

Christmas, Always



“Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.”

~Francis de Sales

Prelude

Gathering & 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: Here. Christmas is now, present, as always. Here.
- All: **Breathe deeply of mystery of Christmas. Breathe.**

- One: The presence of God inhales with us, inviting us in...
- All: **We enter, willingly. We become one in the Spirit of God filling the universe through the birth of the child named Jesus**

- One: Here. In the invitation and the breath, in the mystery and wonder we rest.
- All: **We rest in the Presence of Christmas, filled with the light and promise of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.**

- All: **All, let us give thanks and be Christmas, and let us worship this great and diverse God together.**

Hymn #47 *Still, Still, Still* (Verses 1, 2)

Still, Still, Still

47

STILL, STILL, STILL 3.6.9.8.3.6

Austrian carol
Trans. George K. Evans (b. 1917)

Austrian melody
Arr. Walter Ehret (b. 1918)

E \flat E \flat maj7 Cm Cm7 Fm B \flat 7 E \flat

1. Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill! The
2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slum - ber deep While

B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat

Vir - gin's ten - der arms en - fold - ing, Warm and safe the Child are hold - ing.
an - gel hosts from heav - en come wing - ing, Sweet - est songs of joy are sing - ing.

E \flat E \flat maj7 Cm Cm7 Fm B \flat 7 E \flat

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slum - ber deep.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

First Lesson: From Genesis 3

When they heard the sound of GOD strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from GOD.

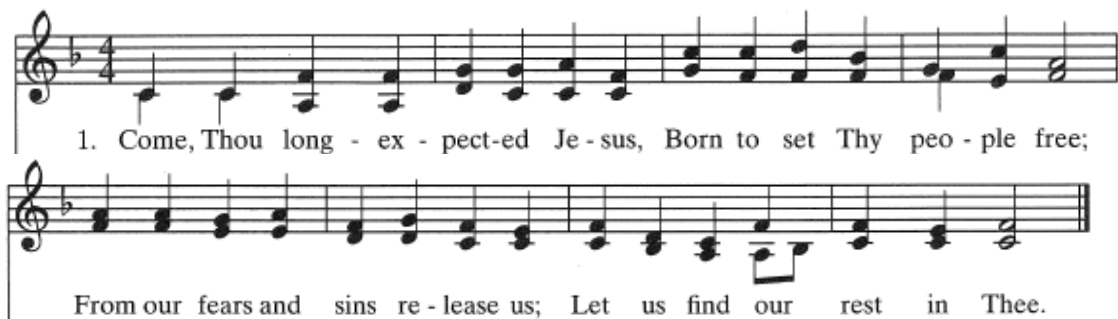
GOD called to the Man: "Where are you?"

He said, "I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid."

GOD said, "Who told you you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?"

Reflection: How do we clothe ourselves in ways to hide from God? Whatever would make us think we could do such a thing?

Hymn # 1: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



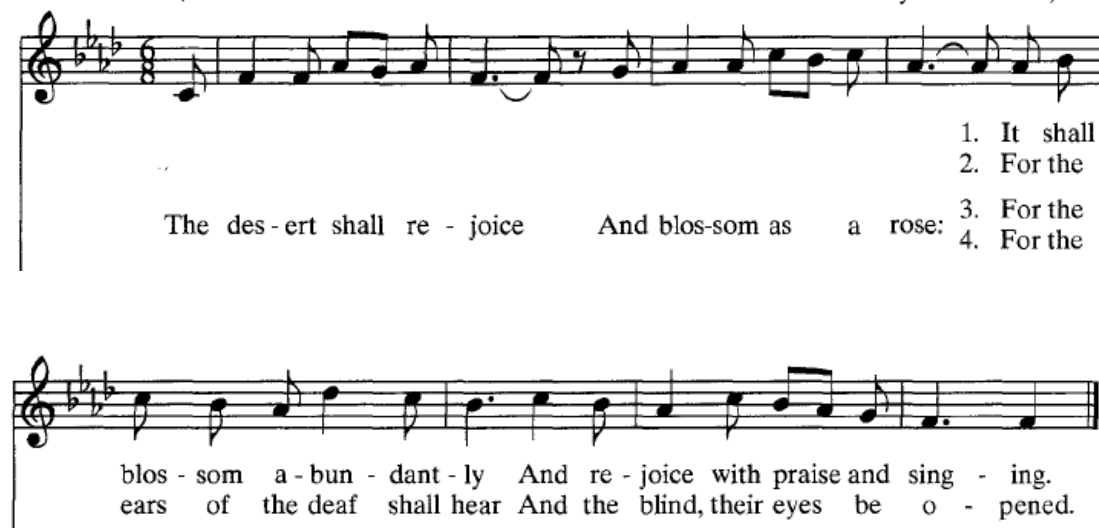
1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

