

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

Ministry:

The Table

Is discontinued until Spring 2010

Washington & Chestnut Sts.

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

MAIN Street Shelter

Begins January 4th

Fund raising and shelter cleanup efforts are still needed, along with many volunteering opportunities.

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

Announcements:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

2010 Season will not be beginning this month, but will be delayed until January 4th. We are still working at fund raising, laundry, and storage, in order to begin, and we are still dangerously low on overnight staff.

Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Pastor Kork for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

Your Prayer Notes:

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Pray for our friends in Lower-Bucks County, who are beginning to shelter their suburban homeless friends this winter beginning December 15th.

Remember Francis for health concerns and the ability to quit smoking; Helen's knees and her ability to continue to come to Tabernacle; employment for many of us; Ron's daughter during a difficult pregnancy; Norman's understanding of his health problems and a broken arm, the Moyer family during hard times, for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism, and the future of Still Waters.

Also, pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation; remember.

Please, also keep all of us in prayers; 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:

December 13, 2009: Advent 3 (Year C)

isaiah 12.2-6, zephaniah 3.14-20,

luke 3.7-18, & philippians 4.4-7

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December 6 :: 2009

Confirming Peace

Or, rulers, governors & Straight Paths

Advent

Worship

baruch 5.1-9
malachi 3.1-4
luke 1.68-79; 3.1-6
philippians 1.3-11

Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

[Service]

Tonight...

Advent 2 ::

PEACE Candle Lighting

Focus Film ::

“ Emmanuel ”

Scripture Reading ::

Malachi 3.1-4

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his

Scripture Reading ::

deeds with songs of joy

Baruch 5.1-9

Focus Film ::

“ A Voice in the Wilderness ”

The Scripture ~

Confirming Peace Or, rulers, governors & Straight Paths

*And this is my prayer,
that your love may overflow more and more with
knowledge and full insight to help you to determine
what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be
pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of
righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ ...*

Philippians 1.9—11a

This week's Lectionary:

malachi 3.1-4, baruch 5.1-9,
luke 1.68-79; 3.1-6, & philippians 1.3-11

Focus Film ::

“ The Refiner ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

[Journaling Worship

your talking points notes...

for this Week's Church Discussion]

✧ re-remembering

✧ painful memories

✧ confirming the truth through... ?

“

as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" Luke 3.4—6

Meditation:

Reflection:

"Who was Elijah? The great prophet who went head to head with the powerful, as John will with Herod later in the story ... According to the dominant ideology of Judaism, Jerusalem was considered the center of the world to which all peoples would sooner or later come to worship (see Psalms 69:35, Isaiah 60:10-14). But for Mark the circulation of salvation history is reversed: The prophetic word is being regenerated not at Zion, but at the margins!" -Ched Myers

John the Baptist's location in the wilderness is a stark contrast to the Jewish ruling elite's (and Malachi 3.1's) focus on the temple, this past year, we've explored Mark's parallel passage to Luke 3.4-6. Compare.



still waters

home church studies

Malachi 3.1-4

[Worship]

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

1 Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. 2 Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; 3 for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. 4 For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." 5 Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east as the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. 6 For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. 7 For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. 8 The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. 9 For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Baruch 5.1-9

Consider:

Peace and/or Justice? —

[Words]

The gospel begins with a long list of the political and religious luminaries of the day. Some claim this is simply to date the story, but we can't escape the irony. In the midst of all this power and prestige, in the midst of all these important titles and positions, the Word of God comes, not to the mighty rulers or high priests, but to...John, in the desert. John's task of preparing the way of the Lord has been long promised: In Zechariah's prophecy (Luke 1:76) and Gabriel's earlier vow to Zechariah (Luke 1:17), and in today's reading from Malachi: I am sending a messenger to prepare the way, the Lord will come to his temple. Who knew that temple would turn out to be a river in the wilderness!

The selection from Malachi responds to the age-old quandary, Why do "the good receive the treatment the wicked deserve, the wicked the treatment the good deserve"? (Ecclesiastes 8:14)—and in light of this, Where is the God of justice? (2:17). Malachi promises that God's judgment will be visited upon those who practice injustice: against the adulterer and liar, and especially against "those who oppress the wage-earner [grist for a Labor Day sermon?], the widow and the orphan, and who rob the settler of their rights" (3:5). The good news of justice for the weak entails judgment on the strong. Where is the God of justice? John the Baptist's message is that the reign of God has begun, and God's justice is at hand.

