

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 **Beginning again this week.**

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

MAIN Street Shelter

April @ Christ Episcopal Church

316 High Street, Pottstown

10:00 pm to 8:00 am

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

Announcements:

Shenkel UCC in North Coventry, in their attempt to host our shelter for 2 years now, might be coming to the end of a long road, legally with North Coventry. The ACLU has filed a law suit on their behalf. Our friends at Shenkel have done this reluctantly, not wanting conflict with the Township, but when the world's kingdoms come into conflict with Christ's kingdom and following Him, we must be obedient to our King. Keep them in prayer!

Your Prayer Notes:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

2008/2009 Season has come to an end and the work of fund raising, laundry, and storage are beginning. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Ron Caulk for details, and remember the host churches that have extending the love of Christ to all of us in operating the MAIN St Shelter. Thank God for them!!

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation; pray for Norman's health; remember Bob & Lois during a very trying time.

Please remember to pray for Glenn too, and if you would write him, affirming Christ's love for him. Here is his address:

Glenn Dransfield
MCCF # 09-2289
60 Eagleville Rd
Norristown, PA 19403

Please, also keep all of us in prayer; as we seek rest, and to be graceful to those who misunderstand us, our mission, and judge us out of ignorance.

Next Week's Scriptures:

May 10, 2009: EASTER 5 (Year B)

psalm 22.25-31, john 15.1-8,

acts 8.26-40, & 1 john 4.7-21

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May 3 - 2009

Living God's Reality Or, the business of LOVE?



Easter 4

Worship

psalm 23

john 10:11-18

acts 4:5-12

1 john 3:16-24

Benediction



[Service]

Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“ Psalm 23 ”

Scripture Reading ::

Acts 4.5-12

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

John 10.11-18

Focus Film ::

“ Complete Joy ”

The Scripture ~

Living God's Reality Or, *the business of LOVE?*

And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. *All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them.* And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 3.19—24

This week's Lectionary:

EASTER 4 (Year B)

psalm 23, john 10.11-18,
acts 4.5-12 &, 1 john 3.16-24

Focus Film ::

“ Abiding - John 15 ”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✠ in the kingdom vs Christianity

✠ assurance in dark places

✠ is abiding our death?



Meditation:

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,"

John 10.11—14

Reflection:

Like hired hands who leave the flocks to the wolves, Jerusalem's religious elite in Acts 4 abandon their pastoral responsibilities in the face of imperial power. In contrast, the Good Shepherd always sides with the victims of imperial power, unless that power is resisted in sacrifice. -

Peter B. Price

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 23

[Worship]

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Consider:

[Words]

The context for John's gospel is the tense opposition to Jesus and his followers from synagogue leaders. Schism within the early church over Jesus' humanity colors the first Johannine epistle. Neither can squelch the hands-on immediacy of Jesus' love: The later healing by the disciples is "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (Acts 4.10).

Though 1 John 3 is born in the turbulent culture of early church upheavals, its haunting question convicts the wealthy nations of the world (both local, nationally within the US, and globally) of our 21st Century realities: "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's

goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" (1 John 3.17).

This Psalm 23 Shepherd leads the anxious to stillness, restores their souls, and will ultimately prepare a table for them in the presence of their enemies (5).

Providential help comes in those actions that imitate Jesus' shepherding love.

Where might that lead us today, in our pilgrimage of becoming the Church Jesus commissions to area(s) of influence?



[Scripture]

John 10.11-18

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."