

**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 Bruce who fell and broke his hip on Thanksgiving day—for a fast recovery from his surgery, 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 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 in the shelter, that they would find love and grace during their struggle, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**December 12, 2010: Advent 3 (Year A)**  
**Isaiah 35.1-10, Matthew 11.2-11,**  
**Luke 1.48-55, & James 5.7-10**

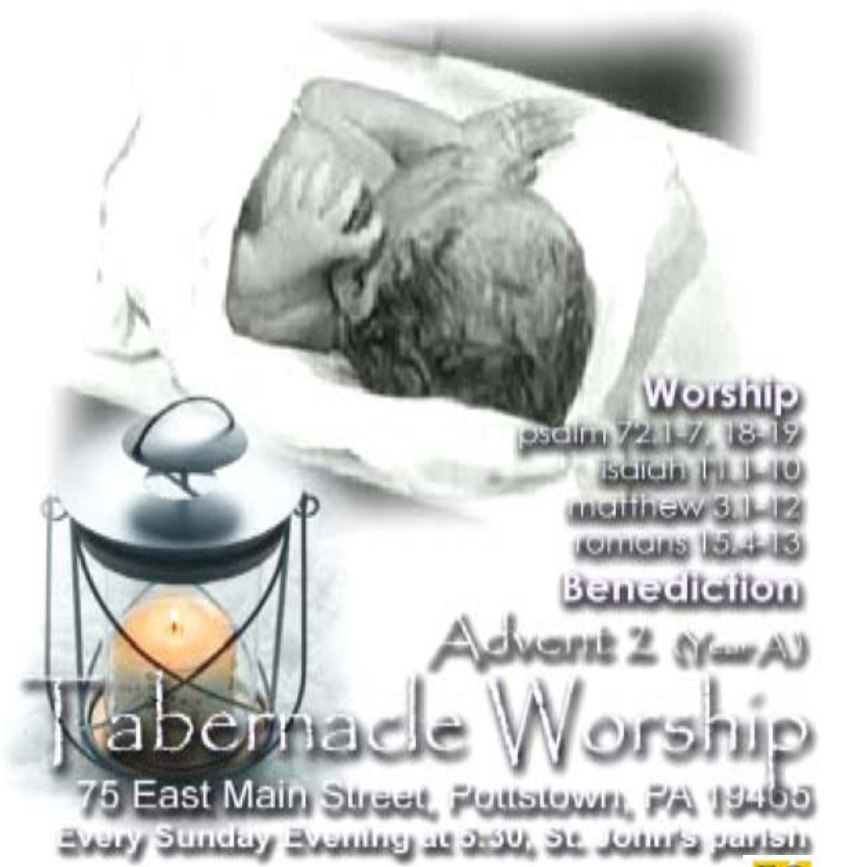
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**still waters**  
home churches & worship center

December 5 - 2010

**Preparing the WAY**  
**Peace; Resting In a Dream**



**Worship**

psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Isaiah 1:1-10  
matthew 3:1-12  
romans 15:4-13

**Benediction**

**Advent 2 (Year A)**

**Tabernacle Worship**

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465  
Every Sunday Evening at 8:30, St. John's parish

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



[Service]

## Tonight...

Scripture Reading and Call to Worship ::

*Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19*

Focus Film ::

*"All This for Our King"*

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Advent 2 :: PEACE Candle Lighting

Focus Film ::

*"Child of Hope"*

This week's Lectionary Text:

*isaiah 11.1-10, psalm 72.1-7, 18-19,  
matthew 3.1-12, & romans 15.4-13*

The Scripture ~

**Preparing the WAY**  
*Or, Peace—Resting in a*

*The spirit of the LORD* **Dream**

shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; ... Isaiah 11.2-4b

Reflection Film ::

*"Recapturing Advent"*

Benediction ::

*1 Thessalonians 3.11-13*

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

✧ what is "Gospel?"

✧ a good king in town ...

✧ King of PEACE...?

**Meditation:**

*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15.4—5*

**Reflection:**

"Advent, our season of expectation, makes no sense unless there are promises spoken by God which impinge upon our life. For Advent, therefore, we may set ourselves two agendas: to clarify the promises of God that have been spoken over us, and to decide if we dare to look at those promises seriously. If we cannot locate the promises, or if we do not trust the promises, then Advent is an empty, silly gesture." --Walter Brueggemann



## still waters

home church studies

### Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19 [Worship]

1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. 2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. 3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. 5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. 7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. 19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

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#### Consider:

#### [Words]

The baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer culminates with the endorsement of heaven, "This is my son, the Beloved." The sentence, from Psalm 2:7, offers approval of a king of the Davidic line. The quote in Matthew affirms God's blessing for the coming rule of Jesus.

The Old Testament texts focus on the nature of proper kingship and anticipate the way in which Jesus will be king. Psalm 72 gives a mandate to the Davidic king to practice economic justice toward the poor and needy, a practice that will ensure the longevity of the dynasty. The poetic reading of Isaiah 11 expresses a longing for the true king who will come—eventually—and will be characterized by wisdom and devotion to God's purposes (verses 2-3), with a resolve to practice equity and faithfulness to the poor. Isaiah's poem anticipates that good governance will extend to the well-being of all creation (verses 6-9). The practice of justice has immediate impact on the environment and its health and wholeness.

The reading from Romans connects the rule of Jesus to the old promises made to father Abraham in the book of Genesis (Genesis 12:3). The series of quotes from the Old Testament in Romans 15 all focus on the Gentiles, that is, on welcome to "the other" amid the people of God. Paul's theology is an alternative to narrow exclusivism that fears and rejects "the other."

Jesus is about the mobilization of public power for the common good, as these readings attest. John warns his listeners that their sense of entitlement as God's special people counts for nothing, as a new beginning has come into the world. What counts is the "good fruit" of a viable society (Matthew 3:10). Any other claim is phony and can only end badly.

—Walter Bruggemann

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### [Scripture] Matthew 3.1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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Reread Romans 15:4-13