Second Lesson: From Genesis 22

The angel of GOD spoke from Heaven a second time to Abraham: "I swear—GOD's sure word!—because you have gone through with this, and have not refused to give me your son, your dear, dear son, I'll bless you—oh, how I'll bless you! And I'll make sure that your children flourish—like stars in the sky! like sand on the beaches! And your descendants will defeat their enemies. All nations on Earth will find themselves blessed through your descendants because you obeyed me."

Reflection: How often are we willing to give without a reward in sight? To what lengths are we willing to go to be faithful?

Hymn # 18: The Desert Shall Rejoice (Verses 1, 2)



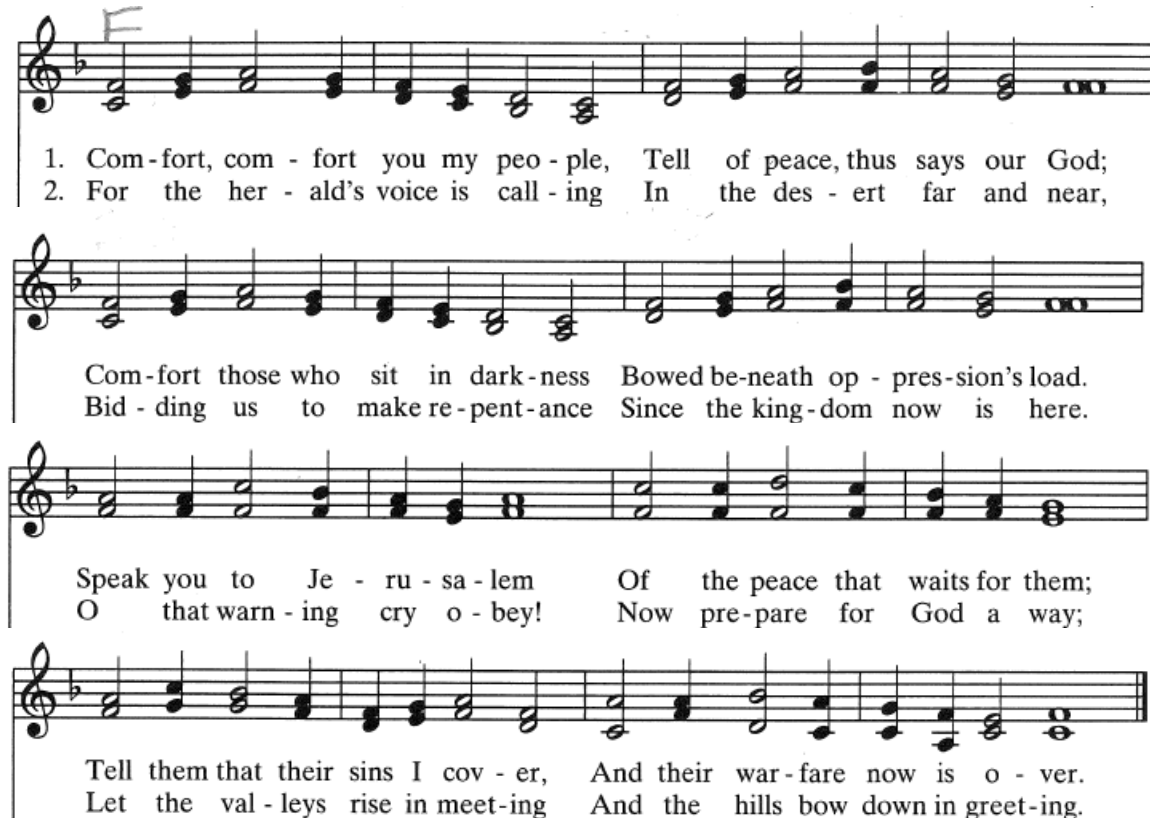
The des - ert shall re - joice And blos - som as a rose: 1. It shall 2. For the 3. For the 4. For the
blos - som a - bun - dant - ly And re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.

