

**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**

*Suspended until the end of Shelter Season in April*  
Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**We have begun the 2010/2011 Shelter Season!**

Host Church is Christ Episcopal on High St  
*There are 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.**

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 Tuesday evening at The Moyer's

**The Story of God**

The Story of Us.



**Your Prayer Notes:**

**Remember those prayer requests from last week and:**

Please pray for Ron's health, to keep him strong; for Patrice's thyroid treatments; for Diana's family to be reunited; for Roxy who was diagnosed with cancer, for health and to be another voice of God in the midst of physical struggle to those around her, for those who suffered the Walnut St fire, including pastor Tom and the "Old Rugged Church;" 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 those who will be coming to the shelter, that they would find love and grace during their struggle, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**November 28, 2010: Advent 1 (Year A)**

**Psalm 122, Isaiah 2.1-5,**

**Matthew 24.36-44, & Romans 13.11-14**

Get in touch with us at:

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**still waters**  
home churches & worship center



*November 21 = 2010*

**Embodying the Eternal...**



**Learning Incarnational Justice  
for Others**

**Worship**

Jeremiah 23.1-6

Luke 1.68-79

Luke 23.33-43

Colossians 1.11-20

**Benediction**

*Tabernacle Worship*



75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

Every Sunday Evening at 6:30, St. John's Parish House

[Service]

## Tonight...

Scripture Reading ::

*Jeremiah 23.1-6*

Focus Film ::

*"Hungry, No More"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

*Luke 23.33-43*

Focus Film ::

*"Reign of Christ"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

Jeremiah 23.1-6, Luke 1.68-79,  
Luke 23.33-43, & Colossians 1.11-20

The Scripture ~

## Embodying the Eternal...

*Or, Learning Incarnational Justice,*

He is the image **for Others**  
of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. **Colossians 1.15, 18—20**

Focus Film ::

*"His Glorious Power"*

Benediction ::

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

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

✚ Image Bearing Justice

✚ Profitable Suffering

**Meditation:**  
*And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."  
Luke 23. 35—38*

**Reflection:**

The king on the cross, the gospel tells us, is the only one who can save us from the myth of redemptive violence.

Jesus, vested not in fine silks and jewels but in garments of humility and suffering, concerned not with power but with liberation,.. no ordinary king.



still waters

home church studies

## Jeremiah 23.1-6 [Worship]

1 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. 2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. 3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. 5 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

### Consider:

God contradicts the world's self-destructiveness. Jeremiah's poem lays out the coming trouble in verses 1-2. Beyond the trouble, God will gather to homecoming and will raise up shepherds who will make the community safe.

In Luke 1, Zechariah sings of the new rule of God in Jesus. Twice he affirms God's gift of mercy: "God has shown mercy" (vs 72) and "By the tender mercies of our God" (verse 78). That mercy comes as forgiveness whereby the world is restored to healthy possibility and to life with God. Paul's lyrical affirmation in Colossians is the news that we

are "transferred" to a new governance (verse 13), have forgiveness (vs 14), and "have peace" through the self-giving of God (vs 20).

The gospel narrative in Luke 23 features Jesus on the cross, about to be executed by the empire as an enemy of the state. He is mocked by his executioners; he is derided by one of his fellow inmates. In an extraordinary act of contradiction, Jesus responds with forgiveness. Jesus responds to his fellow inmate by a promise of paradise in time to come. Jesus refuses the rules of the empire. He breaks the vicious cycles of violence, making new life possible. In him we have the new shepherd of Jeremiah, the mercy of Zechariah, and reconciliation of Paul—all come to effective visibility. The world is now the new venue of tender mercy that nullifies the force of death among us.

—Walter Bruggemann

[Scripture]

## Luke 1.68-79

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**Question:** As the promised change agent of antiquity, Jesus fulfilled the prophet's rightful understanding of the mercies of God toward all creation, and reconciliation to His image bearers.

If we believe Him so much, why do we not look very much like this Promised One in our interactions with each other, and the world He loves?

Reread Luke 23.33-43