

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

On Summer Hiatus Until November

Fund raising and shelter cleanup efforts are beginning this month

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 to thank God for the host churches!!

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation, remember Patrice's sister, that she finds employment and faith.

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:

July 26, 2009: Proper 12 (Year B)

psalm 14, 2 samuel 11.1-15,

john 6.1-21, & ephesians 3.14-21

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still waters
home churches & worship center



July 19 - 2009

Good Walls/Bad Walls
Or, learning to house a Homeless God

Worship
psalm 89.20-37
2 samuel 7.1-14a
mark 6.30-34,53-56
ephesians 2.11-22

Benediction



Tabernacle Worship
75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465
Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's Parish House

[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading ::

2 Samuel 7.1-14a

Focus Film ::

“ Ephesians 2.13-16 ”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalms 89.20-37

Focus Film ::

“ Indigenous liturgy ”

The Scripture ~

Good Walls/Bad Walls

Or, learning to house a

Homeless God

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

Ephesians 2.13—16

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 89:20-37, 2 samuel 7.1-14a,
mark 6.30-34, 53-56, & ephesians 2.11-22

Focus Film ::

“ Honest Lament & Joy ”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

[Journaling Worship
your talking points notes...
for this Week's Church Discussion]
✚ myths of biblical proportion

✚ what kind of building project?

✚ wounds & healing anger & joy

“
When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.”
Mark 6.53—55

Reflection:

When Jesus takes the disciples to other side of the Sea of Galilee - the Gentile side - they find the journey across entrenched social boundaries to be a frightening path opposed by the powers of this world. The church today is called to cross barriers of hostility in our own circumstances, remembering that Jesus already broke down the dividing walls of racism and other injustice so that we might live as a reconciled people. — Bill Wylie-Kellermann

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home church studies

Psalm 89.20-37

[Worship]

20 I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; 21 my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. 22 The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. 23 I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. 24 My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. 25 I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. 26 He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!' 27 I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. 28 Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm. 29 I will establish his line forever, and his throne as long as the heavens endure. 30 If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my ordinances, 31 if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, 32 then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with scourges; 33 but I will not remove from him my steadfast love, or be false to my faithfulness. 34 I will not violate my covenant, or alter the word that went forth from my lips. 35 Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. 36 His line shall continue forever, and his throne endure before me like the sun. 37 It shall be established forever like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies." *Selah*

Consider:

[Words]

This week's readings are frustrating! The selected verses from the psalm paint a picture of King David as God's anointed, crushing and striking his enemies, in order to establish power. Sure, there are some words of warning for David's descendants who desert God's law and commandments. But the lectionary selection omits the stinging critique of a theology of success and prosperity with its unqualified support of rulers. As author David Pleins has

pointed out, we need to read the whole of Psalm 89 in order to offer a word that helps us "cope with and expose the unstable nature of our political and economic institutions."

The second frustrating reading is the gospel—the guts are taken out! Perhaps the lectionary compilers are seeking to draw us to think about reconciliation, the theme of the Ephesians passage. If so, what kind of reconciliation?

The point of the events associated with the crossing is to illustrate just how difficult reconciliation is. The story is about God wanting to reconcile Jew and Gentile (Galatians 3:28). And the stories reveal the true difficulty of accepting such a vision. Jesus has been alone praying while the disciples struggle with the boat in the storm. He comes to them in the crisis not as a miracle of grace over nature, to prove he can walk on water, but rather as a greater miracle: the vision of a reconciled humanity.

But such reconciliation is costly, even if the result is the creation of a single New Humanity, as happens in Christ Jesus through the cross (Ephesians 2:13-16). Jesus' action of feeding the Jewish poor, by taking available resources and organizing a sharing, is a practical critique of the system that oppresses. From that communal yet profoundly critical act, Jesus paves the way for reconciliation between Jew and Gentile. We should note that he feeds a similar Gentile crowd prior to the conclusion of his mission in that region (Mark 8:1-10).



Reflection and Action

What storms do you face in "reaching the other side" of a reconciled humanity? How does your worship critique the dominant theology of success and unquestioning support of rulers?

