

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House
The Baptism of Jesus Sunday, January 10, 2010
“A Spiritual Home in the Real World”

Today, we consider...
“The Final Frontier”



Kirk: “What does God need with a Starship?”
From Star Trek V: The Final Frontier

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church & Neighborhood House

“Where you are welcome, long before you arrive.”

Since 1888, the doors of this church have been open to those who seek a new way to engage with the Spirit and eat at the welcome table. In those early years, Jan Hus served the needs of the Czech immigrants who founded the church and named it after the martyr Jan Hus. Today, our mission has expanded 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 founders, however, by singing our closing hymn in the Czech language (it is printed in the bulletin in English as well, so don't be afraid to sing out in English if your Czech is a little rusty).

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 our 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 community pulpit, one in which we hear the Scriptures interpreted by both clergy and laity and that allows for a greater reflection of the community as a whole – 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. Sermons may invite us into new ways of seeing and hearing God or deepen and affirm those beliefs we hold most true.

It is possible that Jan Hus may seem different than what you expect in church. That's fine – our God loves to challenge us with the unexpected! Please know that you are most welcome here as one who carries within you a piece of the God who loves us all. We are happy to have you with us and thank God for bringing us together on this, the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.



Prelude (Opening Music)

Call to Worship

One: You broke through the ink of night, liquefying it, changing matter, energy, altering all things as they were known, changing all things forever, again.

Many: Light emerged in a stunning moment of unthinkable brilliance, overflowing all but your boundaries.

One: We live forward in that light, each day closer to the unknown of yesterday,

Many: Each day inseparable from you, dear God.

One: This day, we live in the light and the unknown – together – knowing you are all these things and more.

Many: We gather joyfully in just this place and lift our voices in praise and song as one, ready to be with one another and with you.

* **First Musical Response** **“Prepare ye the Way of the Lord” ~Godspell**

Call to Prayer

Let us come to prayer...

Unison Prayer

The times were no different then. People sought answers, hope, healing. Nothing seemed to stick, except hope, maybe, and faith. It was the edge of a flat world getting closer and even the hope and faith were showing signs of wear. There was no frontier there. The journey was coming close to the end – and there was no there for next.

And then the light changed one day in a river named Jordan. The sky itself warped and the universe revealed the “there” in one named Jesus. The frontier suddenly came alive -- in us, timeless and eternal and then some, just as it was meant to be, all along. May we discover this living frontier, this Jesus, in ourselves and one another together. Amen.

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so. Page 3

Silent Prayer

Sung Response

You are our God, giver of mercy.
You are the Christ, giver of justice.
Spirit of love, giver of peace.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The good news is that God sees all we are, accepts us where we are, loves who we are, and offers forgiveness and healing. We can continue our journey together without fear.

Many: Our thanks and praise to the God of life and hope!

One: Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel!

Many: God’s grace dwells in and among us!

One: Let us greet each other, with a sign of love and peace!

Please offer on another a sign of 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: Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so. Page 4

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon: "The *Final Frontier*" Ray Bagnuolo

***Hymn #411 "Arise Your Light is Come"**

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.

***Musical Response "Day By Day" ~Godspell**

Day by day, Day by day, Oh Dear Lord, Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, Follow thee more nearly
Day by day, Day by day, Day by day

Benediction

Sung Blessing (in English or Czech)

Christians rise and act your creed, Amen to pozehnani prijdiz na nas vsecky,
Let your prayer be in your deed; Abychom po skonani vesli v raj nebesky,
Seek the right, perform the true, A tam s angelskou risi, boha take ctilli,
Raise your work and life anew. Dejz nam to; o Jezisi, spasitely mily.
Come then law divine and reign, Amen.
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!

Postlude (Closing Music)



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

- The family and friends of former Arabella Meadows-Rogers, former Executive Presbyter of New York City
- Marsha Englesher, recovering from a broken hip
- Steve Dubnoff in Florida with his ailing mother
- Alicia Martin-Schutz getting well from a tough cold
- Gerard Shaw and his special ministry of welcome for Jan Hus
- Jerry Brody, as he recovers from back illness.
- All the soldiers all over the world and their families
- Dell Shorter and his recent medical procedures
- Mona Green, Director of IPS at Jan Hus, recovering well from heart surgery
- The children and their doctors and caregivers at Ronald McDonald House
- The too-many (one is too many) that weather the biting cold with no housing
- The friends who come to Carter Burden each day
- Those without jobs
- The elected officials, especially those who began new terms recently
- For all those petitions and prayers in your hearts...

Announcements

Special Thanks to the entire Jan Hus staff for making our two-day coat distribution a total, flawless success. What a wonderful expression of love and service we shared that literally has warmed hundreds of people. You are all a gift to us and those we serve. Thank you! And, thanks to NYC Cares for the garments!

Outreach Program Needs Your Help! We are in need of men's pants and coats. Please check your closets and do whatever you can to help us. Please pass the word along to your friends or at work and anywhere else. More information on www.janhus.org

Musicians! Christian McLeer, Karl Kaminski and John O'Brien

JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

THE SESSION

Kerry Flynn, Gary Ireland, Deborah Widerkehr

THE DEACONS

Gina Lee, Essie Rance

THE STAFF

Ministers
 Marissa Arterberry
 Ray Bagnuolo
 Herman Brown
 Brian Carreira
 Drew Paton
 David Kelley
 Stanley M. Kusz
 Christian McLeer
 Karl Kaminski
 John O'Brien
 Holly Nedelka
 José Reyes
 Carol Schachter
 Gerard D. Shaw

All the People
 VISTA Intern
 Pastor and Head of Staff and Programs
 Custodian
 HOAP Outreach
 HOAP Outreach
 Social Worker
 Hospitality (Sunday Lunch Preparation)
 Music Director
 Musician
 Musician
 Director, Child's Play
 Building Superintendent
 Church Administrator
 Hospitality

THE RESIDENT STAFF

Allison Bombard, Alicia Martin-Schutz,
 Gerard D. Shaw

HUSSITE PETS

QT & _____, Allie, Scratches & Marvin's Reptile Friends