

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

January @ Zion's UCC

Hanover & Chestnut Streets, Pottstown

10:00 pm to 8:00 am

There will be no Pick Ups in January due to the close proximity of Zion's

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

January 4 = 2009

Fleshly Desires
Or, Embodying God's
intentions



We are finishing our Christmas project—Advent Conspiracy, the campaign to help those in Liberia who need the simplicity of clean drinking water. This will be the last week to contribute. 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 are hosting throughout January, and are helping us, to God's glory.

Next Week's Scriptures:

January 11, 2009: Epiphany 1 (Year B)

genesis 1.1-5, psalm 29, mark 1.4-11, & acts 19.1-7

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End Sunday after Christmas

Worship

psalm 147:12-20

jeremiah 31:7-14

john 1:1-18

ephesians 1:3-14

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 ::

Psalm 147.12-20

Worship Film ::

“Psalm 72”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Jeremiah 31.7-14

Focus Film ::

“The King’s New Clothes”

The Scripture ~

Fleshly Desires
Or, Embodying God’s intentions

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

John 1.12—14

This week’s Lectionary:
Christmas 2 (Year b)

psalm 147.12-20, jeremiah 31.7-14,

john 1.1-18, & ephesians 1.3-14

Reflection Film ::

“Spirit & Flesh”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✧ miscommunication & misunderstanding

✧ redefining the familiar

✧ making God’s WORD plain

“

Meditation:

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1.9 & 10

Reflection:

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us’ (John 1:14)... The incarnation of God in Jesus Christ is the lifting of all human flesh into God’s own divine intimacy. There is no human being in past, present, or future, in East, West, North, or South, who has not been embraced by God in and through the becoming flesh of the Word.”

—Henri Nouwen, “Creating True Intimacy,” (*Sojourners*, June 1985)



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 147.12-20 [Worship]

12 Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! 13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. 14 He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. 15 He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. 16 He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. 17 He hurls down hail like crumbs-- who can stand before his cold? 18 He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow. 19 He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. 20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

by Joe Nangle

These January Sundays begin, fittingly, with the prologue of John's gospel, that penetration into the very life and being of God: "In the beginning was [already] the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The passage goes on to announce the great Epiphany of the Word who is God, stating that this person who is with God was made flesh and pitched his tent among us. We cannot exaggerate the magnitude of this assertion. The divine, eternal, omnipresent—God—joins with that which is transitory, mortal, and imperfect—flesh. Because of this incarnation, "of his fullness we have all had a share."

The Hebrew scripture for this day and the reading from Ephesians help us to believe the great good news proclaimed in the gospel. The book of Jeremiah speaks of Israel's return from that horrible and unexpected exile from the promised land. If God can forgive and return the chosen people to their homeland with such a triumphant restoration ("They themselves shall be like watered gardens, never again shall they languish"), can God not raise up humanity itself, in and through the Word made flesh?

Likewise, in the reading from Ephesians, Paul is lavish in his description of our incorporation into Christ. "God chose us in him...to be full of love; he likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be his adopted children...."

The negative reality of this is that whole segments of humanity suffer indignities of all sorts. The Word made flesh, who dwelt among us, dignifies every person and is the overriding motivation for the struggle to bring about a world where each person can live a fully human existence.

[Scripture]

Psalm 72.1-7

Of Solomon.¹ Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. ² He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. ³

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. ⁴ He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. ⁵ He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. ⁶ He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. ⁷ In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