[Scripture]

Ephesians 2.11-13

11 So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" --a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands--12 remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.



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Daily Lectionary Readings
for Ordinary Calendar Year B [Worship]

These readings are adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, Daily Readings for Year One.

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Sun Jul 5	am: 146, 147 pm: 111, 112, 113	1 Sam 14:36-45	Rom 5:1-11	Matt 22:1-14
Mon P9 Jul 6	am: 1, 2, 3 pm: 4, 7	1 Sam 15:1-3, 7-23	Acts 9:19b-31	Luke 23:44-56a
Tues Jul 7	am: 5, 6 pm: 10, 11	1 Sam 15:24-35	Acts 9:32-43	Luke 23:56b- 24:11
Wed Jul 8	am: 119:1-24 pm: 12, 13, 14	1 Sam 16:1-13	Acts 10:1-6	Luke 24:12-35
Thur Jul 9	am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50	1 Sam 16:14- 17:11	Acts 10:17-33	Luke 24:36-53
Fri Jul 10	am: 16, 17 pm: 22	1 Sam 17:17-30	Acts 10:34-48	Mark 1:1-13
Sat Jul 11	am: 20, 21 pm: 110, 116, 117	1 Sam 17:31-49	Acts 11:1-18	Mark 1:14-28
Sun Jul 12	am: 148, 149, 150 pm: 114, 115	1 Sam 17:50- 18:4	Rom 10:4-17	Matt 23:29-39
Mon P10 Jul 13	am: 25 pm: 9, 15	1 Sam 18:5-16 27b-30	Acts 11:19-30	Mark 1:29-45
Tue Jul 14	am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39	1 Sam 19:1-18	Acts 12:1-17	Mark 2:1-12
Wed Jul 15	am: 38 pm: 119:25-48	1 Sam 20:1-23	Acts 12:18-25	Mark 2:13-22
Thur Jul 16	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	1 Sam 20:24-42	Acts 13:1-12	Mark 2:23-3:6
Fri Jul 17	am: 31 pm: 35	1 Sam 21:1-15	Acts 13:13-25	Mark 3:7-19a
Sat Jul 18	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	1 Sam 22:1-23	Acts 13:26-43	Mark 3:19b-35
Sun Jul 19	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	1 Sam 23:7-18	Rom 11:33- 12:2	Matt 24:14-30

Mon P11 Jul 20	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	1 Sam 24:1-22	Acts 13:44-52	Mark 4:1-20
Tue Jul 21	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	1 Sam 25:1-22	Acts 14:1-18	Mark 4:21-34
Wed Jul 22	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	1 Sam 25:23-44	Acts 14:19-28	Mark 4:35-41
Thur Jul 23	am: 50, 59, 60 pm: 66, 67	1 Sam 28:3-20	Acts 15:1-11	Mark 5:1-20
Fri Jul 24	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	1 Sam 31:1-13	Acts 15:12-21	Mark 5:21-43
Sat Jul 25	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	2 Sam 1:1-16	Acts 15:22-35	Mark 6:1-13
Sun Jul 26	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	2 Sam 1:17-27	Rom 12:9-21	Matt 25:31-46
Mon P12 Jul 27	am: 56, 57, 58 pm: 64, 65	2 Sam 2:1-11	Acts 15:36- 16:5	Mark 6:14-29
Tue Jul 28	am: 61, 62 pm: 68	2 Sam 3:6-21	Acts 16:6-15	Mark 6:30-46
Wed Jul 29	am: 72 pm: 119:73-96	2 Sam 3:22-39	Acts 16:16-24	Mark 6:47-56
Thur Jul 30	am: 70, 71 pm: 74	2 Sam 4:1-12	Acts 16:25-40	Mark 7:1-23
Fri Jul 31	am: 69 pm: 73	2 Sam 5:1-12	Acts 17:1-15	Mark 7:24-37
Sat Aug 1	am: 75, 76 pm: 23, 27	2 Sam 5:22- 6:11	Acts 17:16-34	Mark 8:1-10

your talking points notes...