

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:

William's Home Church

Monday Afternoons

61 N. Evans St. Pottstown, PA 19464

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

King St Commons Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

King St. Pottstown, PA 19464

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Hanover St. Home Church

Tuesday Evenings

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown, PA 19465

7:00 to 9:00

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm



6:00 to 8:00

1st Tuesday Evening

Each Month – Check with Church for Transportation Arrangements

Consumer Center Church

Thursday Evenings

249 High Street Pottstown, PA 19464

7:00 to 8:00

Norman's Game Night

3rd Friday Evening Each Month

Locations to be announced

This Year's Theme: hearing God in 2008

Announcements:

Maundy Thursday Service at the Moyer's 7:30 pm

This Thursday evening we will have a short Service remembering Our Lord's last desert temptation and we will also remember the Stations of the Cross. Please think about joining us for this special service of remembrance.

We are starting Dinner And A Movie Night at Still Waters in April. We will show relevant movies to our pilgrimage over a pot-luck dinner with discussion and prayer afterward. Look for further information.

Prayer Requests:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Please pray that God would bless the NorCo Board of Supervisors and hinder them in offending the poor.

The mobile MAIN Street Shelter is hosted this month by our friends at Zion's United Church of Christ. Remember to pray for them.

Pray for the MAIN Street Staff, and for more workers to enter this harvest field.

Lord, give us the strength to focus on people and not procedure ...

Next Week's Scriptures:

March 23, 2008

Easter Sunday (Year A)

psalm 118.1-2, 14-24, john 20.1-18,

acts 10.34-43, & colossians 3.1-4

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still waters of Pottstown
home churches & worship center
"He restores my soul . . . surely goodness and mercy will follow me" Psalm 23

March 16 :: 2008

Becoming:
Something More Important Than
Comfort

Palm Sunday
Worship

psalm 31.9-16

isaiah 50.4-9a

matthew 26.14 - 27.66

philippians 2.5-11

Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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

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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...

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 31.9-16

Worship Film ::

“ Stations of the Cross ”

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy

Scripture:

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Focus Films ::

“ from Palms to a Cross ”

The Scripture ~

Becoming:

Something More Important Than Comfort

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Philippians 2.5-8

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 31.9-16, isaiah 50.4-9a,

matthew 26.14 - 27.66, & philippians 2.5-11

Reflection Film ::

“ Sunday's Comin' ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

[Journaling Worship] your discussion notes...

¥ Show & Tell

¥ 'You have said so ...'

¥ the upside down kingdom

“

Meditation:

... He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.." (Philippians 2.8-11)

Reflection:

Writer and theologian, Marcus Borg, makes the observation (The Heart of Christianity) that "we as Christians participate in the only major religious tradition whose founder was executed by established authority." Palm Sunday becomes the event where the clash of the Jesus way (Kingdom of God) comes in ultimate conflict with the principalities and powers (Herod, Caser, or those who have aligned themselves with them). What are your thoughts and reflections on this perspective? And what are the implications for discipleship today?

Psalm 31.9-16**[Worship]**

9 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. 10 For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. 11 I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. 12 I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel. 13 For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. 14 But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." 15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. 16 Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Consider:**[Think & Pray...]**

Today's readings focus on the topsy-turvy values of a life lived in God's service. It seems to be a natural part of being human that we yearn for prestige, recognition, and status. Yet God's call on us is to renounce this and instead live a life of humility and gentleness.

This call is summed up in Isaiah 50:4-9, a passage that, like others in this part of Isaiah, talks of God's servant. Here Isaiah speaks of the mutuality involved in service: The servants teach in the same way as they are taught. Just as they hear God's voice, so they also teach it to others. This takes the form of sustaining the weary with a word (Isaiah 50:4). This is one of my favorite images for teaching and pastoral care. The idea that words could

provide a means of nurture and care for the weary lies at the heart of what many of us seek to do. Yet this passage goes on to say that such a ministry can bring with it suffering and humiliation.



This is best illustrated by Jesus' life. More than anyone else, Jesus fulfilled God's calling to be a gentle, humble servant who sustained people through his words. His ministry, however, ultimately led to suffering and death. Here we encounter fully the upside-down nature of God's kingdom: a kingdom in which the king is prepared to be tried and killed by those who should be his subjects (Matthew 26:14-27:66), who takes the form of a slave (Philippians 2:7), and who refuses to exploit equality with God (Philippians 2:6).

As we approach Holy Week, we celebrate and affirm these principles of God's kingdom in which the least are the greatest, weakness is strength, and death brings life to all.

[The Scripture]**Isaiah 50.4-9a**

4 The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5 The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 6 I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. 7 The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; 8 he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 9a It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.