

**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 May 19, 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**

**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, and cleanup while we endeavor to end our shelter season safely for all. 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 those prayer requests from last week and:**

Remember Ron's health, to keep him strong; 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 keep our church in prayer during yet another time of upheaval and difficulty while trying to remain faithful to God's calling to the least around us.

Pray for the Brackens.

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

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

May 2, 2010: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year C)

psalm 148, john 13.31-35,

acts 11.1-18, & revelation 21.1-6

Get in touch with us at:

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

256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465-7022

Phone: (610) 970-2444

Fax: (484) 363-4017



April 25 - 2010

# Wandering Sheep

Or, Finding suspense in  
God's House?

**Worship**  
psalm 23  
john 10.22-30  
acts 9.36-43  
revelation 7.9-17

**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 ::

“ Psalm 23 ”

Scripture Reading ::

John 10.22-30

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Revelation 7.9-17

This week's Lectionary Text:

psalm 23, john 10.22-30, acts 9.36-43, & revelation 7.9-17

Focus Film ::

“ Liars ”

The Scripture ~

## Wandering Sheep Or, Finding suspense in God's House?

*My sheep hear my voice.*

*I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.”*

(John 10 .27—30)

Sending Film ::

“ Joining the Insurrection ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13



[Journaling Worship  
your talking points notes...  
for this Week's Church Discussion]  
✚ what kind of shepherd?

✚ when sheep follow sheep

✚ the Insurrection of Resurrection



**Meditation:**

*How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life,...’” (John 10 .2b4—28a)*

**Reflection:**

“It is impossible to follow this shepherd without walking into pain—one's own as well as that of the world. It is impossible to follow without understanding the cross and the commandment to pour ourselves out for enemy and friend.

Revelation 7 holds forth the image of a throng gathered around the throne of the Lamb. As we read the passage, can we picture the faces of people we know? May we take comfort in the promise it offers for our journey.

...the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more... for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 7 .15—17)



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 23

[Worship]

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

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### Consider:

[Words]

The world believes that we are finally in the grip of death. We spend our frightened energy trying to stay young and be healthy. We use our money to secure our existence. We work frantically to establish our worth. We are propelled by fearfulness that evokes violence and produces policies of aggression and militarism.

Against that, these texts assert Jesus offers a way of “eternal life” that puts us out of the reach of deathliness. By “eternal life” the church means the full and final establishment of our worth, our identity, and our destiny in God’s rule.

The readings mediate on God’s power for life. Psalm 23 voices confidence in the protector who “restores my life” in the danger zones of hostility and threat. God leads “beside still waters,” an image picked up at the end of the great doxology in Revelation 7:17 where the good shepherd will finally prevail.

Between the ancient psalm and the sweeping doxology is the story of Peter restoring life to Dorcas. In his utterance, Peter reiterates the earlier command of Jesus in Mark 5:41 (Acts 9:40). This sequence of texts attests that God has entrusted to the church the capacity to defy death and evoke life. Imagine a world peopled by those unafraid of death. Those who join this narrative may cease to be “arms dealers” and become gift givers who share the water of life.

—Walter Brueggemann

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[Scripture]

## Revelation 7.9-17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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### Question:

As we re-read Jesus’ revelation in terms of the apocalyptic language employed, our cultural and learned veneer can be challenged to an uncomfortable decisional breaking-point, just as Judaism, Saul and those wanting to be freed from “Suspense.” After all, our “belief” is on the line...

How do we reflect the psalm 23 kingdom, both personally, and as a church body in light of this re-thinking and challenge to our traditional understanding of Gospel?

Also, read for yourself this week,

John 10.22-30 & Acts 9.36-43,