

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE

JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE
DECEMBER 18, 2011



JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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COUNCIL: Ruling Elders: Kerry Flynn, Gary Ireland, Annie Rawlings, Del Shorter, Deborah Widerkehr

DEACON: Essie Rance

OUR STAFF

Ministers	All the People
Ray Bagnuolo	Teaching Elder
Amy Conley	HOAP Outreach
David Kelley	Supervisor HOAP, Sr. Social Worker, MSW
Stanley M. Kusz	Hospitality Minister, Assistant to Pastor
Edmund Leary	HOAP Outreach
Christian McLeer	Music Director
Karl Kaminski	Musicians
Jeremiah Frederick	Musicians
Walter Marcus	Custodian, Hospitality
Holly Nedelka, Director	Child's Play; www.childsplaynyc.com
Jimmy Ortiz	Building Manager
Francis (Frank) Rocco	Chief Operating Officer
Felix Rojas	HOAP Outreach
Carol Schachter	Comptroller/Church Administrator
Gerard D. Shaw	Hospitality Specialist
Supervised Ministry Interns	Cynthia Gardner-Brim; Gloria-Jean Skeete; New York Theological Seminary

Advent and Christmas Services

Please Join Us!

(All Services in our Sanctuary)

Welcome today to

Thia Reggio, Presbyterian Welcome
Divinity Student at Union Theological
Seminary and all our friends from
Presbyterian Welcome -
Who will now introduce themselves! ☺

Weekdays, Monday - Friday

Maranatha Come, Lord

Prayer 7:30 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

The Longest Night/Winter Solstice

Wed., 12/21 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Sat., 12/24 - Christmas Eve at 5:00 P.M.

December 25 - Christmas Day 11:00 A.M.

The Longest Night

Winter Solstice in Advent



A service that makes room for sadness
during a season of hope.

Wednesday, December 21st 2011

6:30 - 7:30 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING & WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

God above us
God beside us

God within us
You come to us in the Christ Child, Mary's babe, born of the Spirit.

Born to love us back to you; in passion and compassion, binding up our broken hearts and communities, setting us free to love and be loved into a new humanity in your name.

We light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of love.

Let those who have given up on love take heart in this light. It shines for all who know the pain of loving, of refusing to love, of being unable to love or feeling unlovable. It shines to open us to the love of God in Christ. This is the light of Emmanuel, the light of love.

HYMN: ONE CANDLE IS LIT v. 1,2,3,4

Unison

1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,
 2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare
 3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
 4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,

1. our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.
 2. for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.
 3. join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.
 4. where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,

1. Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.
 2. Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.
 3. Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.
 4. a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.

1. One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.
 2. One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.
 3. One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.
 4. One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All you need is Love, love.
Love is all you need.

Enter into the sacred space, sacred not because it is a sanctuary but because it is of God's Love.
A sacred life-giving space of God, of Love, where all are united, all are welcome, and all can breathe.

Let us lift our voices, our prayers, our love and the Love we seek in worshipping the One who calls us together. A calling in our hearts from a time long before we knew. Come; let us worship this radical and loving God together!

HYMN #13 PREPARE THE WAY

1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, Your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on; He comes from heaven a - bove.
 3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; Your Sav - ior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley A lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, And jus - tice, truth, and love.
 And tid - ings of sal - va - tion Pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, For grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, Their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain ADVENT

O blest is Christ that came In God's most ho - ly name.

CALL TO CONFESSION

O God, we bring before to the burdens of our conscience and our desire for your grace, guidance and love. Open our hearts for reflection and insight as we pray together in your presence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

What is it? What is it that makes it so hard for us to let down our guard? Have we become so defensive and quick to respond out of fear? Or out of avoidance of the messy places of human interaction? We think, maybe, that time long ago it was all peaches and cream. The truth is this has never been a place without *messiness*. Forgive us when we forget that along with all of those before us, we have been called to Love each into the *messiness*, to relish being in the mix, the work, the joy of doing what we can in your name for each other, one day at a time.

SILENT PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION:

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.

RESPONSE: BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.

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

Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel! **God's grace dwells among us!**

May the Peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!**

Let us greet each other, loved and forgiven!

GREETING EACH OTHER, LOVED AND FORGIVEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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.

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: 2 SAMUEL 7 1-11; 16

Before long, the ruler was at home and GOD gave them peace from all their enemies. Then one day David said to Nathan the prophet, "Look at this: Here I am, comfortable in a luxurious house of cedar, and the Chest of God sits in a plain tent." Nathan told the king, "Whatever is on your heart, go and do it. GOD is with you."

