

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

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

A Welcoming & Affirming Congregation for all our LGBT/Q Sisters and Brothers

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 9, 2011

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!*



Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

- One: It is sometimes easy to wonder where you have gone?
- Many: **Especially when there are big things going on, decisions, answers – we seek.**
- One: And then we gather, and self starts to slip away from our concerns.
- Many: **We look at each other, smile, know we are welcome, and above all know that God is here.**
- All: **Come, with doubts and decisions, smiles and welcomes, and let us worship th God of our understanding, present here, right now. Amen.**

398

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT 9.11.9.11 with refrain

Doris Akers, 1962

Doris Akers, 1962

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
 2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive Till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; There are
 know Him in His full - ness and be - lieve; You're the

sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, And I know they feel the
 one to prof - it when you say, "I am going to walk with

pres-ence of the Lord. Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it,
 Je - sus all the way."

Sweet heav-en-ly Dove, Stay right here with us, Fill-ing us
with Your love; And for these bless-ings We lift our hearts in
praise. With - out a doubt we'll know that we have
been re - vived When we shall leave this place.

Prayer of Confession in Unison

We lift the voices of our hearts to you, God, in repentance, trusting that you will forgive us, blessing us in the same baptism of Jesus in which you were so pleased.

A Time for Silent Prayer...

Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

The former things have come to pass, and God declares new things. We are baptized just as Jesus was, and in that baptism, all distance and sin is removed between us and God. Believe it, because it is so.

*The Passing of the Peace:

One: Since we have been forgiven by God, especially in the birth of this child Jesus, let us also forgive one another and walk and live in the peace that is ours. May the peace of God in all the ways God is known be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

God, by your Holy Spirit, give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and awe of you. Bring us the spirit of joy in your presence, through these words written long ago. May it be so.

ISAIAH 42:1-9: Overview.

This is one of four poetic passages in the Book of Isaiah referred to as "The Servant Songs." They describe Israel's mission as God's servant people chosen to bring "light to the nations." They represent some of the most advanced theology of the Old Testament with an emphasis on the universality of God's purpose for humanity. Though composed by an unknown prophet during Israel's exile in Babylon (586-539 BC), the early Christian church regarded these poems as prophecies about Jesus, the Messiah/Christ. Some biblical scholars have suggested that Jesus himself adopted these Servant Songs as the pattern for his ministry which began with his baptism by John. (John Shearman's Lectionary)

The First Reading: ISAIAH 42:1-9:

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

MATTHEW 3:13-17. Overview

This simple story of Jesus' baptism by John contrasts the humility of the two. Jesus fully accepted John's ministry and insisted on being baptized by him. In Matthew's version of this incident only Jesus saw the Spirit descend as a dove and heard God's voice. It may be interpreted best as Jesus' ordination for his ministry. (John Shearman's Lectionary)

Gospel of Matthew 3: 13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Provocation: Ray Bagnuolo

The Lone, Wild Bird

PROSPECT LM

As in *Twelve Folksongs and Spirituals*, 1968

Henry Richard McFadyen, 1925; alt.

Harm. David N. Johnson, 1968

C7 F Dm Gm B♭ Am C7 Dm F B♭ Dm Gm B♭

1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight Is still with Thee, nor
 2. The ends of earth are in Thy hand, The sea's dark deep and

Am C7 F F F C7 F Gm

leaves Thy sight. And I am Thine! I rest in
 far - off land.

Dm F B♭ Gm B♭ Am C7 F

Thee. Great Spir - it, come, and rest in me.

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 Jesus' imagination.

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."

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)

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.

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.

Charge to the People

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness and patience, forgiving each other as God has forgiven all of us, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And listen, to the Wind, for indeed it carries the voice of the Spirit.

Closing Hymn: Hymn # 535 Go With Us Lord

535

Go with Us, Lord

TALLIS' CANON LM

Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986 Thomas Tallis
Adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c. 1561

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through this and

ev - ery com - ing day, That in Your Spir - it

strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.

Blessing

Postlude



"I may have grown more attentive to the news and more alive to the world history and world-sorrow behind it."

~Seamus Heaney, poet

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

351 East 74th Street New York City 10021

Telephone: (212) 288-6743 Fax: (212) 879-0929; Pastor Ray Bagnuolo cell 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 (Sunday Lunch Preparation)
Edmund Leary	HOAP Outreach
Christian McLeer	Music Director
Karl Kaminski, Jeremiah Frederick	Musicians
Walter Marcus	Custodian, Hospitality
Holly Nedelka, Director	Child's Play; www.childsplaynyc.com
Carol Schachter	Church Administrator
Gerard D. Shaw	Hospitality

THE RESIDENT STAFF:

Lily Grecco, Albert Linares, Walter Marcus, 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