

**Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...** Psalm 127:1a

**Worship:**

**Tabernacle Worship Service**

**Every Sunday Evening**

St. John's Parish House  
75 East Main St. South Pottstown 5:30 pm

**Home Churches:**

**Hanover St. Home Church**

**Tuesday Evenings**

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown, PA 19465  
7:00 to 9:00

**King St Commons Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

King St. Pottstown, PA 19464  
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

**Announcements:**

**Cleaning Supplies Needed for St John's**

These folks have, and continue to bless our church. They are in need of cleaning and office supplies continually, as they host very many things here, in this building weekly. Please consider helping them in this small way. There is a list of needed items, and a box located in the doorway to drop your offerings for them. Thanks!!

**Parish House Fall Work Day**

Saturday, October 13, we will pitch in to help our hosts here at St John's do maintenance on the property. Please consider coming to help. We will begin at 8:00 am.

**Prayer Requests:**

**Continue to pray for Buzz** as he completes his chemotherapy and radiation over the next weeks. He is home from Fox Chase, after suffering dangerously severe dehydration last week and is doing much better. His radiation treatments are daily, and are quite painful and extremely difficult to cope with ongoing. Keep him in your prayers. Should you wish to send him a card or write him, his address is; *Buzz Saylor, 811 Highland Ave, Boyertown, PA 19512.*

**Please keep Fanny** in you prayers as she continues through the grieving process of losing her Mother.

**Michael & Moya** as they navigate the system to find Moya's birth Certificate, and for their upcoming marriage.

**Pray for Bill & Sherry Kraft** as they seek God's will in upcoming opportunities, both in the area of employment, and ministry.

**Please keep Robert's sisters, Beth and Amy** in prayer as they struggle to find God and overcome addictions.

**Pray for Zenona** who has been diagnosed with cancer. Pray also that she knows that she is loved by God, and his children.

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

The Code Enforcement Officer is trying to make the road to opening difficult. Please pray that God would bless her, or remove her from offending the poor.

October 7, 2007: **Proper 22 (Year C)**

**psalm 137, lamentations 1.1-6,**

**luke 17.5-10, & 2 timothy 1.1-14**

Get in touch with us at: i. [www.besidestillwaters.net](http://www.besidestillwaters.net) e. [Info@besidestillwaters.net](mailto:Info@besidestillwaters.net)  
256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465-7022 Phone: (610) 970-2444 Fax: (484) 363-4017

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm



6:00 to 8:00

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Evening**

Each Month – Check with Church  
for Transportation Arrangements

**Consumer Center Church**

**Thursday Evenings on hold for the summer**

249 High Street Pottstown, PA 19464  
7:00 to 8:00

**still waters** of Pottstown  
home churches & worship center

"He restores my soul . . .  
surely goodness and mercy will follow me" **Psalm 23**

*October 7 :: 2007*



**Magical Faith ?  
How to blame God for  
everything...**

**Worship**

psalm 137

lamentations 1.1-6

luke 17.5-10

2 timothy 1.1-14

**Benediction**

*proper 22 (Year C)*



**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's parish

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Still Waters is a member church of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, P.O. Box 384 Winona Lake, IN 46590



[Service]

Tonight...

Worship Film ::

“Sing us one of the songs”

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 137

Scripture Reading ::

Lamentations 1.1-6

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds

Focus Films ::

with songs of joy

“Domesticated Jesus”

The Scripture ~

Magical Faith?

*How to blame God for everything...*

Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' Luke 17. 8b-10

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 137, lamentations 1.1-6,  
luke 17.5-10, & 2 timothy 1.1-14

Reflection Film ::

“Societal Machine”

Benediction ::

revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21

[Journaling Worship]

your discussion notes...

“

**Meditation:**  
*By the rivers of Babylon--there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?' (Psalm 137.1-4)*

**Reflection:**

This week's Lectionary readings begin with the lament of Jerusalem's destruction and sorrow over God's seeming abandonment. They end with the promise of justice exercised in a stubborn faith. The author of Lamentations grieves the incomprehensible: the fall of Jerusalem, God's holy city. His sorrow is palpable, and agonizes over Jerusalem's plight; she "who was **mistress over nations...has been made a toiling slave**" (Lamentations 1.1).

Rather than increasing magical thinking as faith, suppose we were to exercise a stubborn trust in God to the point of radical obedience—a living faith—a faith that moves mountains and trees. Is our love for Him enough to change a very formidable reality? Do we have evidence, in us, that this is true?



# still waters

home church studies

## psalm 137

[Worship]

1 By the rivers of Babylon--there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. 2 On the willows there we hung up our harps. 3 For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! 6 Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. 7 Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem's fall, how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down! Down to its foundations!" 8 O daughter Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us! 9 Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!

**Consider:**

[Think & Pray...]

**A Holy Awareness** by Kari Jo Verhulst — Jesus shifts his focus to the "apostles" (Luke 17:5) who will lead and teach the future church. Their demand that Jesus "increase [their] faith" revealed their fear that they will not have enough. Jesus challenges their assumption that faith is a scarce commodity. The smallest amount can lead to seemingly immense results. An enormous tree will uproot itself at the mere suggestion. This example is pointedly absurd. Jesus does not tell them that if they have even a little faith, thousands will convert and follow. This further challenges the disciple's view of faithfulness as quantifiable, making it clear that the magnitude (or lack thereof) of our actions is really beside the point.

The next lesson is harder, in part because Jesus employs the metaphor of slavery without challenging the institution. In an age in which everything is a commodity, our workplaces and communities often behave as if this passage were an endorsement of non-mutual ownership of another's gifts and time. We see this from sweatshops to churches, when those in power claim the right to name and utilize another's gifts for the ends they have determined.

This passage is neither an endorsement of slavery nor a release from encouraging and affirming one another. Though the meaning has been applied abusively, these verses are an extension of Jesus' challenge to a quantified faith. Discipleship is a whole-life occupation that must be rooted in a holy awareness of God's sovereignty. It is not about pleasing others or serving for the sake of congratulations. This rests the purpose for our lives in the hands of God, not in the fickle approval of the human heart. We are equipped with the promise that our faith will be sufficient, and the assurance that "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

[The Scripture]

## luke 17 .5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" 6 The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. 7 "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? 8 Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? 9 Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 10 So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"