

<p>1. For most of their history, people in the Czech lands had only one choice when it came to religion—Roman Catholic.</p>		<p>2. In the 1400s Jan Hus led a rebellion against the authority of the Roman Catholic Church.</p>
<p>3. One Catholic practice that Jan Hus protested was the giving of communion wine only to priests. He thought priests and common people should be treated equally when it came to the communion service.</p>		<p>4. The chalice in the UU symbol today comes from Hus’ protest. He used a chalice (cup) to give communion wine to all members of the congregation, not just priests. It became a symbol of freedom and equality for all Czech peoples. Does your church use a chalice in the service?</p>
<p>5. Hus also protested against the practice of making people pay for “indulgences,” letters of forgiveness from the Pope. He thought this was bribery.</p>		<p>6. Capek studied Czech history and learned that a free Christian faith had been practiced in Czech lands even before the Catholic missionaries arrived. How old is your church?</p>

<p>7. The first services of Capek's Unitarian church in the 1920s were simple: they did not sing hymns, or say prayers, or have any rituals. Are some things that are done every week in your church service? What are they?</p>		<p>8. People who came to the early Unitarian church did not want anything in the service that would remind them of the churches they left. What do you think would be one of those things?</p>
<p>9. Capek thought his congregation needed a ritual that would bring them together so he designed the Flower Festival. Each person brings a flower and leaves with a different flower. The flower symbolizes each person as unique; taking away a different flower symbolizes free choice to join together in religious community.</p>		<p>10. Capek's Flower Festival is perhaps the most widely celebrated ritual in UU churches today. Does your congregation hold a Flower Celebration?</p>
<p>11. By 1940, the church in Prague had grown to be the largest in the world with 3,200 members.</p>		<p>12. Unitaria is the name used for the place where Unitarians meet. There are 3 Unitaria in the Czech Republic today: one in Prague, one in Brno, and one in Pilsen.</p>

<p>13. Capek believed that religion should help people reach harmony, or peace, within themselves and with God.</p>		<p>14. Capek believed you must have inner harmony to have “strong character, good health, joyful mood and a victorious, creative life.”</p>
<p>15. The Prague Unitarian Church mission statement today says: “We are a freethinking society; we encourage each other to act according to our values, expressed in our Unitarian principles. We gather to learn from one another, share our joys and concerns. We strive to be useful to our environment and the world.” Does this sound like something your church would say?</p>		<p>16. Unlike Unitarians in Transylvania and the Khasi Hills, the Czech Unitarians do not consider themselves Christian.</p>
<p>17. The church in Prague has a stained glass window with the Czech Unitarian symbol and a quilt wall-hanging that was given to them by their partner church in Rochester, NY. What hangs on the walls in your church?</p>		<p>18. Czech Unitarians begin their services by lighting a chalice, but this is a new ritual brought to them recently by a minister who had spent time in the United States. Do you light a chalice in your church service? Do you ever light a chalice at home?</p>

<p>19. Lighting candles of joy and concern are also part of their worship service. Does your church light candles of joy and concern? Do you like it? Why or why not?</p>		<p>20. Various versions of Czech Unitarian principles that were written at different times in the past are now being made into one statement.</p>
<p>21. All 3 Czech Unitarian churches have partner churches in North America. The language barrier makes it hard to communicate but they like knowing they are not alone.</p>		