

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

Home Churches:

Hanover St. Home Church

Thursday Evenings

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

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 of 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 2010/2011 Shelter Season is being planned, and we are still working at fund raising. We are readying to begin again in November, and need help putting the Intake Center back together. We are working Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am to prepare the Intake Center. 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!!

New Home Church Series every Thursday evening

at The Moyer's **Economy of Love**

Creating a Community of Enough



Your Prayer Notes:

Remember those prayer requests from last week and:

Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Toni's friend Bruce who has terminal cancer; Cheryl's grand daughter; for the Brackens; for Fay in her heartbreak at the loss of her son, and strength for their family; for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism; and also keep all of us in prayer, 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. Please, also, pray for our shelter friends, who are not connected to us during the down season, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

Next Week's Scriptures:

October 10, 2010: Proper 23 (Year C)

Psalm 66:1-12, Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7,

Luke 17:11-19, & 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Get in touch with us at:

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still waters
home churches & worship center



October 3 - 2010

Uprooting Our Faith

Or, When God rejects Our Beliefs

Worship
Psalm 137
Lamentations 1.1-6
Luke 17.5-10
2 Timothy 1.1-14

Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's Parish House



[Service]

Tonight...

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 137

Focus Film ::

"Don't Make Us Sing"

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Lamentations 1.1-6

Focus Film ::

"Domesticated Jesus"

This week's Lectionary Text:

*Psalm 137, Lamentations 1.1-6
Luke 17.5-10, & 2 Timothy 1.1-14*

The Scripture ~

Uprooting Our Faith...
Or, When God rejects

Our Beliefs
The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Luke 17.5—7

Reflection Film ::

"Hope Of Mercy"

Benediction ::

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

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

✚ Increase our faith?

✚ Thinking like a worthless
Slave

✚ Are you sure?

Meditation:

for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. 1 Timothy 1.7—9

Reflection:

"Many times, the kingdom of God appears to the world as something small and insignificant, as small as a mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32), as troublesome a weed as the mustard plant, breaking out all over. The kingdom of God is like a rich man who placed his property in his servants' charge and then left town (Mark 13:34-36). In speaking about the kingdom of God mostly in parables, Jesus thereby showed us that the kingdom of God is sometimes difficult for us to see, tough for him to explain. The kingdom is here, not yet here, surprising, unexpected, threatening, playful, real."

—Stanley M. Hauerwas & William H. Willimon, "Your Kingdom Come," 1996



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 137

[Worship]

1 By the rivers of Babylon--there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. 2 On the willows there we hung up our harps. 3 For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! 6 Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy. 7 Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem's fall, how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down! Down to its foundations!" 8 O daughter Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us! 9 Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!

Consider:

[Words]

In this and future readings, we are given an entire month to ponder the nature of faith, its depth, its radical summons, and its reach into every sphere of our life. It is clear that faith, in biblical perspective, cannot be understood generically. It has its form and substance only because of its Subject, the God of Israel who has come among us in Jesus of Nazareth. The sweep of faith runs from its deep rootage in the ancient promises and commandments of Sinai to the missional passion of Paul in the early church. The texts make unmistakably clear that the faith of the church constitutes an odd way in a world that is sometimes hostile to that faith and consequently requires steadfast intentionality in its daily enactment.

Here the listener is summoned to reliance on God and obedience to God. And because that reliance and obedience are deeply counter-cultural, there is repeatedly a summons to persistence and durability.

This set of gospel readings provides accent points for us. Jesus instructs his disciples in faith as duty (Luke 17:5-10), exhibits the power to transform (Luke 17:11-19), summons to persistence in prayer (Luke

18:1-8), urges reliance upon God's righteousness and not our own (Luke 18:9-14), and evokes radical obedience in the world through restorative economic activity (Luke 19:2-10). This gospel sequence imagines a community with a different, liberated, joyous purpose in the world. – Walter Brueggemann

[Scripture]

2 Timothy 1.1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I am grateful to God--whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did--when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. 6 For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; 7 for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. 8 Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, 12 and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. 13 Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Question:

Do we really want our faith increased? Seems that to do that, God would need to strip us of our deep rooted religious prejudices, including our pious and self-serving orthodoxies that place us at the top of the hill. Jesus suggests, comparatively, that in the ways we are rooted in our religious beliefs of purity codes and religious rituals, real faith brings us low—down to the level of those we condescend to. Real, increased faith, places us sympathetically, at the slaves feet as his servant. Are we really sure we want all that... are we sure we want Jesus to increase *OUR* faith? ~ Kork