A Visit at the Prague Unitarian Church – Margaret Wanlin – February, 2023

It was wonderful to arrive at Annenska 5 (street address) in the heart of the historic district to find the home of Prague Unitarians.

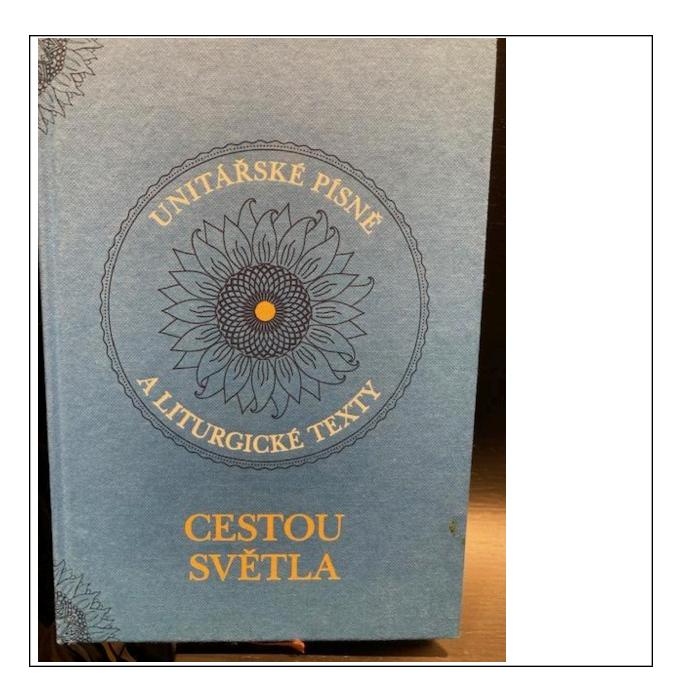




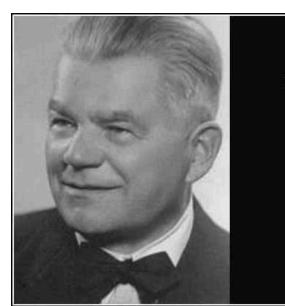
Rev. Dr. Petr Dolak Samojsky is the minister. Here we are in the hall where services are held with the historic pipe organ in the background.



Rev. Petr shows a puppet of the Rev. Norbert Capek. Capek is the founder of the Unitarian Church in Prague in 1922. We know him as the creator of the Flower Service, a much-appreciated UU ritual around the world. Capek died in a concentration camp in 1942.



This book is a source of great pride for Czech Unitarians. Published in 2018, it is the first real book of the readings and hymns of their community. It has some material from Singing the Living Tradition, including some of Joyce Polley's work but is mostly made up of Czech readings and hymns largely by Rev. Petr and Rev. Capek.



It is worthwhile to live and fight courageously for sacred ideals.

— Norbert Capek —

AZ QUOTES

The Czech language, a Slavic language, is very different from English. While I am familiar with the rhythms of UU services, the actual language was impermeable to me. Following the service, coffee and cookies with a few English speakers was a real treat. I felt a real sense of being "at home" despite the language challenges.

It was fascinating to get a small glimpse into an expression of Unitarian Universalism which has had a very different journey in the last 100 years than has UUism in Canada.