

**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**

**We are down for the Summer, But...**

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.**

The 2009/2010 Shelter Season is finished, but we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and cleanup while we endeavor to begin again in November. 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 our 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 Bruce's health issues; for Diana's family to be reunited; 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 16, 2010: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year C)

psalm 97, john 17.20-26, acts 16.16-34, & revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Get in touch with us at:

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May 9 : 2010

# Spiritual Gardens

Or, God's Green Plan for a New World

**Worship**  
psalm 67  
john 14. 23-29  
acts 16. 9-15  
revelation 21. 10, 22 -22.5

**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 67”

Scripture Reading ::

Acts 16.9-15

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Revelation 21.10, 22 – 22.5

This week's Lectionary Text:

psalm 67, john 14.23-29,  
acts 16.9-15, & revelation 21.10,22 – 22.5

Focus Film ::

“Mother's Day & Pentecost”

The Scripture ~

## Spiritual Gardens

Or, God's Green Plan for a New World

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face,.. Revelation 22.1—4a

Sending Film ::

“A Mother's Day Movement”

Benediction ::

Psalm 67

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

✚ cultural communities

✚ beauty and singing

“

### Meditation:

A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us."  
Acts 16.14—15

### Reflection:

"...the misunderstanding disciples are offered this hope: If you don't get it now, wait! The Paraclete, the Spirit of truth, will explain it to you later."

—Wes Howard-Brook

"Perhaps the practice of hospitality, like Lydia's, is the ultimate outcome of the Easter season, when there is no fear of others; God's readiness to take up residence in our habitat contradicts all the fearful aggressiveness of the world."

—Walter Bruggemann



# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 67

[Worship]

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

Selah

2 that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Selah

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. 6 The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. 7 May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

### Consider:

[Words]

Easter is an invitation to homecoming. The big picture of homecoming concerns “the healing of the nations,” a time when the nations will not be fearful and aggressive, because all will be safe and cared for (Revelation 22:2). The small picture is of this woman Lydia in Macedonia where Paul came to preach. We are told that Lydia “opened her heart to listen eagerly”; she was in a moment of readiness, disposed to listen as “a worshiper of God” (Acts 16:14). As she listened, she responded by inviting Paul to stay “in my home.” She practiced hospitality, opened her home in welcome. Perhaps the practice of hospitality is the ultimate outcome of the Easter season, when there is no fear of others, but readiness to host (see Romans 12:13).

The connection between *the healing of the nations* and *Lydia’s welcome* is the gospel news that God will make *God’s own home* in our midst (John 14:23). God’s readiness to take up residence in our habitat contradicts all the fearful aggressiveness of the world. The risen Christ came and said “peace” (John 14:27). Where he comes, there is peace. The news of Easter is that the enlivened Christ invites us away from the deathliness of the world, not to withdraw, but to listen and host and

welcome, and so to reverse the vicious cycles that keep wounding nations, communities, and persons.

God’s power for life is at work in the world. This news contradicts the common assumption that the world, in its deathliness, has refused and rejected that power for life—and that our proper stance in the world is therefore one of fear enacted as anxiety, greed, selfishness, and violence. The text tells otherwise! The text attests that the world continues to be the venue where the gift of life is given. The God given to us in this trustworthy text is one who makes no distinctions, who authorizes hospitality, who opens prisons, who breathes the world new, who assures good order in the world. In sum, the text defies the belittling of God’s world and invites us to live in the world boldly, freely, in peace, at home, practicing generative hospitality. We may be home-makers, following the God who makes a home among us.

—Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

John 14.23-29

23 Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

25 “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

### Question:

Where has your willingness to keep Jesus’ word, in delivering peace to the nations (cultures), been actively at work in the avenues of hospitality, as we endeavor to follow the risen Christ, through the Holy Spirit among us?

If a “Paul” were to speak to you today, would you be “eager” to listen, and open your home to him and his Spirit led movement?

Also, read for yourself this week,  
**Revelation 21.10, 22 - 22.5**