

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

A celebration of gospel and social justice.
The First Sunday After Christmas
Sunday, December 26, 2010



"While every refugee's story is different and their anguish personal, they all share a common thread of uncommon courage: the courage not only to survive, but to persevere and rebuild their shattered lives."
Antonio Guterres

"You can never go home again, but the truth is you can never leave home, so it's alright."
Maya Angelou

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

- One: Hand that guided Sarah and Abraham to a new country and a new life when their future was uncertain,
- Many: **Basket that cradled Moses and carried him down the river and Fury of Nature that set his people free from slavery in Egypt,**
- One: Bond of Ruth and Naomi, that kept them alive by keeping them together,
- Many: **Presence that made space for Rachel's weeping and Listening Heart that amplified her voice,**
- One: Angel who asked so much of Mary and who warned Joseph of the danger ahead.
- Many: **Companion who walked beside them to Egypt, then back to Judea and on to Nazareth and who walked beside all the children who were not so fortunate, and who walks beside us all, still.**
- One: Prepare us to greet You here in this place
- Many: **in our own doubts, and fears, and preoccupations;**
- One: In the faces of those around us,
- Many: **In the words of our Ancestors,**
- One: In song and in the hope of Christ.
- All: **Allow us to know in this moment what has always been true: that You are near, that we are loved, that hope lives. Amen.**

Hymn: In A Feed Box, In A Stable

Tune: BEECHER, "Called as Partner's in Christ's Service" (343 in the Blue Hymnal)

In a feed box, in a stable,
Jesus slept upon the hay;
So, our God, you came among us,
Bringing peace on earth that day.
Beautiful upon the mountain!
Christ, you bring us God's shalom;
May we share your love and justice
In each land and town and home.

In a shelter, poor and homeless,
Sleeps a child upon her bed;
In a basement hides a family,
Bombs exploding overhead.
Jesus, you knew want and hunger;
Your own family fled the sword.
May we see you, may we hear you,
In each one oppressed or poor.

In the church, we seek your presence;
Prince of Peace, you meet us here:
See! A person seeking shelter.
See! Another filled with fear.
See! A world where lives are broken;
Give us strength and help us care,
Till our love for every neighbor
Fills each thought and act and prayer

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Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Benevolent Guardian, Mysterious Companion, we acknowledge that we haven't always been as attentive as we could have been to Your signs, warnings and gentle urgings. Though You know the path far better than we do and though You know us better than we know ourselves, we have often doubted, or ignored, or rejected Your guidance – our bodies and hearts when they have signaled pain or fatigue, the expressions of need on the faces of those who journey with us, the mysterious courses of our lives thus far. There are vistas that we missed while staring down at the trail. There are pitfalls and obstacles which probably could have been avoided. We left sometimes when we should have stayed and weathered the storm, and we stayed sometimes when we should have moved on. Forgive us for forgetting to listen for Your still, small voice. Holy God, help us to know that our meandering lives have not been in vain and that you have been with us every step of the way. Remind us, O God, that our faith, our hope was born not in some Hollywood fantasy of what Christmas should be... but from the midst of real life, with all its sorrows and joys and challenges and complications. Walk with us as You walked with Mary and Joseph. Hold us in Your arms as You held Jesus, so that we will experience the joy of new birth, know the fullness of Your love for us and find a home in You... and so that we can share that joy and love with others and welcome others home.

Silent Prayer for Reconciliation

Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Response (Hymn 28 v. 2)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door and we are blessed forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

***The Passing of the Peace**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." So Joseph got up and took the child and his mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. They remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he became enraged, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had determined from the wise men. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled,
because they were no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Provocation

On the Lam

Drew Paton

Hymn: Abraham Journeyed To a New Country

Tune: BUNESSAN, "Morning Has Broken" (469 in the Blue Hymnal)

Abraham journeyed to a new country;
Sarah went with him, journeying too.
Slaves down in Egypt fled Pharaoh's army;
Ruth left the home and people she knew.

Mary and Joseph feared Herod's order;
Soldiers were coming! They had to flee.
Taking young Jesus, they crossed the border;
So was our Lord a young refugee.

Some heard the promise — God's hand would bless them!
Some fled from hunger, famine and pain.
Some left a place where others oppressed them;
All trusted God and started again.

Did they know hardship? Did they know danger?
Who shared a home or gave them some bread?
Who reached a hand to welcome the stranger?
Who saw their fear and gave hope instead?

God, our own families came here from far lands;
We have been strangers, "aliens" too.
May we reach out and offer a welcome
As we have all been welcomed by you.

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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 (In Unison)

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: "Fear Not," The Angel Said

Tune: TERRA BEATA SMD "This is My Father's World" (293 in the Blue Hymnal)

"Fear not!" the angel said, "God's joy is in the air!
Now go to Bethlehem and see a newborn baby there.
A Savior, yet a child! So young, and yet the Lord!"
God's grace astounds, God's love surrounds This sinful, hurting world.

Fear not, you hungry child, You homeless refugee,
You battered woman, burdened down-- God came to set you free.
For God's own Son was poor; He cried and suffered, too.
God's grace astounds; God's love abounds For people just like you.

Fear not when questions come: "How can I know God's way?"
"Do my possessions weigh me down?" "Can God change me today?"
For Jesus came to be True bread that satisfies;
And in his birth, God touched the earth. Christ saves, forgives, and guides.

Fear not, you church of Christ, Distracted and distressed,
For long ago in troubled times, Christ came, and we were blest.
Our Prince of Peace is born-- Our light, our life, our song!
In him we see our unity, In him God makes us strong.

Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

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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.

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 fellowship meal following the Postlude.

Announcements:



Don't Miss It!

Another Event "By Conley!"

Yoga & New Year's Eve at Jan Hus!

Enter into the New Year in a calm, quiet, peaceful, and Yogic way.

VINYASA into 2011

Move with breath into 2011

Candlelight and Music Vinyasa flow with Sigrid.

Doors open on December 31 at 11:00 P.M.

Enter into 2011 from 11:30 P.M. - 12:30 A.M.

Vinyasa Flow Class with Sigrid.

More Information:

You do not need to pre-register to join us. Bring your own Yogamat and wear comfortable clothes. No fee, but we gladly accept donations for our Outreach Program: clothing, food, and cash (or checks) always welcome. For more information contact Sigrid at sigridpichler@aol.com or call 718.288.1401

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.



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“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, 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
ilpot, Madge, Rocket & Bizou + 4, Allie, & Marvin’s Reptile Friends

12,1,2,11,10,3,4,9,8,5,6,7