

Meditation

A “Wholly Other” God

Above all (quite literally or, more than literally *above* all), the Bible is a strange new world because it confronts us with a God who speaks but who in the very act of self-revelation is and remains the Wholly Other One –

My plans are not your plans.
Nor are my words your words
-- declares God.

But as the heavens are high above the earth,
So are my words high above your words.
And my plans above your plans

-- a God whose very being and acting is “immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive.”¹

Welcome All to
JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE
APRIL 29, 2012
on this, the
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

GATHERING & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Those who wait for God will find their strength renewed.
After all, as the psalm says, God is our shepherd; there is nothing else we need.

God brings us in prayer and presence beside the green pastures.
God surrounds us with the stillness and serenity of calm waters.

More says the psalmist,
God is with us. God’s goodness and mercy follow us everywhere.

And so it is true here and now. Welcome, to this place of renewing strength, all that we need, and the serenity to call us into this time of worship.

Come. Let us worship God together!

***HYMN 179: GOD IS MY STRONG SALVATION**

¹ Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Whose Bible is It?* Penguin Books. 2005. p. 243.

PSALM 27

God Is My Strong Salvation

179

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN 7.6.7.6

James Montgomery, 1822; alt. 1988

Melchior Vulpius, 1609

1. God is my strong sal - va - tion; What foe have I to fear?
 2. Though hosts en - camp a - round me, Firm to the fight I stand;
 3. Place on the Lord re - li - ance, My soul, with cour - age wait;
 4. God's might thy heart shall strength - en, God's love thy joy in - crease;

In - per - il and temp - ta - tion My light, my help, is near.
 What ter - ror can con - found me, With God at my right hand?
 God's truth be thine af - fi - ance, When faint and des - o - late.
 Mer - cy thy days shall length - en; The Lord will give thee peace.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sometimes it feels as if there is no way out. Even if there were, “Where would we go?” It’s not about seeking a way out, but finding the “Other” in our lives. The “One” who is all and always with us. God, we know that is you. Forgive us for the times we forget how near and dear you are. Forgive us for the times we forget how much help you can be, as we seek to do your will and serve others. Bless us with a great memory – so we remember.

SILENT PRAYERS FOR RECONCILIATION

RESPONSE: ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a pres - ent far too small;
 love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the Good news of God’s love for us! God walks with us at all times. In God’s presence and love, forgiveness and pardon is always present. Always.

GREETING EACH OTHER, LOVED AND FORGIVEN

May the Peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!** Let us greet each other, loved and forgiven!

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.

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: ACTS 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:16-24

We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before God whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey God's commandments and do what pleases God.

And this is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of God's Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as Jesus has commanded us. All who obey God's commandments abide in God, and God abides in them. And by this we know that God abides in us, by the Spirit that God has given us.

SERMON

EVEN IN THE GAP

RAY BAGNUOLO

***HYMN 229: FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES**

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.

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PSALM 117

229 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN LM with alleluias

Isaac Watts, 1719

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623; alt.
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Unison



1. From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's praise a -
2. In ev - ery land be - gin the song, To ev - ery land the strains be -
3. E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at - tends Thy

Harmony *Unison*



rise: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Let the Re - deem - er's
long: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! In cheer - ful sound all
word: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thy praise shall sound from

Harmony



name be sung Through ev - ery land, in ev - ery tongue.
voic - es raise And fill the world with joy - ful praise. Al - le - lu - ia!
shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.

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PREPARING FOR THE OFFERING

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

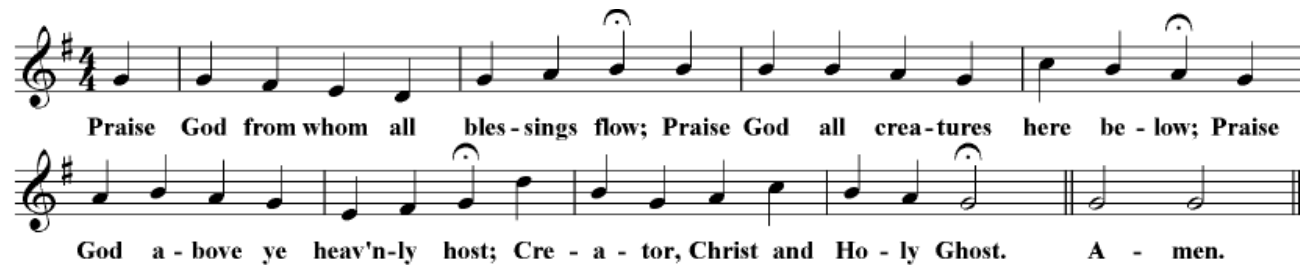
When we share our commitment and financial support, we act on the imagination of Jesus.
Jesus, who sees enough bread to go around, enough courage to speak the truth, and enough love to overcome all things.

