

**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 April 21, 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**

**April's Host Church is**

**Christ Episcopal**

**Fund raising and Shelter Intake**

**Center cleanup efforts provide many volunteering opportunities.**

**Announcements:**

**Norman Vanderlick** has moved to a group home in Harleysville. Please consider writing him a note love and encouragement while he settles in.

**His new address is: 140 Crescent Ln, Harleysville, PA 19438**

We will be trying to coordinate bringing him to dinner, church, and singing once a month. Pray and see where you might fit in assuring him of our love for him.

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

We are still working at fund raising, laundry, Intake staffing, 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 and:**

Remember Ron's health, to keep him strong while running the shelter; the 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 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.

Please, also, pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

April 18, 2010: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year C)

psalm 30, john 21.1-19, acts 9.1-20, & revelation 5.11-14

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April 11 - 2010

**Belief & Doubt**

Or, God's desert from the Oasis of Religion

**Worship**  
psalm 150  
acts 5.27-32  
john 20.19-31  
revelation 1.4-8

**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 ::

“Doubting Thomas”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 150

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Revelation 1.4-8

This week's Lectionary Text:

psalm 150, acts 5.27-32,  
john 20.19-31, & revelation 1.4-8

Focus Film ::

“Addicted to Church”

The Scripture ~

## Belief & Doubt

Or, God's desert from the  
Oasis of Religion

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas, ... one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **John 20.19b-24**

Song Worship & Sending Film ::

“Lying Down My Identity”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

¥ Touchy, Feely

¥ Don't Stand so close to me...

¥ 'So Send | You'

**Meditation:**

"Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." **John 20.26b—29**

**Reflection:**

Despite the joy of the resurrection, Jesus' followers remain confused, and "the doors of the house ... were locked for fear of the Jews" (John 20.19). Jesus walks amidst their fear, bringing the first gift of the resurrection: Peace. With the breath of the Spirit, Jesus also gives the disciples the power to create community: "Receive the Holy Spirit. — Michaela Bruzzese

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 150

[Worship]

1 Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! 3 Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! 4 Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! 5 Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! 6 Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

### Consider:

[Words]

It is amazing that the narrative of Jesus' new life-giving presence (John 20.19-31) generates bold apostolic preaching (Acts 5.27-32) that eventuates in lyrical expectation of the coming rule of God (Revelation 1.4-8).

The narrative of John 20 concerns the doubt of the early church about Easter, and the peace-uttering presence of Jesus that overrides that uncertainty. The church reports its doubt that culminates in the affirmation of Thomas.

The apostolic preaching of Acts 5 caused early witnesses to the resurrection to be continually called "on the carpet" for asserting that the old authority of the empire had been broken by the eruption of God's power for life. The ultimate testimony is that "We must obey God rather than any human authority" (Acts 5.29). Such defiance refers to Roman authority, but since then evokes bold witness and action in defiance of both settled authority and the dogmas of a misguided religious orthodoxy, that demands self-centered gnosticism.

From that preaching comes hope that what God has begun in Easter, God will complete in the fullness of time. The lyric of Revelation 1.4-8 (matched by the lyric of Psalm 150) celebrates the fullness of God's good rule from A to Z (alpha to omega).

Such new life, lyrical hope, and bold civil disobedience mean the undoing of the old world. Easter is not reflection on an odd miracle. It is rather the mounting of a new practical way in the world, a way that dazzles and threatens and ultimately transforms.



[Scripture]

Acts 5.27-32

27 When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

**Question: *Where have you seen the Risen Christ?***

*In God's new world of resurrection, are you still needing a vicarious Jesus—having others just telling you about Him in another's experience?*

*What will keep us free to exercise our liberation from self-centeredness, and sustain our ability to freely herald God's surpassing greatness in how we reorder our lives—sent like Him, and by Him?*

Also, read for yourself this week, Revelation 1.4-8