

Beyond the Flower Ceremony

conversations with Rev. Dr. Petr Samojský

The following videos are from an in-depth conversation recorded between Rev. Dr. Petr Samojský and Rev. Erika Hewitt, the Minister of Worship Arts for the UUA.

Each link is accompanied by a description to help congregational leaders choose how to use these videos—whether in worship or other settings.

(All videos are captioned...imperfectly.)



[Czech Unitarianism](#)

12:50

We meet Rev. Petr and learn about the symbol of Czech Unitarianism (right). We then hear about the Unitarian congregations in the Czech Republic, and what a typical worship service is like in the church that Rev. Petr serves.



[The Flower Celebration in the Czech Republic](#) 13:34

Revs. Petr and Erika discuss the origins of both the Flower Ceremony and Unitarianism in the Czech Republic. Petr offers his caution not to view Unitarianism as a cult devoted to Norbert Čapek, and explores the implications of Čapek's progressive theology. Petr also describes how the flower celebration happens in the church that he serves, in Prague, articulating what's symbolized when people intentionally receive a flower rather than choosing their own flower to take home.

[The Spirit of the Flower Celebration](#) 13:25

We talk about the timing of the Flower Ceremony, and Rev. Petr offers thoughts about keeping the emphasis on its "spiritual dimension" rather than conflating it with a separate holiday or even Čapek himself. Rev. Erika questions the pairing of





the Flower Ceremony and Easter. At its heart, Petr and Erika agree, it's a Celebration of beauty; of diversity; of acceptance. Each of them offers their "take" on what it looks like to lose this focus.

[The Church after Čapek](#)

12:33

Revs. Petr and Erika discuss the origins not only of the Flower Ceremony, but also of Unitarianism in the Czech Republic: Čapek's support from the American Unitarian Association and his becoming a minister in Prague. We learn that Čapek turned down an offer to move to the US—which he rejected—before his arrest and death. Petr describes how Čapek's wife, Maja, introduced the Flower Ceremony to the U.S.

Bonus Videos

- [Sharing the Light](#)

3:11

Rev. Erika *had* to know more about an early December tradition created by Rev. Petr called "Sharing the Light.

- [More on Czech Unitarianism](#)

5:31

How do Unitarians in the Czech Republic stay connected to other Unitarians and UUs? Rev. Petr relates how different the eight Czech congregations are from each other. We also share a musical moment, in discussing favorite hymns among the congregation that Petr serves.



Thanks to:

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- Ted Resnikoff, UUA video editor

If you have questions about these resources,
please [contact Rev. Erika Hewitt, UUA Minister of Worship Arts.](#)