

**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

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**Begins January 4th**

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

**Announcements:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

2010 Season has begun. We are still working at fund raising, laundry, and storage, and we are still in need of overnight staff.

Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Pastor Kork or Ron Caulk 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 have begun to shelter their suburban homeless friends.

Remember Helen's knees and her ability to come to Tabernacle; employment for many of us; Ron's health difficulties and his daughter's pregnancy; Norman's life changes and understanding of his health problems, the Moyer family during difficult decision times, our Grater family, who's elderly father has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer, 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.

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:**

January 17, 2010; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany (Year C)  
psalm 36.5-10, isaiah 62.1-5, john 2.1-11, & 1 corinthians 12.1-11  
Get in touch with us at:

i. [www.besidestillwaters.net](http://www.besidestillwaters.net) e. [Info@besidestillwaters.net](mailto:Info@besidestillwaters.net)

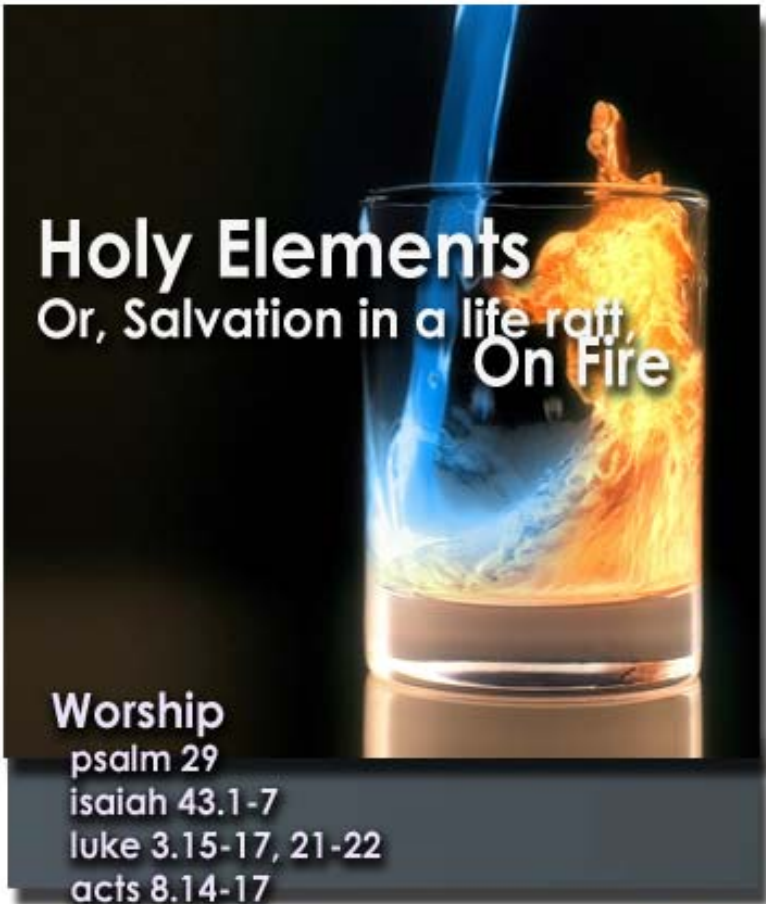
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still waters  
home churches & worship center

January 10 - 2010



**Holy Elements**  
Or, Salvation in a life raft  
On Fire

**Worship**  
psalm 29  
isaiah 43.1-7  
luke 3.15-17, 21-22  
acts 8.14-17

Benediction

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

[Service]

## Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“Isaiah 42”

Scripture Reading ::

Isaiah 43.1-7

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Psalms 29

Focus Film ::

“Down to the River”

The Scripture ~

## Holy Elements Or, salvation in a life raft, On Fire

The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8.15-17

This week's Lectionary:  
psalm 29, isaiah 43.1-7,  
luke 3.15-17, 21-22 & acts 8.14-17

Focus Film ::

“Baptism of Our Lord”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

✚ at-one-ment

✚ drenched in God

✚ a holy hug

### Meditation:

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3.21—22

### Reflection:

In this event Jesus accepts a role with reference to God and to humankind. His submission puts him in contradiction to the world in a way that will lead, eventually, to his execution. His solidarity with humanity defines his ministry among the poor, the needy, the disabled, all those who wait for the gift of God's rule that will override the way the world has been. We cannot read about the baptism of Jesus without reading about the baptism of the church (Acts 8.14-17). The candidates were convinced of the news of God in Christ; they were baptized and they received the spirit at the hands of the apostles. What happens to the church in baptism is what happens to Christ in baptism: submission to God's intent and solidarity with the human community." —Walter Bruggemann

# still waters

home church studies

## Isaiah 43.1-7

[Worship]

1 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6 I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth--7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

### Consider:

[Words]

The biblical writers, in a rich variety of ways, confess that God is giving a newness. That newness from God is the center of Hebrew Testament faith. And for Christians, the life of Jesus is the quintessential exhibit of God's newness in the world. Three things strike me about that constant assertion of God's newness.

First, it is beyond explanation and beyond our own conjuring. It depends wholly upon God. Second, the Bible is concerned with the community that receives, trusts in, and embraces the miracle of newness. It knows that this community, synagogue, and church is summoned to a radical way of obedience in the world, a way so radical that it evokes the hostility of the world. But third, those vexed by such a summons turn to God in hope and trust, that God will overrule such hostility.

It strikes me that these texts, especially in the season of Epiphany, are stunningly contemporary for us. The world in its fearful anxiety grows more hard-hearted and violent. Clearly, such a bent can never lead to

well-being. The question is how that vicious cycle of deathliness can be broken? The answer given here is that it is broken when a community boldly acts in response to God's self-giving jubilee. The ground for enacting jubilee in our world is baptism, entry into an alternative existence that is not beholden to the old orders of death.

Walter Bruggemann



[Scripture]

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 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."