

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

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

Home Churches:

Hanover St. Home Church

Tuesday Evenings

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown, PA 19456

7:00 to 9:00

Buddy's Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

Sports Corner Bar, York St

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



1st Tuesday Evening

Each Month – Check with Church for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday 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.

Please pray for Norman to be able to find meaningful, and Godly volunteer work to keep himself busy and fulfilled since leaving his job at Staples.

Please keep Helen & Hank in your prayers. Hank has been to the hospital again this week. Helen is still struggling with leg problems, and the added care for Hank is wearing her out.

Merciful LORD, please help us to walk humbly before you, seeking to be instruments of your forgiveness. Amen.

Next Week's Scriptures:

August 24, 2008 Proper 16 (Year A)

exodus 1.8 – 2.10, psalm 124,

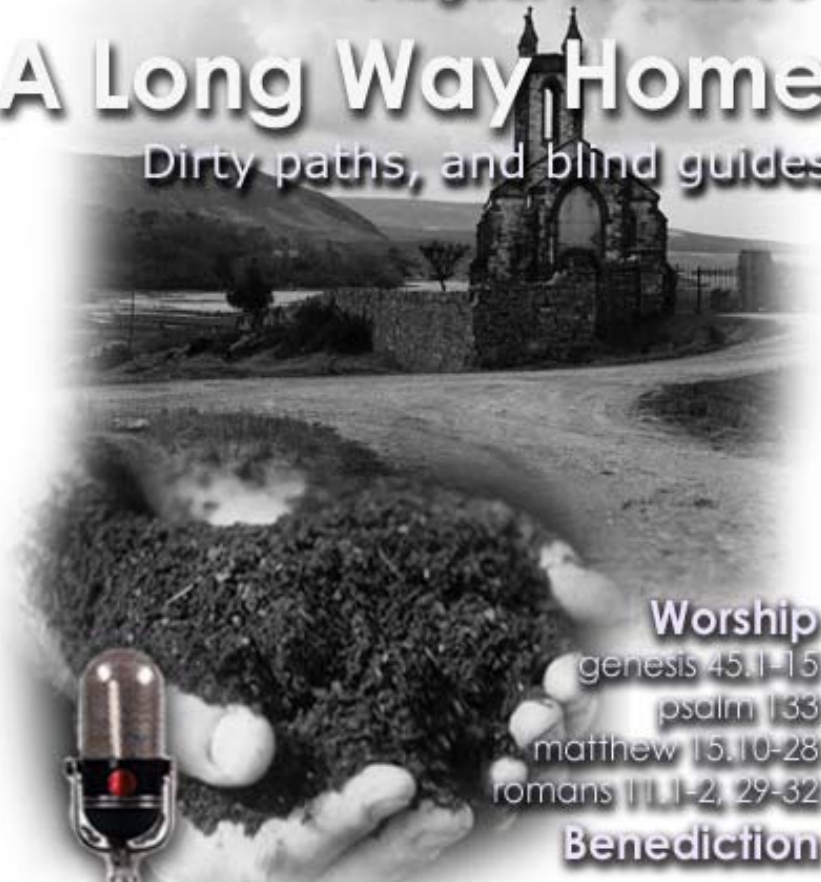
matthew 16.13-20, & romans 12.1-8

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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

August 17 :: 2008

A Long Way Home
Dirty paths, and blind guides



Worship

genesis 45.1-15

psalm 133

matthew 15.10-28

romans 11.1-2, 29-32

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 133

Worship Film ::

“Woe To Me”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Genesis 45.1-15

Focus Film ::

“Known By Love”

The Scripture ~

Along Way Home

Winding paths, and blind guides

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. Genesis 45.3-5

This week's Lectionary:
genesis 45.1-15, psalm 133,

matthew 15.10-28, & romans 11.1-2, 29-32

Reflection Film ::

“Domesticated Jesus”

Benediction ::

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



[Journaling Worship
your discussion notes...
for this Week's Church Discussion]

✧ How did I get here?!

✧ clean, or unclean?

✧ You want me to accept WHO?



Meditation:

Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly. Matthew 15.22-28

Reflection:

Might the significance of the story of the Canaanite woman lie in demonstrating Jesus' willingness to be converted by the woman - and in the woman's heroic insistence on her right to be heard? Reread the passage, but this time, insert yourself into the story. "Am I one of the disciples, brushing off a nuisance? Or the woman, taking the Holy One by the lapels and not letting go?"



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 133

[Worship]

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Change comes to two families when faith allows one family member to see their families' story in the larger story of God's saving encounters with humanity. Joseph forgives the vicious abuse of his brothers and provides his entire family the very bounty foreseen in his inspired dreaming. Jesus expands his mission to the people of Israel to include Gentiles coming in faith. The Canaanite girl's mother also sees the bigger story, faithfully pleading to the "son of David" (Matthew 15.22) to heal her daughter of a demon.

"Kindred living together in unity" in Psalm 133 are a precious commodity, like the oil on the beard of Aaron. The larger story: "the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore" (Psalm 133:3).

In Romans 11, Paul reminds his readers of his roots in the tribe of Benjamin and of Israel's ongoing acceptance by a compassionate God.

The fragmentation of society into the vested, guarded interests of nuclear families undercuts both those families and a social order yearning for fuller life and deeper harmony. A biblical ethic sees the biological family within the human family, in turn within the generational continuity of life on earth. It is a story of rising or falling together, living together as brothers and sisters, as Dr. King said, or dying together as fools.

Robert Roth



[The Scripture] Romans 11.1-2, 29-32

1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

29 ...For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.