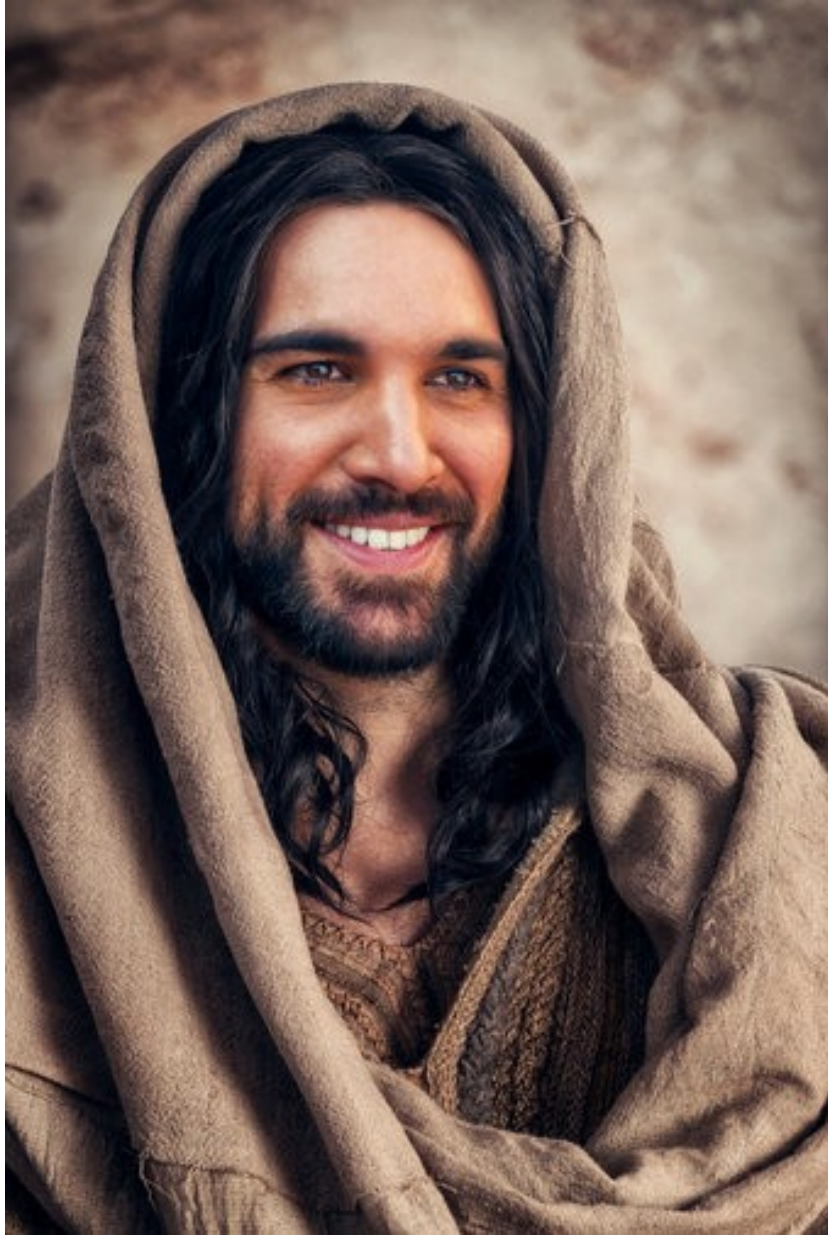


WELCOME TO JAZZ SANCTUARY



Juan Pablo di Pace as Jesus in the show
"A.D. The Bible Continues"
2015, from NBC.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get to Know you Question - for Sunday, September 17th: What has been your greatest joy, and why?

~Coming up! Dates to save in your calendar~

Sunday, October 1st - Jazz Jam, 5-7pm (pizza/soda/snacks for purchase)

Sunday, October 8th - Circle Gathering before worship, 9:15-10:15am

Saturday, October 14th - CROP Walk (Sponsored by the Greater Concord Interfaith Council)

Sunday, October 15th—Jazz Sanctuary

Saturday, October 21st - NH UCC Conference Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 22nd - Ukama Sunday (Celebrating our Zimbabwe Partnership with Harare UCCZ)

Jazz Sanctuary
September 17th, 2023
"The Jazz of Laughter and Joy"

Setting the Tone: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 (Jazz Sanctuary Paraphrase)

Emilia: The Eternal One appeared once again to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, while he was resting at the entrance to his tent in the middle of a hot afternoon. Abraham glanced up and saw there were three men standing nearby. They seemed to appear out of nowhere. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent out to where they were standing and greeted them warmly, instinctively bowing to the ground.