[Scripture]

Luke 3.1-6

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



still waters
home church studies
Daily Lectionary Readings
for Advent Year C [Worship]

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

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Sun Nov 29 | am: 146, 147 pm: 111, 112, 113 | Amos 1:1-5, 13- 2:8 | 1 Thess 5:1-11 | Luke 21:5-19 |
| Mon Nov 30 | am: 1, 2, 3 pm: 4, 7 | Amos 2:6-16 | 2 Peter 1:1-11 | Matt 21:1-11 |
| Tues Dec 1 | am: 5, 6 pm: 10, 11 | Amos 3:1-11 | 2 Peter 1:12-21 | Matt 21:12-22 |
| Wed Dec 2 | am: 119:1-24 pm: 12, 13, 14 | Amos 3:12-4:5 | 2 Peter 3:1-10 | Matt 21:23-32 |
| Thur Dec 3 | am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50 | Amos 4:6-13 | 2 Peter 3:11-18 | Matt 21:33-46 |
| Fri Dec 4 | am: 16, 17 pm: 22 | Amos 5:1-17 | Jude 1-16 | Matt 22:1-14 |
| Sat Dec 5 | am: 20, 21 pm: 110, 116, 117 | Amos 5:18-27 | Jude 17-25 | Matt 22:15-22 |
| Sun Dec 6 | am: 148-150 pm: 114, 115 | Amos 6:1-14 | 2 Thess 1:5-12 | Luke 1:57-68 |
| Mon Dec 7 | am: 25 pm: 9, 15 | Amos 7:1-9 | Rev 1:1-8 | Matt 22:23-33 |
| Tues Dec 8 | am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39 | Amos 7:10-17 | Rev 1:9-16 | Matt 22:34-46 |
| Wed Dec 9 | am: 38 pm: 119:25-48 | Amos 8:1-14 | Rev 1:17-2:7 | Matt 23:1-12 |
| Thur Dec 10 | am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42 | Amos 9:1-10 | Rev 2:8-17 | Matt 23:13-26 |
| Fri Dec 11 | am: 31 pm: 35 | Haggai 1:1-15 | Rev 2:18-29 | Matt 23:27-39 |
| Sat Dec 12 | am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43 | Haggai 2:1-19 | Rev 3:1-6 | Matt 24:1-14 |
| Sun Dec 13 | am: 63, 98 pm: 103 | Amos 9:11-15 | 2 Thess 2:1-3, 13-17 | John 5:30-47 |
| Mon Dec 14 | am: 41, 52 pm: 44 | Zech 1:7-17 | Rev 3:7-13 | Matt 24:15-31 |
| Tue Dec 15 | am: 45 pm: 47, 48 | Zech 2:1-13 | Rev 3:14-22 | Matt 24:32-44 |
| Wed Dec 16 | am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53 | Zech 3:1-10 | Rev 4:1-8 | Matt 24:45-51 |

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|-----------------|--|--|---|---------------|
| Thur Dec 17 | am: 50, 59 pm: 60, 33 | Zech 4:1-14 | Rev 4:9-5:5 | Matt 25:1-13 |
| Fri Dec 18 | am: 40, 54 pm: 51 | Zech 7:8-8:8 | Rev 5:6-14 | Matt 25:14-30 |
| Sat Dec 19 | am: 55 pm: 138, 139 | Zech 8:9-17 | Rev 6:1-17 | Matt 25:31-46 |
| Sun Dec 20 | am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84 | Gen 3:8-15 | Rev 12:1-10 | John 3:16-21 |
| Mon Dec 21 | am: 61, 62 pm: 112, 115 | Zeph 3:14-20 | Titus 1:1-16 | Luke 1:1-25 |
| Tue Dec 22 | am: 66, 67 pm: 116, 117 | 1 Sam 2:1b-10 | Titus 2:1-10 | Luke 1:26-38 |
| Wed Dec 23 | am: 72 pm: 111, 113 | 2 Sam 7:1-17 | Titus 2:11-3:8a | Luke 1:39-56 |
| Thur Dec 24 | am: 45, 46 pm: 89:1-29 | Isa 59:15b-21 | am: Gal 3:23-4:7 pm: Phil 2:5-11 | Matt 1:18-25 |
| Fri Dec 25 | am: 2, 85 pm: 132, 110 | Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4 | 1 John 4:7-16 | John 3:26-31 |
| Sat Dec 26 | ¹ am: 93, 96 pm: 34 | Isa 62:1-5 | Heb 2:10-18 | Matt 2:1-12 |
| Sun Dec 27 | am: 96 pm: 34 | 1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28 | Col. 1:9-20 | Luke 2:22-40 |
| Mon Dec 28 | ² am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50 | Isa 12:1-6 | Rev 1:1-8 | John 7:37-52 |
| Tue Dec 29 | am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50 | 2 Sam 23:13-17b | 2 John 1-13 | Luke 1:57-66 |
| Wed Dec 30 | am: 20, 21 pm: 23, 27 | 1 Kg 17:17-24 | 3 John 1-15 | John 5:1-15 |
| Thurs Dec 31 | am: 46, 48 pm: 90 | am: 1 Kg 3:5-14 pm: Isa 65:15b- 25 | am: Jam 4:13- 17; 5:7-11 pm: Rev 21:1-6 | John 4:46-54 |

your talking points notes...