

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 20, 2009: Advent 4 (Year C)
micah 5.2-5a, luke 1.39-55 (46b-55),

& hebrews 10.5-10

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



December 13 :: 2009

Baptism & Salvation

Or, the JOY of being
All Wet

Advent 3

Worship
isaiah 12.2-6
zephaniah 3.14-20
luke 3.7-18
philippians 4.4-7

Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

[Service]

Tonight...

Advent 3 ::

Joy Candle Lighting

Focus Film ::

“ Restored Fortunes ”

Scripture Reading ::

Isaiah 12. 2-6

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his

Scripture Reading ::

deeds with songs of joy

Philippians 4.4-7

Focus Film ::

“ The River ”

The Scripture ~

Baptism & Salvation

Or, the JOY of being

All Wet

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’;..

His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. Luke 3.7—8a; 17—18

This week’s Lectionary:

isaiah 12.2-6, zephaniah 3.14-20,

Focus Film :: luke 3.7-18, & philippians 4.4-7

“ I Repent ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

Journaling Worship

your talking points notes...

for this Week’s Church Discussion]

≠ two different baptisms?

≠ baptism of fire

≠ JOY lives in a Barn



Meditation:

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

Luke 3.10—14

Reflection:

"John the Baptist pointed the multitudes to the Christ, but first gave them explicit economic instructions. These admonitions make demands upon rich and poor alike: even one who has just two coats or some food is commanded to share. What does this mean? To me it means that the way we use our resources is related to our salvation." - John Perkins



still waters

home church studies

Zephaniah 3.14-20

[Worship]

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove

disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 12.2-6

Consider: Joy & Rejoicing —

[Words]

If the first two weeks of Advent focused on righteousness, the third is all about joy. Zephaniah, who promises the mercy of a loving God despite Israel's infidelity, prepares the community for celebration: "Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you.... He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love..." (Zephaniah 3.14,17). Isaiah too praises God's fidelity to Israel and alerts them to God's presence: "Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!" (Isaiah 12.6). Even in his letter to the Philippians, also known as "the letter of joy," Paul's preoccupations with God's coming judgment are replaced by the promise of mercy and peace: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.... Do not worry about anything.... And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4.4, 6-7). As an Advent people we too can rejoice, despite the fact that we don't fully understand the hows or whys of God's boundless love.

In contrast to the joyful and peaceful tone of the first readings comes a voice from the wilderness: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Luke 3.7). John doesn't mince words when it comes to God's impending incarnation. As the only author to connect John's activities to a calling from God, Luke places him squarely in line with the great Old Testament prophets, echoing the prophets' call to repentance. John warns his followers (and us) that ancestry, religious affiliation, and connections of any kind are of no importance; all that matters is that we "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Luke 3.8). Such fruits, as usual, have to do with justice: Share what you have, do not take advantage of power or authority, do not be greedy. These fruits are but a few ways we can show which god we worship, and that we are truly prepared to incarnate the peace that surpasses all understanding.

[Scripture]

Philippians 4.4-7

4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



still waters
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

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...