

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 Gary's back and sciatica; 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 30, 2010: Trinity Sunday (Year C)

psalm 8, proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31,

john 16.12-15, & romans 5.1-5

Get in touch with us at:

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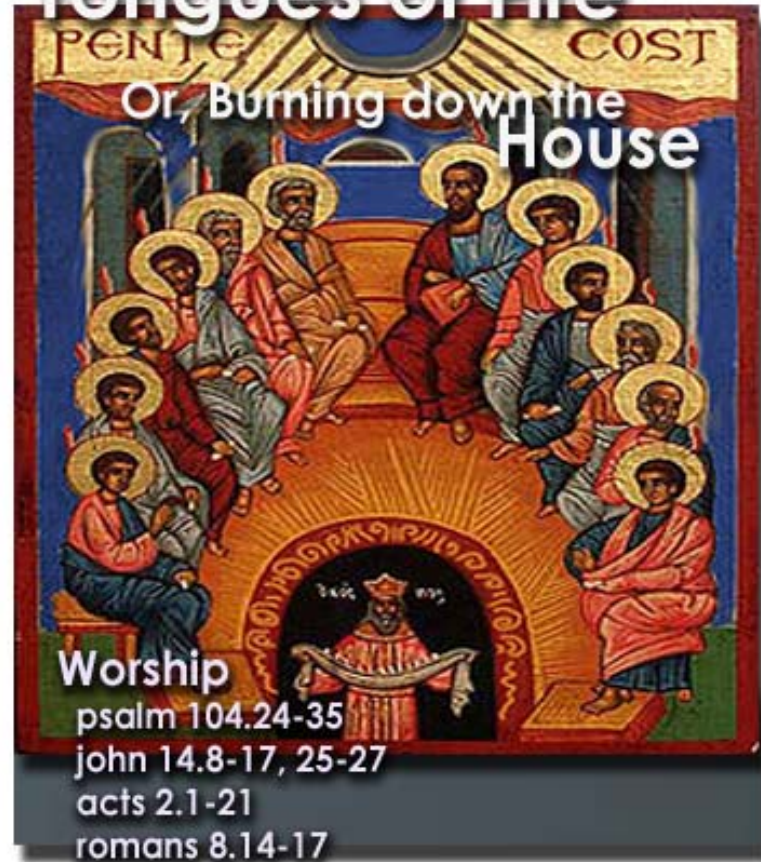
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still waters
home churches & worship center

May 23 - 2010

Tongues of Fire



Worship

psalm 104.24-35

john 14.8-17, 25-27

acts 2.1-21

romans 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 ::

“Pentecost”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 104.24-35

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Acts 2.1-21

This week's Lectionary Text:

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

Focus Film ::

“Tear It Apart”

The Scripture ~

Tongues of Fire Or, Burning down the

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14.11—15

Sending Film ::

“Pentecost Prayer”

Benediction ::

Revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21

[Journaling Worship
your talking points notes...
for this Week's Church Discussion]
✚ the seduction of self-sufficiency

✚ hide or seek

✚ intimate connections

“

Meditation:

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 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.'" John 14.17, 25—26

Reflection:

The lectionary predictably skips over Psalm 104, verse 35a (“*May sinners vanish from the earth, and the wicked be no more.*”) because it is “not nice.” That verse identifies “the wicked” who do not trust God amid chaos, who do not receive food gratefully, who do not rely on God’s constancy, and so do not “trust and obey.” We are always seduced out of grateful dependence on God and talked into self-sufficiency. But it does not work, and we, then the “wicked,” are “consumed” in anxiety. This “Day of the Spirit” invites a pondering of our true status before the life-giving goodness of God.

— Walter Bruggemann



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 104.24-35

[Worship]

24 O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. 25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. 26 There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. 27 These all look to you to give them their food in due season; 28 when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. 29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. 30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. 31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works-- 32 who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. 33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. 34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. 35 Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Consider:

[Words]

Pentecost is considered the birth of the church, the community's commission and authorization to continue the work of Jesus. It also introduced one of the most profound paradoxes of our lived faith: how to live as a church community, as we are called, and how to honor the individual manifestation of the Spirit within each person. The Spirit descended while the apostles "were all in one place together," in community. And yet it sought each person when it "parted and came to rest on each one of them" (Acts 2.1-3).

In our romans passage, Paul rejects the temptation to make spiritual authority hierarchal and insists that no one is privileged by birthright: "For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'" (Romans 8.15). We are *all* born to this Abba who takes us in regardless of our birthright, race, gender, language, or social status. This Abba adopts us all joyfully and, with our consent, breathes the sacred Spirit upon each one of us, equally commissioning us to be agents of grace, mercy, and love in this world.

Pentecost is a tremendous gift, and as such it is also a tremendous responsibility. How susceptible we are to falling back into fear and trying to limit access to our beloved Abba through complex systems of grace and merit! When we do so, we hinder the Spirit. Like us, without God's Spirit, our churches are merely dust, devoid of life. Our Abba, however, continues faithfully to call us to re-creation through the Holy Spirit. Each one spoke a different tongue and bore a different gift to the outside world. On this Pentecost, let us celebrate our 2000-year-old community and find new ways to honor the work of the Spirit in each person.

[Scripture]

Romans 8.14-17

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Question:

Last week, we discussed how today's Church would view Paul and Silas' jail sentence as possibly just, due to their disrupting the social orthodoxy of their day. Today we would probably view the jailer as an enemy to reject, and the open cells as God's personal deliverance, due to our individuality—all in the name of sameness and narrow purity structures.

Amid our recognition of God's Spirit arriving, how do we at once maintain our communal church without monopolizing, limiting, or otherwise hindering the gifts of the Spirit as they are expressed in each member?

Also, read for yourself this week, [Acts 2.1-21](#)