

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

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 finishes hosting today. Thank God for them!! And remember to pray for St. Paul's UCC as they begin their month and continue throughout February, to God's glory.

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Frances' health; Jimmy for direction, loneliness and perseverance; Brenda, as she recovers in the hospital; Jerry for recovery; Ron's health; Glenn, for fulltime employment and strength during temptation; and for us all, as we seek to be graceful to those who misunderstand us, our mission, and judge us out of ignorance.

Next Week's Scriptures:

February 8, 2009: Epiphany 5 (Year B)

**psalm 147.1-11, 20c, isaiah 40.21-31,
mark 1.29-39, & 1 corinthians 9.16-23**

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still waters
home churches & worship center

February 11, 2009

Reclaiming
Authority
Or, itinerant nobodies,
speaking for God



4th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship

psalm 111,

deuteronomy 18.15-20,

mark 1.21-28, &

1 corinthians 8.1-13

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 111

Worship Film ::

“Casting Out Evil Spirits”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

1 Corinthians 8.1-13

Focus Film ::

“Quiet Spaces”

The Scripture ~

Reclaiming Authority Or, itinerant nobodies, speaking for God

...and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.'

Mark 1.21a—24, 27b

This week's Lectionary:

Epiphany 4 (Year b)

psalm 111, deuteronomy 18.15-20,
mark 1.21-28, & 1 corinthians 8.1-13

Reflection Film ::

“At The Table”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✧ demons Where...?

✧ shut UP

✧ a solemn warning

“

Meditation:

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. " Deuteronomy 18.18 & 19

Reflection:

'Written for a fledgling community of followers of Jesus trapped between the violence of the Roman empire and the revolutionary violence of Jewish militants, the gospel of Mark is a radical manifesto of discipleship, demanding a community that breaks from the corrupt social order and accompanies Jesus on the way of the cross. And Jesus' healings, such as that in Mark 1, serve not only to mercifully alleviate personal suffering but also to reveal the oppressive nature of the prevailing political and religious authorities.' – Will O'Brien

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 111

[Worship]

1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. 2 Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. 3 Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. 4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful. 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. 6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. 8 They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. 9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Consider:

by Peter Price

Authority can be imposed and submitted to, or it can be discerned and willingly accepted. The religious leaders of Jesus' culture imposed both authority and control, manipulating the life, death, health, and welfare of many. Jesus' first sermon made a deep impression on his hearers because unlike the scribes, he taught with authority.

The "spirit" of the authority of the scribes undergirded the prevailing social order. Challenged by Jesus the demon became infuriated, and questioned, Have you come to destroy us? That is, Have you come to destroy scribal authority and all that it means? The answer contained in Jesus' exorcism is yes.

The prophetic word needs to be spoken in each generation. Moses recognized that such a word (Deuteronomy 18) needs to be consistent with the God whose work is full of splendor and majesty, and whose saving justice stands firm forever (Psalm 111:3). Through his practice of saving justice, Jesus elicited praise for God from the common people. "Here is teaching that is new" (Mark 1:27) is the bittersweet response, a painful reminder that the truth understood by the psalmist—the deliverance God sends to his people—had long been neglected by religious leaders.



Paul continually speaks of freedom in Christ and encourages people to live in freedom (Galatians 5:1). At the same time he cautions against wounding vulnerable consciences (1 Corinthians 8:12). The chief reason for turning to God is to discover a love that transforms the whole world. True authority is discerned in discovering God as the root of wisdom (Psalm 111:10).

Reflection and Action

[Think & Pray...]

What structures might reasonably cry out, "Have you come to destroy us?" Where are the signs of the prophetic word being spoken in our generation? Who are those with "vulnerable consciences" that should not be wounded? How can you be sensitive to them?

[Scripture] 1 Corinthians 8.7b, 9-13

Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? 11 So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. 12 But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.