

**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

7:00 to 9:00

**Bright Hope Community Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

Myrtle Street, Pottstown

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**December @ St. John's UCC**

**High & Price Streets, Pottstown**

Pick up at the Pear Resource Center

High Street

7:00 to 9:00

**Norman's Game Night**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 for the mobile shelter season to begin in December. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends.

Please also remember those of us who are struggling to find work in this broken economy.

Pray for Helen's difficulties with her legs.

We have a new friend from New York named Bob Bark. He was once a resident of the area, and has asked for our prayers with regard to medical and external challenges he has. Please pray for him as he corresponds with us.

Merciful LORD, move within us to find your joy and family around your table; discerning your body, and your fullness. Work in us to become your peculiar image to those needing to know you and your kingdom, both in the Church and outside. May your will be done. Amen.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**November 30, 2008**

**Advent 1 (Year B)**

psalm 80.1-7, 17-19, isaiah 64.1-9,

mark 13.24-37, & 1 corinthians 1.3-9

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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

November 23 -- 2008

**A Very Fat Sheep  
Or, finding the Fullness of  
Christ**



**Worship**  
psalm 100

ezeiel 34.11-16, 20-24

matthew 25. 31-46

ephesians 1.15-23

**Benediction**

**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 6:30, 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 100

Worship Film ::

“The Reign of Christ”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

Focus Film ::

“Holiday Dinner”

The Scripture ~

## A Very Fat Sheep

Or, finding the Fullness of Christ

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Ephesians 1.17-19

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 100, ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24,  
matthew 25.31-46, & ephesians 1.15-23

Reflection Film ::

“The Guest List”

Film ::

“Table Benediction”



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

✧ seeing is believing...

✧ clouds & darkness

✧ and Who is Jesus?

“

**Meditation:**

*Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,...*” **Ezekiel 34. 20-21**

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.?"*  
**Matthew 25.45b—46**

**Reflection:**

"Anyone who's ever been picked on has desired the kind of justice promised in Ezekiel - the bullies cast out, the weaklings receiving favor - but Matthew's portrait of justice shakes up our presumed categories by suggesting that we might be counted among Ezekiel's "fat and the strong." - *Kari Jo Verhulst*

still waters

home church studies

## Psalms 100

[Worship]

1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

Peter B. Price

Anxiety and fear faced persecuted Christian communities in the Roman Empire. Matthew recalled Jesus' words, "Take care that no one deceives you....see that you are not alarmed" (Matthew 24:4, 6). Easily said, but when the Temple, the holy place (24:15), the place of God's presence, is being desecrated and destroyed—where is God now? And if refugee status is about to be conferred on you and your loved ones (24:17-22), the temptation is to go with those who appear to know not only where God is but are even able to reveal who Christ is (24:4-7, 23-28).

Matthew has a steady and teaching job to do. First, the communities need to be reminded that Jesus' presence and activity are not limited to cataclysmic events (24:6-11) or specific locations (24:23-24, 26). Nor must they be fearful of empty places, "for he has risen" (28:6).

Second, they must return to their gospel roots. God has always been with God's people, men and women, through thick and thin—just look at the list (Matthew 1:1)! But God is to be found most among the least (Matthew 25:45), and that's where Jesus said those "whom my Father has blessed" (25:34) will be found.

[Scripture]

## Matthew 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