Congregation: (Abraham to Sarah) - **Sarah, we have guests. Quickly prepare three measures of our best flour, knead it, and make cakes.**

The Band: (The Three Men) - Where is your wife?

Congregation: **She's right there ... in the tent.**

The Band: I will return to you when life emerges from the womb of our wife, Sarah. She will give birth to a son.

Emilia: Now Sarah was behind her guests, listening to all of this from the entrance of the tent. Abraham and Sarah were quite old at this time, well advanced in years, and Sarah had long ago gone through menopause.

Deacons: So Sarah laughed to herself, saying under her breath, "At my age - old and decrepit, as is my husband - both of us long past having any desire to engage in love-making?"

Emilia: But the Eternal heard what Sarah said and addressed Abraham.

The Band: (Eternal One) - Why does Sarah laugh and say to herself, "There's no way I'm going to give birth at my age!" Is there anything too difficult for the Eternal One to accomplish? ... I'm telling you, Sarah will give birth to a son!"

Emilia: Sarah feared these were no ordinary guests.

Deacons: (Sarah) - I wasn't laughing.

Emilia: The Eternal One kept his promise. And Sarah conceived and gave birth to Abraham's son (in their advanced age) exactly as the Eternal had indicated.

Deacons: (Sarah) - God has graced me with the gift of laughter! To be sure, everyone who hears my story will laugh with me. Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would one day nurse children? Yet I have given birth to his son at this late stage in his life!

Jazz Set

Out of Nowhere (Used with Permission)

Margaritaville (Used with Permission)

Almost Like Being in Love (Used with Permission)

I've Got the World on a String (Used with Permission)

At Last (Used with Permission)

S' Wonderful (Used with Permission)

Cheeseburger in Paradise (Used with Permission)

Jazz Worship Experience

Introductions and Welcome

Opening Song Exactly Like You (Used with permission)

Opening Words - Gospel of Mark 10:27

"Jesus (smiling and shaking his head): For human beings it is impossible, but not for God: God makes EVERYTHING possible!"

Song This Little Light of Mine (Public Domain)
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (x3)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine! (x3)

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine! (x3)
Won't let nobody blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine! (x3)

Reading: 'The Book of Joy' The Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams

"What the Archbishop (Desmond Tutu) and the Dalai Lama were saying is that the way we heal our own pain is actually by turning to the pain of others. It is a virtuous cycle. The more we turn toward others, the more joy we experience, and the more joy we experience, the more we can bring joy to others. ...As we will see, joy is in fact quite contagious. As is love, compassion, and generosity."

Song Happy (Used with Permission)

Conversational Time:

When was the last time you had a really GOOD belly laugh?

What makes you really, really laugh?

Can you hear God/Jesus/Buddha/Higher Power laughing with you sometimes if you listen closely?

Song What a Wonderful World (Used with Permission)

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (translated from the Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz)

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us - make it useful. Create your reign of unity now-through our fiery hearts and willing hands. Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

Song I've Got Peace Like a River (Public Domain)

I've got peace like a river (x6)

I've got love like an ocean (x6)

I've got joy like a fountain (x6)

Agape Feast

Call to the Feast

Prayer of Adoration:

Living God, you are present in our midst and we praise you. You are tearing down walls of alienation and exclusion. For this, we praise you because, in Jesus, you have shown us a way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer, peacemaking, and resistance. Because your Spirit makes a new path for us, as we struggle to live in the shadow of doubt and fear. Weak as we are, you fill us with hope. Lover of our souls, you give us joy and we praise you. Amen.

Signs & Symbols

Benediction

Romans 15:13

Sending Music

Over My Head (Public Domain)

**Over my head I see trouble in the air; (x3)
there must be a God somewhere.**

**When the world is silent, I hear music in the air; (x3)
there must be a God somewhere.**

**When I'm feeling lonely, I hear music in the air; (x3)
there must be a God somewhere.**

**When I think on Jesus, I hear music in the air; (x3)
there must be a God somewhere.**