

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

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

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm



1st Tuesday Evening

Each Month – Check with Church

for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

Norman's Game Night

3rd Friday Evening Each Month

Locations to be announced

This Year's Theme:

hearing God in 2008

Your Prayer Notes:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we ready the shelter for the fall.

Pray for Pastor Kenn Cosgrove and Family. They must move out of their home by August 15th, and are looking for another.

Pray for Ron Caulk who was admitted to PMMC due to complications with the procedure that he had on Tuesday at the VA Hospital. Pray for a complete healing without further complications, and that his biopsy comes back clean. Also pray for peace for Rod & Patrice through all of this.

Gracious LORD, please protect our brother and sister, as you reveal your Love for them. Amen.

Next Week's Scriptures:

July 13, 2008 Proper 10 (Year A)

genesis 25.19-34, psalm 119.105-112,

matthew 13.1-9, 18-23, & romans 8.1-11

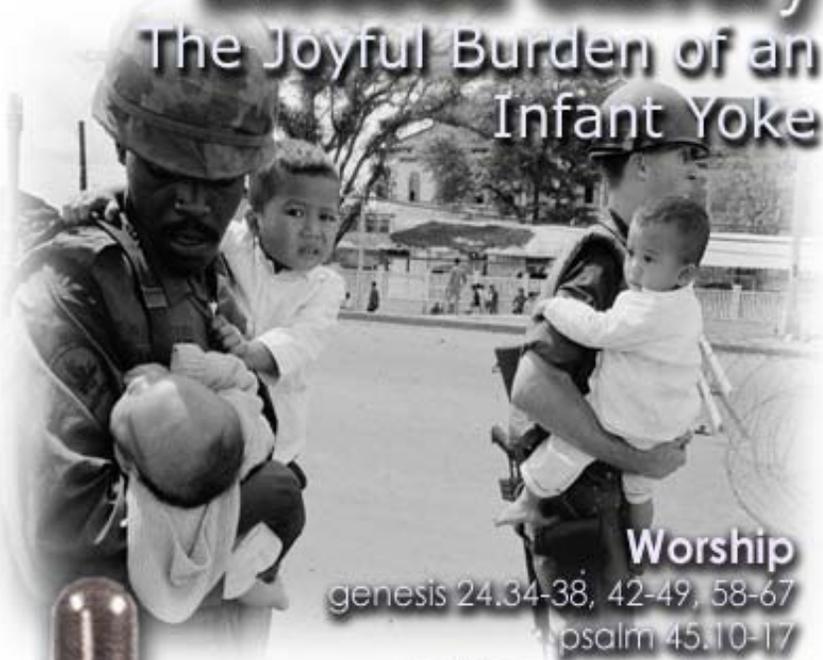
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still waters of Pottstown
home churches & worship center

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

July 6 :: 2008

Blessed Slavery
The Joyful Burden of an
Infant Yoke



Worship

genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67

psalm 45.10-17

matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

romans 7.15-25

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 45.10-17

Worship Film ::

“Show Mercy”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

Focus Film ::

“Come to Me”

The Scripture ~

Tonight's Message
Pastor Kenn Cosgrove

[Journaling Worship]

your discussion notes...

Reflection Film ::

“Perfectly Fitted”

Benediction ::

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



[This Week's Church Discussion]

Blessed Slavery

The Joyful Burden of an Infant's Yoke



Meditation:

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 7.28-30

Reflection:

Responding to a hierarchical temple and an elitist religious life, Jesus calls for a life-giving spirituality that can laugh, cry, and dance. Jesus is more than a law-giving preacher of commandments and golden rules; he gives (and lives) a way that is celebratory in its servanthood and gladly generous in its sacrifices. Attuned to the tragedies already carried by much of humanity, his way offers gracious good news: "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11.30).

Paul projects this dance of blessing when he *delights* "in the law of God in my inmost self" (Romans 7.22). Inwardly, Paul's "law of the mind" does battle with his selfish desires "of the flesh." His resolution? He delights in God's Spirit and gives thanks. So, too, Rebekah knew this delight in the blessing she received from her mother and brother upon her decision to go with Isaac and become his wife: "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads" (Genesis 24.60).

A delighted, dancing response to a generous God ought not produce a faith that is so bent on controlling ourselves that we must crusade against others to subdue an unruly world. There is another way, says Jesus: "Take my yoke...learn...for I am gentle" (Matthew 11.29). Dance on—it will change the world.

This week's Lectionary:

genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67, psalm 45.10-17,
matthew 11.16-19, 25-30, & romans 7.15-25

still waters

home church studies

Psalms 45:10-17

[Worship]

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house, 11 and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him; 12 the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people 13 with all kinds of wealth. The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes; 14 in many-colored robes she is led to the king; behind her the virgins, her companions, follow. 15 With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king. 16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. 17 I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Guilt-Free Loving

It hurts to watch someone we love feeling stuck. Witnessing that kind of frustration and self-recrimination challenges our hope that our love will somehow make things better. We want to be able to save each other, and it is terribly painful to realize that we cannot. Thus we desperately look for some kind of release—a solution our beloved hasn't considered, someone or something to blame, or we simply try to talk the person into believing that they are okay. But these reactions stem from our need to get out of our own feelings of helplessness, rather than reflecting what the other truly needs.

Paul's unabashed confession of the sin that dwells in his "flesh," and his need to rely entirely on the "higher power" of God in Christ, leaves us little room to assure him that he's fine the way he is. His admission of helplessness in writing "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Romans 7:15) is remarkably free of guilt. The sin he acknowledges is not something he's strained to recognize—rather, he experiences himself to be incapable of doing that which he truly wants to do.

Guilt, that complex emotion we all love to claim as our own religious inheritance, inhibits getting to the freedom Paul demonstrates here. Guilt does not encourage this kind of honesty, but rather preoccupies us with its eradication. So we live waiting for the other shoe to drop—to be discovered as the judgmental, lazy, resentful, jealous, you-name-it person we're deeply convinced we are.

What's more, guilt cripples our capacity to be in relationship, interpreting those around us as beings who might any day discover the truth about us. Guilt inhibits our capacity to genuinely say we are sorry, because it does not permit us the courage to sit in the pain of our own sinfulness and yet apprehend that we are still God's beloved. Thus God, too, becomes someone to avoid, rather than one to approach with a love that longs to know what God desires from us.

The God who rescued Paul "from this body of death" (Romans 7:24) isn't interested in increasing our guilt or shame but in a relationship of love in freedom. To enter into this requires an honest recognition that those "actions" we wrestle with—including self-hatred—increase sin's chokehold on the world. Each moment motivated by clinging to that which is ours—including our addiction to being inadequate, unlovely, and ungifted—leads to moments of meanness, of hatred, of judgment that make it that much easier to resist loving generously.

[The Scripture]

Romans 7.15-25

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretch that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

