

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

Begins again THIS WEEK, Wednesday

Wednesday Evenings 7:00 pm

Washington & Chestnut Sts.

Home Churches:

Hanover St. Home Church

Thursday 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 John's mother's health; for Diana's family to be reunited; for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and 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—the future of Still Waters, 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 23, 2010: Pentecost (Year C)

psalm 104.24-35, john 14.8-17, 25-27, acts 2.1-21, & romans 8.14-17

Get in touch with us at:

i. www.besidestillwaters.net e. Info@besidestillwaters.net

256 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19465-7022

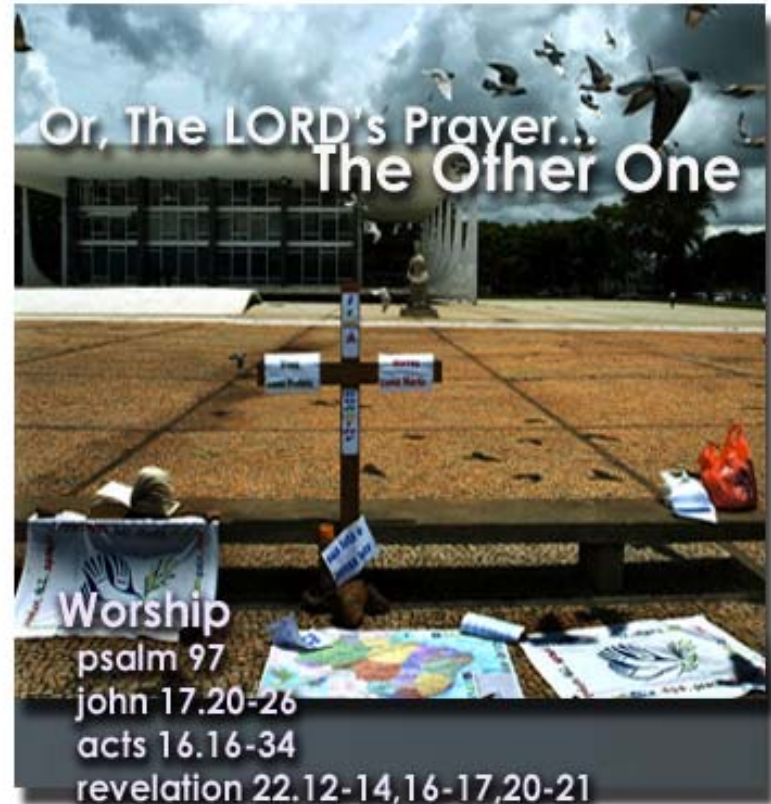
Phone: (610) 970-2444

Fax: (484) 363-4017



May 16 - 2010

Death Wish



Benediction



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Still Waters is a member church of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, P.O. Box 384 Winona Lake, IN 46590



[Service]

Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“Awaken”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 97

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Acts 16.16-34

This week's Lectionary Text:

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

Focus Film ::

“The Body”

The Scripture ~

Death Wish
Or, The LORD's Prayer...
The Other One
...that they may all be one.

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17.21—23

Sending Film ::

“Jesus Said...”

Benediction ::

Psalm 67

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

✚ Christian cancer

✚ you only hurt the One you love...

Meditation:

“When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.” Acts 16.27—29

Reflection:

The ascension of Jesus takes place amidst the persecution of the early church. In both Acts and Revelation, the authors testify to the consequences of a lived faith. After healing a slave girl of an evil spirit, Paul and his followers find themselves “stripped of their clothing” and “beaten with rods” (Acts 16.22), then flogged and thrown into prison. And in Revelation, probably written during the reign of Domitian, a fierce persecutor of the church, the author encourages Christians to remain faithful, despite the pressures of paganism and persecution. (Rev. 22.14)

“In the midst of violence and death, the disciples choose to offer life to those who rejected and abused them. Ultimately, we are not called to avoid oppression, suffering, or even death but to answer it with life, mercy, and hope.” — Michaela Bruzzese

Psalm 97

[Worship]

1 The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! 2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. 3 Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side. 4 His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. 5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory. 7 All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him. 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God. 9 For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked. 11 Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. 12 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Consider:

[Words]

The Acts narrative has all the ingredients for a greedy, self-deceiving, status-quo society:

There is a used slave-girl fortune-teller who thinks that the future is all fated and can be programmed in a way of certitude. There are money-making exploiters, the banker-pimps who use the innocent fortune-teller to generate private wealth. There are the magistrates who use their authority to maintain the status quo and prevent any social "disturbance." And there's a prison that is a social statement about power and order that constitutes a threat to any who act "outside the box."

Into the midst of these "fixtures" of a stable society come the apostles who assert an alternative "way of salvation" (verse 17). The new way of well-being exposes all their old ways as failed frauds. In reaction to such news, the magistrates by decree and the mob by violence try to stop the news of "another way." But, we are told, "suddenly" all the fixtures of shut-down control are shattered. The text makes no direct connection between *the news* and *the quake*. It only lets us imagine that God's new power is on the move. It's no wonder that the ones who know, sing and pray and praise and praise (Psalm 97). We praise because we know the prison houses of fear cannot contain this God who gives "life and breath and all things" (Acts 17:25).

—Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

John 17.20-26

20 "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Question:

Where do you see today's Church falling prey to an orthodoxy that looks more to personal certitude of individual futures and societal norms, than to those who 'Wash Their Robes' in a longing to be 'found at one with God and each other, as we endeavor to follow the risen Christ, together?

If you were wronged (particularly financially) by a conflict between Christ's 'Way' and the world's system, how would you seek restitution... Or would you?

Also, read for yourself this week,

Acts 16.16-34