Third Lesson: From Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light! You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings. For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us!

Reflection: How has this child been born for us, for you, for me?

Hymn # 3: Comfort, Comfort You My People (Verses 1, 2)



1. Com-fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing In the des - ert far and near,

Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness Bowed be-neath op - pres-sion's load.
Bid - ding us to make re-pent-ance Since the king-dom now is here.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;

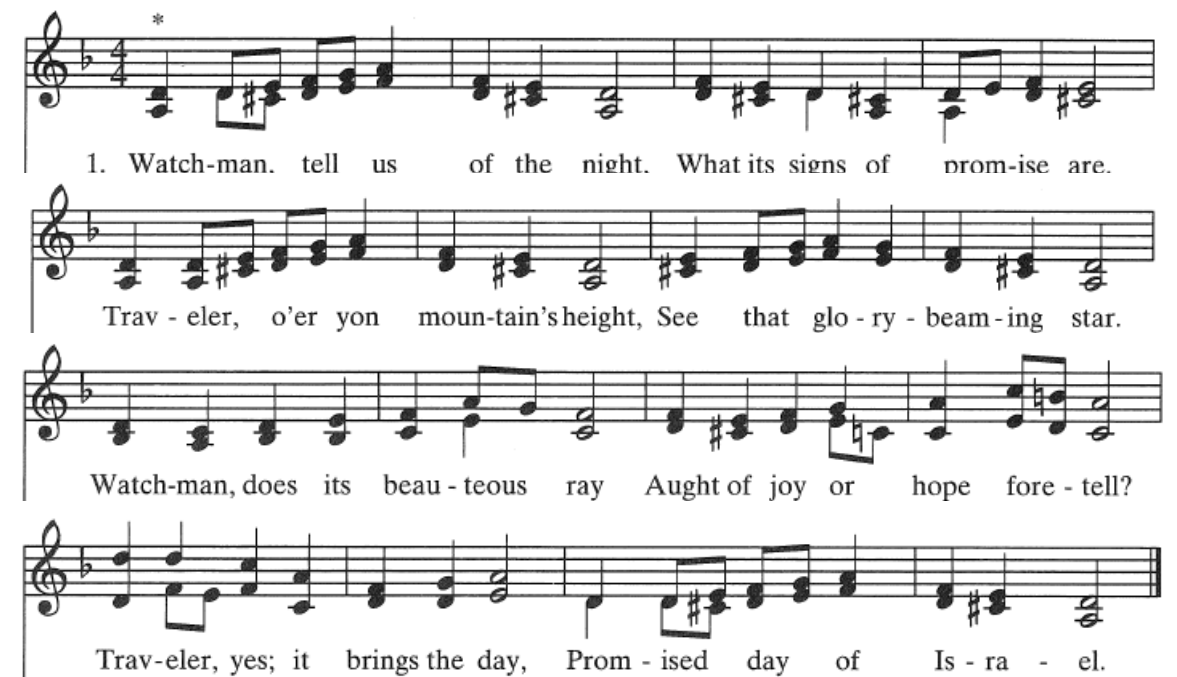
Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war-fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing And the hills bow down in greet-ing.