But that night, the word of GOD came to Nathan saying, "Go and tell my servant David: This is GOD's word on the matter: You're going to build a 'house' for me to live in? Why, I haven't lived in a 'house' from the time I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt till now. All that time I've moved about with nothing but a tent. And in all my travels with Israel, did I ever say to any of the leaders I commanded to shepherd Israel, 'Why haven't you built me a house of cedar?'"

"So here is what you are to tell my servant David: The GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies has this word for you: I took you from the pasture, tagging along after sheep, and made you prince over my people Israel. I was with you everywhere you went and mowed your enemies down before you. Now I'm making you famous, to be ranked with the great names on earth. And I'm going to set aside a place for my people Israel and plant them there so they'll have their own home and not be knocked around any more. Nor will evil ones afflict you as they always have, even during the days I set judges over my people Israel. Finally, I'm going to give you peace from all your enemies. "Furthermore, GOD has this message for you: I will build you a house! Your family and your kingdom are permanently secured. I'm keeping my eye on them! And your royal throne will always be there, rock solid."

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 1: 26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! God is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

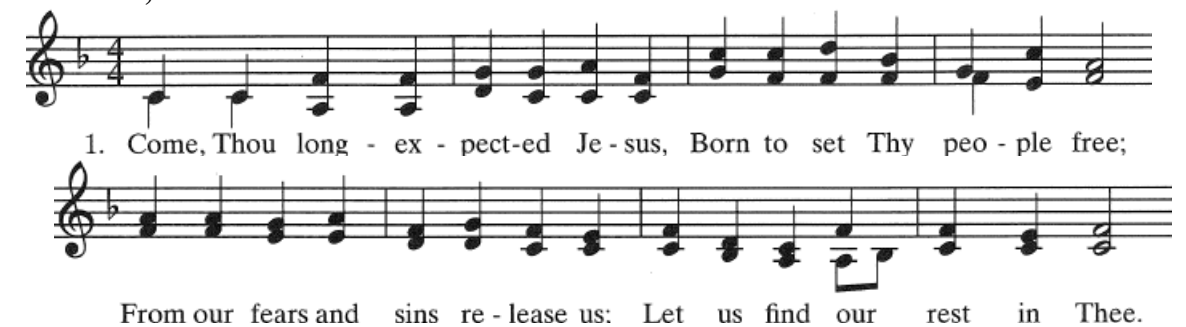
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the God's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

SERMON WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

THIA REGGIO

HYMN #1 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS



PREPARING FOR THE OFFERING

In this world, someone has too much.
Someone has barely enough, someone has nothing at all.

When we share our commitment and financial support, we act on the imagination of Jesus.
Jesus, who sees enough bread to go around, enough courage to speak the truth, and enough love to overcome all things.

O God, to those of us who have hunger, give bread. And to those of us who have bread, give the hunger for justice.

When the 5,000 were hungry, the disciples came to Jesus and said: "Send the people away, so they may get something to eat."

Jesus answered: "You give them something to eat."

OFFERTORY MUSIC: SYDNEY & BRIAN IRELAND

BLESSING THE OFFERING:

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. **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.

HYMN #47 STILL, STILL, STILL

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)



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



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



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

BLESSING RESPONSE:

Thanks be to God!

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.

BENEDICTION Sung Blessing (English)

(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.

POSTLUDE

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 be nourished 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 by singing our closing hymn in the Czech language and often being visited by delegations and groups from the Czech Republic.

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, Justice, Love. We believe that God is greater than human language or experience, so you may notice that in order to more fully experience 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. Today, that privilege of the pulpit is happily offered to Thia Reggio, an intern of Presbyterian Welcome and student at Union Theological Seminary. Welcome, Thia!

At Jan Hus, we see the sermons that are offered as conversations that give us an opportunity to hear how God's voice speaks through each of us. We hope that you feel the invitation in such sermons, giving thought to new ways of seeing and hearing God, while deepening and affirming the beliefs we hold most true.

It is possible that worship at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House may seem different than what you expect. That's fine – we tend to agree that God loves to challenge us with the unexpected! Whatever your experience here, please know that you are truly welcome 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, especially during this time of Advent and Christmas, seeking to make each day a day in which we remember the birth of Christ.



8.1.2.7.6.3.4.5

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.