

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

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

Home Churches:

Hanover St. Home Church

Tuesday Evenings

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown, PA 19456

7:00 to 9:00

Buddy's Home Church

Thursday Afternoons

Sports Corner Bar, York St

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Community Table, 1st Tuesday Evening

Each Month – Check with Church

for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

Locations to be announced

This Year's Theme:

hearing God in 2008

Your Prayer Notes:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we ready the shelter for the fall.

Please pray for Norman to be able to find meaningful, and Godly volunteer work to keep himself busy and fulfilled since leaving his job at Staples.

Merciful LORD, please help us to walk humbly before you, seeking to be instruments of in furtherance of your kingdom. Amen.

Next Week's Scriptures:

August 31, 2008 Proper 17 (Year A)

exodus 1.8 – 2.10, psalm 124,

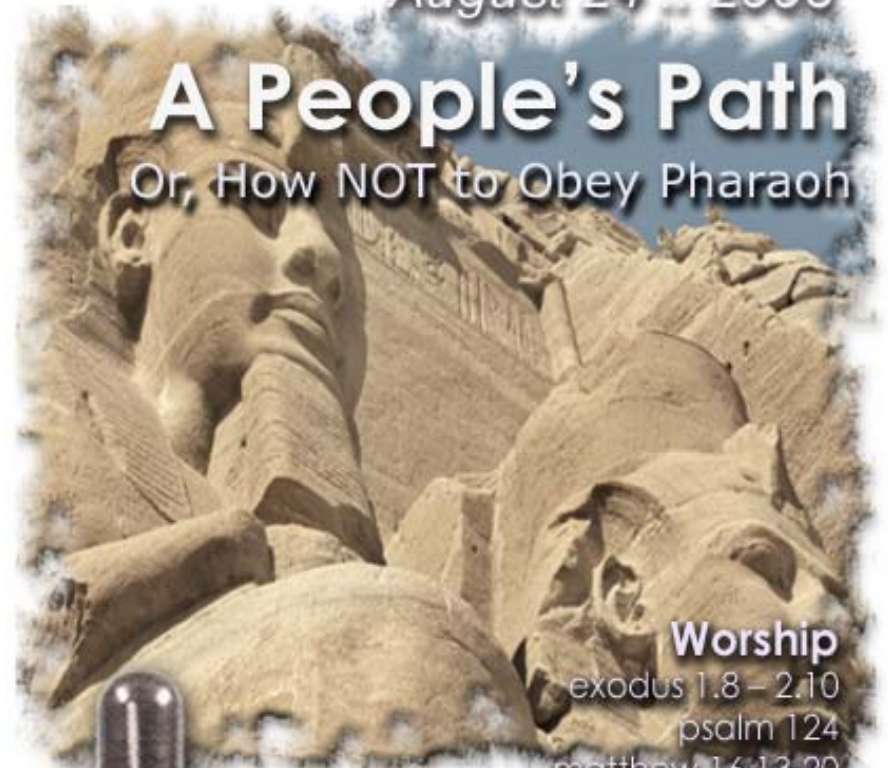
matthew 16.13-20, & romans 12.1-8

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still waters of Pottstown
home churches & worship center
"He restores my soul . . . surely goodness and mercy will follow me" Psalm 23

August 24 :: 2008

A People's Path
Or, How NOT to Obey Pharaoh



Worship

exodus 1.8 – 2.10

psalm 124

matthew 16.13-20

romans 12.1-8

Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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

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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...

Scripture Reading & Call to Worship ::

Matthew 16.13-20

Worship Film ::

“ Psalm 124 ”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Exodus 1.1 – 2.10

Focus Film ::

“ The Body ”

The Scripture ~

A People's Path

Or, How to NOT Obey Pharaoh

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12.1-2

This week's Lectionary:

exodus 1.8 – 2.10, psalm 124,
matthew 16.13-20, & romans 12.1-8

Reflection Film ::

“ The Journey ”

Benediction ::

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



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

✧ mind over matters

✧ precursors to Exodus

✧ a people God can use



Meditation:

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.'" Matthew 16.16-17

Reflection:

Empires are case studies in forced labor and territorial control: How could Egypt be guarded if the Hebrews continued to multiply (and potentially allied one day with a wartime enemy)? And it is in Caesarea Philippi, a fertile area critical to the Roman Empire's control of Palestine, that Peter confesses that Jesus is the Messiah. But God gives us gifts that justice and peace might prevail.

From the actions of the Hebrew midwives on, we find in the Bible a pattern of prophetic confrontation with authority, at virtually every level of law and custom in society, which underscores the new authority of the kingdom of God.



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 124

[Worship]

1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say— 2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, 3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; 4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; 5 then over us would have gone the raging waters. 6 Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

"Is the Lord among us or not?" ask the grumbling children of Israel. "Who do people say the Human One is?" asks Jesus. Between these two questions stretches a long, thirsty history. The wandering in the wilderness desert has become a settled life under occupation, but the people still feel lost, and parched. They look for a prophet, some old-time religion, a rainmaker, a holy well-digger.

Peter's recognition that Jesus is the Messiah will not bring living water to Israel in the way that Peter might have

thought in the moment. But his basic statement of faith has tapped into a deep, wetter-than-wet spiritual truth. God is among us.

Jesus reacts by granting a type of leadership within the faith community to Peter. (*"Church" here doesn't mean an institution with buildings and committees, but rather a group of people waiting with faith and longing for the end times.*) "Binding and loosing" refers to rabbinical interpretation of the law to determine when a given action is forbidden or permitted. In Matthew 18:18-20 Jesus grants this authority to all the disciples.

A traditional gospel hymn goes, "Where are the keys to the kingdom? I'm standing at the door and I want to come in." How do the presence of God's living water and questions of authority come together in your faith community?

Julie Polter

[The Scripture]

Matthew 16.13-20

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