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

*DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low; Praise
God a - bove ye heav'n-ly host; Cre - a - tor, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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 TO PRAY:

Our Mother/Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 239: HOW HAPPY IS EACH CHILD OF GOD

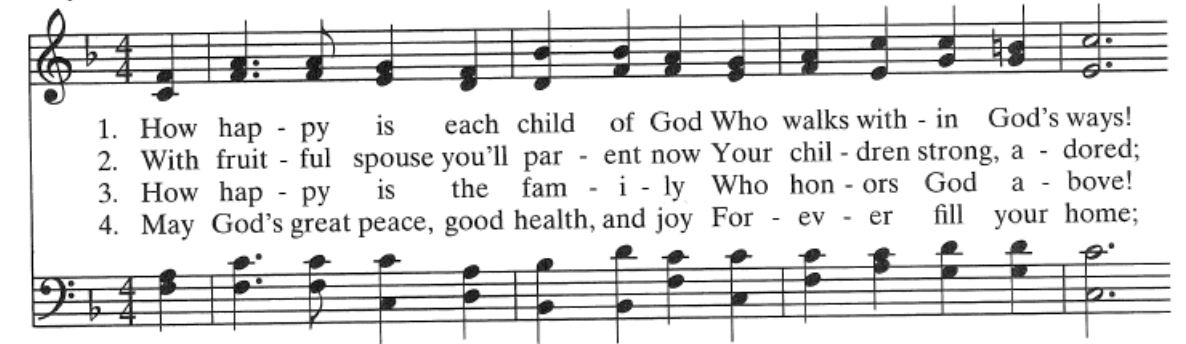
PSALM 128

239 How Happy Is Each Child of God

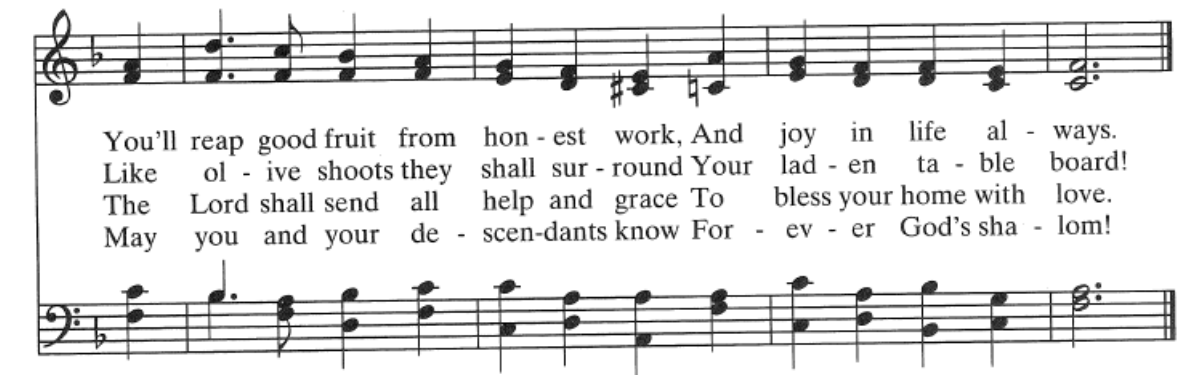
WINCHESTER OLD CM

Dwyn M. Mounger, 1986

Este's *Psalmes*, 1592



1. How hap - py is each child of God Who walks with - in God's ways!
2. With fruit - ful spouse you'll par - ent now Your chil - dren strong, a - dored;
3. How hap - py is the fam - i - ly Who hon - ors God a - bove!
4. May God's great peace, good health, and joy For - ev - er fill your home;



You'll reap good fruit from hon - est work, And joy in life al - ways.
Like ol - ive shoots they shall sur - round Your lad - en ta - ble board!
The Lord shall send all help and grace To bless your home with love.
May you and your de - scen-dants know For - ev - er God's sha - lom!

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION (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,
Frest 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



About us...

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!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR AND A LIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL: You are invited to join us immediately after worship for our Coffee Hour and a Light Fellowship Meal.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE. We are a fully welcoming congregation that honors the great and wonderful diversity of God's creation. We honor those who find themselves here and yet may follow a different faith tradition. We believe your presence and faith enriches our gathering. If you identify yourself as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or in any other way that expresses your gender identity – you are welcome here and fully invited to participate in the work and worship of this congregation.

WEEKDAY WORSHIP AND MEDITATIONS:

Spiritual Conversations Wednesdays 2:15 – 3:00 P.M., in the sanctuary and led by Rev. Frank Rocco
Meditations Friday 9:15 – 10 A.M., in the sanctuary and led by Rev. Frank Rocco

MEMBERSHIP:

We are a small, family-sized congregation with less than 25 members. Yet, we are committed to our Homeless Outreach Advocacy Program and several other forms of outreach within our daily work at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House. We are seeking new members to be part of this congregation and bring your gifts in helping us in this vibrant and challenging ministry of Love and Justice, which we call Gospel. If you are interested in considering membership, please see me or anyone who looks like a member after worship.

JAN HUS PLAYHOUSE THEATER

Growing Up Gonzales, by Felix Rojas Limited Engagement www.growingupgonzales.com
Is That All There Is Sunday, May 6, 2012 2 PM. Reading of an original play by Dr. Rosalie Contino
Open Mic Night Every Sunday night. Bring your stand-up and your laughter! Doors Open 6 PM

JAN HUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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Facebook: Jan Hus Presbyterian Church; Twitter @janhuschurch

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

DEACON: Essie Rance

ELDERS: Kerry Flynn

OUR STAFF

Ministers	All the People
Ray Bagnuolo	Teaching Elder
Amy Conley	Outreach Specialist
David Kelley	Supervisor HOAP, Sr. Social Worker, MSW
Stanley M. Kusz	Hospitality Minister, Assistant to Pastor
Christian McLeer	Music Director
Jeremiah Frederick, Karl Kaminski	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	Outreach Specialist
Carol Schachter	Comptroller/Church Administrator
Gerard D. Shaw	Hospitality Specialist

MINISTRY INTERNS

Cynthia Gardner-Brim, Gloria-Jean Skeete, New York Theological Seminary

THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP TO:

Jacqui Nichols, Stan Kusz, Lillie Grecco, Essie Rance, Rob Warren, and Frank Rocco