

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

February @ St. Paul's UCC

Grace & N Franklin 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 in rehab; 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 15, 2009: Epiphany 6 (Year B)

psalm 30, 2 kings 5.1-14,

mark 1.40-45, & 1 corinthians 9.24-27

Get in touch with us at: i. www.besidestillwaters.net e. Info@besidestillwaters.net
256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465-7022 Phone: (610) 970-2444 Fax: (484) 363-4017

still waters
home churches & worship center

February 8 - 2009

Alone with God
Or, free to be a Slave

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Worship

psalm 147.1-11, 20c

isaiah 40.21-31

mark 1.29-39

1 corinthians 9.16-23

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 147.1-11, 20c

Worship Film ::

“Listening to God”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Isaiah 40.21-31

Focus Film ::

“Protesting vs. Listening”

The Scripture ~

Alone With God Or, free to be a slave...

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."

Mark 1.35—38

This week's Lectionary:

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

Reflection Film ::

“A Solitary Place”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✘ | don't want to...

✘ GO...

✘ but | will, for You!

“

Meditation:

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel."

1 Corinthians 9.16—18

Reflection:

Jesus takes the initiative in curing Simon's mother-in-law of a fever. His teaching and preaching are consistently done in the context of curing the sicknesses and casting out the demons of those who have been most stripped of their dignity. To move throughout Galilee sowing human dignity and life-changing hope is to nourish the ground for a transformed world. This invariably challenges the social order, the status quo.

So, too, in 1 Corinthians 9, Paul becomes a slave for the slave, weak for the weak, and works inside and outside the law so that he might facilitate God's salvation—bringing the fullness of redeemed life—for the defeated and downcast. And for those who despair violently? Again, the first step is dignity.



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 147.1-11, 20c [Worship]

1 Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. 2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. 3 He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. 4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. 6 The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. 8 He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills. 9 He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry. 10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner; 11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

20c Praise the LORD!

Consider:

In the psalm, the one who numbers and names the stars of night (verse 4; see Job 38:4-7), who cares not a whit for military strength (verse 10), here is concerned for the least, binding up the wounds of the brokenhearted (verse 3).

Paul's ministry especially includes the weak (those chosen by God to shame the strong; see 1 Corinthians 1:28). To preach the good news among them, he himself becomes weak. In actuality he moves back and forth over social and cultural boundaries with an adeptness that can only be called a *chrisma*, or, as he does, a commission. By this freedom he becomes the slave of all (verse 19). Indeed, he aspires to the mind of one

who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but took the form of a slave (Philippians 2:6-7).

Little wonder a day in the life of Jesus shows forth a similar freedom. He moves so easily among the sick and the possessed who press in at the front door. He goes off in search of them bearing the good news.

But more must be said about his freedom to be among them. It includes the freedom to withdraw. Jesus is not in bondage to time or circumstance.

The pattern of his day, set early in Mark's gospel, seems designed to preserve spiritual sanity. There is a rhythm between public and private, between action and contemplation, in which he moves. That solitude of prayer under the morning stars, which Simon and friends take as a disruption of an otherwise busy schedule (Mark makes them famous for misunderstanding the rudiments of discipleship), is the very thing that turns a day of despair into a day of freedom.

Reflection and Action:

Where are your patterns leading you; to sanity and solitude, or hurried isolation from God? When has your day of despair ever been changed by a quite contemplation of God's presence?

[Scripture] 1 Corinthians 9.19-23

19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.