

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

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

Canceled for December

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 begin the mobile shelter season December 1st. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends.

Join us for a "Candlelight Vigil" to commemorate the members of our community who died homeless in Montgomery County, PA.

2nd Annual National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day—

Friday, Dec. 19, 2007 at 4:30—5:30 pm, New Life Mennonite Church, 3 East Marshal St., Norristown

Please also remember those of us who are struggling to find work in this broken economy. Please, this Christmas, remember our campaign to help those in Liberia who need the simplicity of clean drinking water. It's a matter of life, and death for them.



Faithful LORD, as we await your coming, give us your grace to be merciful, as you are merciful. Help us, LORD, To be your voice in our wilderness' of trouble, and thank you for baptizing us with your Holy Spirit in the advent of your PEACE. Work in us to become your peculiar images of this PEACE 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:

December 14, 2008: Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

psalm 126, isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11,

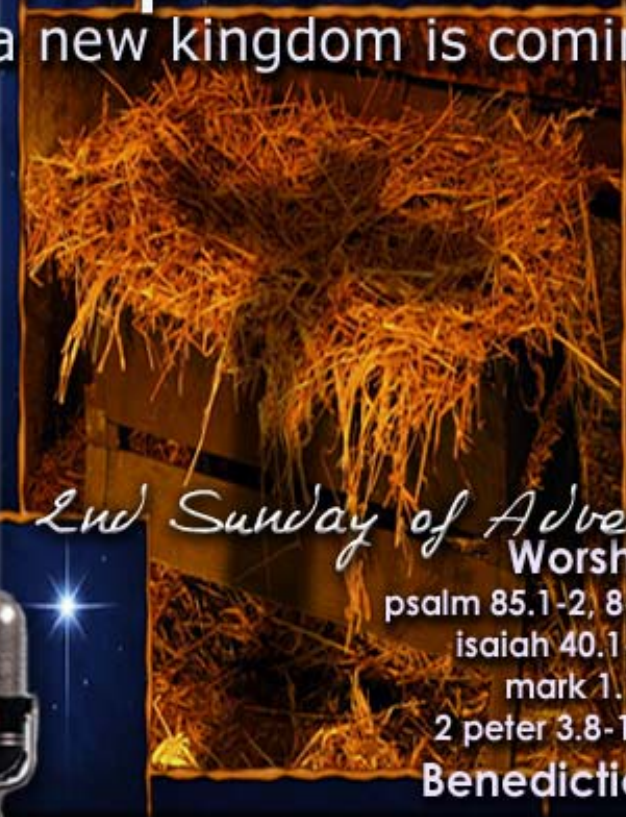
john 1.6-8, 19-28, & 1 thessalonians 5.16-24

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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

December 7 = 2008

Prepare the WAY
Or, a new kingdom is coming



2nd Sunday of Advent
Worship

psalm 85.1-2, 8-13

isaiah 40.1-11

mark 1.1-8

2 peter 3.8-15a

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...

Worship Film ::

“Isaiah 40.1-11”

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13

Responsive Reading:

Advent 2, Peace Candle Lighting

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Mark 1.1-8

Focus Film ::

“John’s Voice”

The Scripture ~

Prepare the WAY

Or, a new kingdom is coming

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

2 Peter 3.10-14a

This week’s Lectionary:

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

psalm 85.1-2, 8-13, isaiah 40.1-11,

Reflection Film :: mark 1.1-8, & 2 peter 3.8-15a

“2 Advent Conspiracy”

Benediction ::

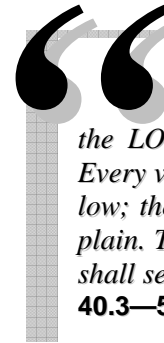
1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

✦ Sounds of Silence

✦ straightening roads

✦ hastening the day



Meditation:

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Isaiah 40.3—5

Reflection:

It is little help to see the prophet as a prognosticator or a soothsayer. The prophet’s standard declaration falls more along these lines: “If you do A, B will happen. I am calling you to do C, so that D will happen instead.” The prophet doesn’t say a highway will show up, but, rather, cries out, “prepare the way of the Lord” and make straight “a highway for our God” (Isaiah 40:3).

The righteous route proclaimed in Isaiah and Mark is cosmological in scope and must be rebuilt in each new era of salvation history. It is constructed by peoples who offer confession, accept forgiveness, and call for a realignment with God’s justice. —Robert Roth

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13 [Worship]

1 LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah

8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. 12 The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

by Peter B. Price

Exile is a place or state of not belonging. It is a refusal to accept or conform to the prevailing culture. The people of God are in exile in Babylon. Babylon symbolizes everything that destroys faith and community—idolatry, wealth, power, luxury, oppression.

People in exile experience anger, guilt, and powerlessness; they are trapped in despair (Isaiah 40). Such people need a voice. The poet's voice must nurture, inspire, and empower change. By speaking words of comfort (40:1) and forgiveness (40:2), hope is generated (40:9-11).

For God's people a new story is in the making. "All humanity will see it together" (40:3-5). The apparent powerlessness of God during the exile will be transformed; "Here is your God!" is the recognition of reclaimed sovereignty (40:9-10). People once afraid now speak fearlessly. It is a time for action. Exiles must embrace faith in God, discern their true political situation, and choose to act. "Prepare.... Make a straight way for God" (40:3). The power of God's Word must have its say in history (40:6-8; 55:10-11).

This is gospel, or good news (Mark 1:1). In the Roman Empire, gospel was political propaganda, telling news of military victories. Jesus announces "good news from God" and speaks of a "kingdom." Preparing a way for the Lord to come is an activity, and a declaration, which gives notice to the culture of empire that "what we are waiting for, relying on God's promises, is the new heavens and new earth, where uprightness will be at home" (2 Peter 3:13).

Talking Points

Who do you know that does not "belong"? Who is nurturing, inspiring, and empowering them? Are you? What would be "good news" for them?

Reflection and Action

How is your practice of resistance developing in the light of today's study?

[Scripture]

2 Peter 3.8-14a



8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. 11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. 14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.