

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

7:00 to 9:00

MAIN Street Shelter

December @ St. John's UCC

High & Price Streets, Pottstown

Pick up at the Pear Resource Center

High Street

10:00 pm to 8:00 am

Bright Hope Community Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

Myrtle Street, Pottstown

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

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

December 28 = 2008

**Consolation, Redemption
& Resolve**



1st Sunday after Christmas

Worship

psalm 148

isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

luke 2.22-40

galatians 4.4-7

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



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.

Gracious LORD, we glory in your appearing, and the gift of our unique King. Thank you also for His gift to us, of your Holy Spirit, to proclaim justice in our land; to announce release from bondage, and to become your pleasure. Help us LORD, to be your prophetic voice in confidence that your Way, and your people will continue. Work in us to become your peculiar image as that people, to those needing to know you and this kingdom, both in the Church and outside. May your

will be done. Amen.

Your Prayer Notes:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we operate the mobile shelter this season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends. Remember Zion's UCC who is preparing to receive us, and in thanksgiving for our friends at St John's UCC for sustaining, and helping us, to God's glory.

Pray for Benjamin to find a permanent housing solution for himself and his mother.

Next Week's Scriptures:

January 4, 2009: Second Sunday after Christmas (Year B)

psalm 147.12-20, jeremiah 31.7-14,

john 1.1-18, & ephesians 1.3-14

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[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 148

Worship Film ::

“ 148 ”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Isaiah 61.10-62.3

Focus Film ::

“ \$200 Conversion ”

The Scripture ~

Consolation, Redemption & Resolve

Or, God's message gets personal

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Luke 2.29-32

This week's Lectionary:

Christmas 1 (Year b)

psalm 148, isaiah 61.10-62.3,
luke 2.22-40, & galatians 4.4-7

Reflection Film ::

“ Give Life ”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✦ prophets of old & old prophets

✦ revealing an ordinary redirection

✦ & our naked truth

“

Meditation:

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age,... She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. Luke 2.25, 36a, & 37b

Reflection:

Anna and Simeon, who appeared so oddly out of touch with the world as it was, knew far more about it than those whose days were spent mastering the marketplace: they recognized that God's coming cannot help but upset all existing claims to power.

— Kari Jo Verhulst

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 148

[Worship]

1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! 2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! 3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. 6 He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, 8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! 10 Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! 12 Young men and women alike, old and young together! 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. 14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!"

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

by Peter B. Price

Two old people greet the child Jesus in the temple. The first is the radical Simeon who, prompted by the Spirit, came to the temple (Luke 2:27). Like a sentry on guard, he has "looked forward to the restoration of Israel" (2:25). But he is under no illusions about how difficult the task will be, for as he holds the babe he says to Mary, "He is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is opposed" (2:34).

The second oldie in the temple is Anna, who "came up just at that moment and spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Israel" (2:38). Both of these oldies demonstrate true radicalism.

First, they expect God to act; second, they are open to a vision of God acting in history—they anticipated the restoration of Israel and the deliverance of Jerusalem. Third, they looked for the signs, however simple and ordinary—like a baby being dedicated, parents giving thanks. Fourth, they recognized the nature of the opposition, and the devastating impact of prophetic living upon loved ones—"a sword will pierce your soul too" (2:35).

The season of Advent began in hope, and with Christmas comes the promise of deliverance. But now the cost is revealed and the "secret thoughts of many laid bare" (2:35), including our own.

Reflection and Action

What secret thoughts are exposed in you as you plan to follow Jesus into the new year? Who will help you face the future?

[Scripture]

Isaiah 61.10-62.3



61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.