgiven and blessed, indeed. Amen

***The Passing of the Peace**

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover our peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord and in all the ways you are known. Amen.

First Reading: And excerpt from *Peculiar Treasures* by Frederick Buechner

“She struck the angel Gabriel as hardly old enough to have a child at all, let alone this child, but he'd been entrusted with a message to give her and he gave it. He told her what the child was to be named, and who he was to be, and something about the mystery that was to come upon her. ‘You mustn't be afraid, Mary,’ he said. And as he said it, he only hoped she wouldn't notice that beneath the great, golden wings, he himself was trembling with fear to think that the whole future of creation hung now on the answer of a girl.”

The Gospel of Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel had commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Provocation *Looking for Angels* Ray Bagnuolo

Hymn #47 **Still, Still, Still**

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

Please remember...

Jerry Brody;

the family of Catherine Hooper;

those who struggle in the midst of oppression;

those who find comfort in lies and bigotry;

those denied, again, by lack of immigration reform;

the advance in civil rights by the repeal of DADT;

all those who travel or not;

those whose hearts have chilled and are waiting to be warmed...

your prayers...

The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us (In 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.

Hymn 584 (Insert): I Am the Light of the World

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,
Freed 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.

Blessing:

One: Go out into the world to love and serve God and God's people. Cherish all the members of God's family. Go with peace in your hearts, find peace in your lives, make peace in the world.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude (Closing Music)

Please join us for our fellowship meal following the Postlude.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 19: Fourth Sunday in Advent
Friday, Dec. 24: 6:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Day 10:30 A.M. Morning Christmas Service
Sunday, Dec. 26 11:00 A.M. Worship

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

Since 1888, the doors of this church have been open to those who seek a new way to engage with the Spirit and share at the table Jesus has set for us all. In those early years, Jan Hus served the needs of the Czech immigrants who founded the church and named it after the Czech reformer and martyr Jan Hus.

Today, our mission has expanded to include people from many different walks in life; people who want to share this stage of their journey with others in a God centered community. We continue to honor our Czech founders, as well, by singing our closing hymn in the Czech language each Sunday.

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 the wonder of 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 shared pulpit. This is a place in which we hear the Scriptures interpreted by clergy and laity, alike, reflecting our congregation and community as a diverse expression of the presence of God in each believer. We strive for sermons that are conversations which give us an opportunity to hear how God's voice speaks to each of us. Often, we are invited into new ways of seeing and hearing God, deepening and affirming those beliefs we hold most true.

It is possible that Jan Hus may seem different than what you expect in church, for surely God loves to challenge us all with the unexpected!

However you may find us, please know that you are most welcome here as one who carries within you the Spirit of God who loves us all. *Namasthe!*



Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

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

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THE SESSION: Kerry Flynn, Gary Ireland,
Annie Rawlings, Del Shorter, Deborah Widerkehr

THE DEACONS: Essie Rance

THE STAFF

Ministers	All the People
Ray Bagnuolo	Stated Supply Pastor
Amy Conley	Volunteer Coordinator, HOAP Outreach
Drew Paton	Pastoral Assistant, HOAP Outreach
David Kelley	Social Worker
Stanley M. Kusz	Hospitality & Building Support
Edmund Leary	HOAP Outreach
Jimmy Ortiz	Part-time Building Manager
Walter Marcus	Custodian/Helper
Christian McLeer	Music Director
Karl Kaminski, Jeremiah Frederick	Musicians
Holly Nedelka, Director	Child's Play; www.childsplaynyc.com
Carol Schachter	Church Administrator
Gerard D. Shaw	Hospitality

THE RESIDENT STAFF: Lily Grecco, Albert Linares, Marvin Ramirez, Essie Rance, Annie Rawlings, Sara Renstron, Juan Reyes, Frank Rocco, Gerard D. Shaw

HUSSITE PETS: Philpot, Madge, **Sam**, Bisou, Rocket Man, Spark Man, Lincoln, Besse Mae Mucho, Cadeau, Allie, & Marvin's Reptile Friends →

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