Fourth Lesson: From Isaiah 11

He won't judge by appearances,
won't decide on the basis of hearsay.
He'll judge the needy by what is right,
render decisions on earth's poor with justice.
His words will bring everyone to awed attention.
A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked.
Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots,
and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land.

Reflection: How do we judge others by appearances or hearsay? In truth, who are we to judge?

Hymn # 20: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (Verse 1)



1. Watch-man. tell us of the night. What its signs of prom-ise are.
Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, See that glo - ry - beam-ing star.
Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray Aught of joy or hope fore - tell?
Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, Prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.

Fifth Lesson: From Luke 1

In the sixth month of her Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a young woman engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the young woman's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty,
Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

Reflection: And about us, do we see ourselves and others as beautiful with God's beauty, inside and out? Do we know that, we too, have nothing to fear in God's care?

Hymn # 20: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (Verse 2)

2. Watch-man, tell us of the night, High-er yet that star as-cends.
Trav - eler, bless-ed - ness and light, Peace and truth its course por - tends.
Watch-man, will its beams a - lone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Sixth Lesson: From Luke 2

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

Reflection: How are we faithful to our traditions, as members of descendency? Will the traditions we practice honor our forebears and build upon them?

Seventh Lesson: From Luke 2

There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for

everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherders were impressed.

Reflection: How can we believe without *seeing* all the shepherders saw? Can we believe into the heart of these stories and ourselves to know God in our lives today?

Hymn # 20: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (Verse 3)

3. Watch-man, tell us of the night, For the morn-ing seems to dawn.
Trav - eler, dark-ness takes its flight, Doubt and ter - ror are with-drawn.
Watch-man, let your wan - derings cease; Has - ten to your qui - et home.
Trav-eler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come!

Eighth Lesson: From Matthew 2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

Reflection: How many forces are vested in preventing change for their own design? How do we see the *risk* of being faithful in our lives?

Hymn # 9: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verse 1)

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Ninth Lesson: From Matthew 2

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.

Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without him.

What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

Reflection: Are we in readiness for God? What is the light that we live by?

Hymn # 40: Joy to the World! (Verses 1, 4)

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the
ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,
And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Passing of the Peace

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Gracious God, we are blessed by the presence of your Spirit among us on this holy night! We offer all these, our gifts, the greatest of which is our service to one another, honoring you through all the names we know you....especially on this night. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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.

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.

Benediction

Hymn #60

"Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly host sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawning of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth; Jesus, Lord at thy birth

Silent night, holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Postlude

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House

"Where you were welcome long before you arrived."

Since 1888, the doors of this church have been open to those who seek a new way to engage with the Spirit and join together at the welcome table. In those early years, Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House served the needs of the Czech immigrants who founded the church and named it after the 15th Century reformer and martyr Jan Hus. Today, our mission has grown 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 heritage in many ways, while welcoming all people to this place.

Worship during this Christmas season and at all times reflects a pause in our busy lives, during which time we affirm God's vision for the world in witness to the Gospel of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ. We believe that God is greater than all our combined efforts and experiences. For all those reasons and more, 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, allowing for a greater reflection of the community as a whole; a community we know as 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. Hopefully, these conversations are provocative, as well, inviting us into new ways of seeing and hearing God or deepening and affirming those beliefs we hold most true.

It is possible that Jan Hus may seem *different* than what you expect in a worship center. That's fine. We believe that God loves to challenge us with the unexpected! Above all, please know that you are most welcome here. We are happy to have you with us and thank God for bringing us together on this day in which we celebrate Christmas and rebirth. Surely, we need the blessings of both.



Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

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

351 East 74th Street New York City 10021
Telephone: (212) 288-6743 Fax: (212) 879-0929
Pastor Ray Bagnuolo on his cell call 914.217.4173

E-mail: church@janhus.org
Email Ray: pastor@janhus.org Website: www.janhus.org
Facebook: Jan Hus Presbyterian Church; Twitter @janhuschurch

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, 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