

**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

**Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

TBD

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Evening**

Each Month – Check with Church

for Transportation Arrangements

6:00 to 8:00

**Norman's Game Night**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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, and as we begin plans for the mobile shelter season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends.

Howard has undergone gallbladder surgery this past Monday and is now at home. Pray for a speedy recovery.

Remember those who have lost everything in the High Street fire on Friday. Pray as to what our role is in Christ's grace toward them.

Please remember Dan Grebe who's sister, Dorthea Henderson, died this week from cancer. Dan has a lot on his shoulders in caring for his brother-in-law, and now he must navigate her affairs, as well as preparing for the new shelter season and his own health care.

Pray for Buddy O'Donnell's brother Jack, who is in Manor Care, suffering with foot surgery and complications from diabetes.

Please also remember those of us who are struggling to find work in this broken economy.

Merciful LORD, please help us to walk humbly before you, seeking to be instruments of righteousness in the furtherance of your kingdom; to those who love you, and those who will, according to your mercy. Amen.

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**October 12, 2008 Proper 23 (Year A)**

**exodus 32.1-14, psalm 106.1-6, 19-23,**

**matthew 22.1-14, & philippians 4.1-9**

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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

October 5 :: 2008

**Thou Shalt Not**

Or, property rights & co-opted kingdoms



**Worship**  
exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
psalm 19  
matthew 21.33-46  
philippians 3.4b-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 & Call to Worship ::

Psalm 19

Worship Film ::

“Exodus 20”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Philippians 3:4b-14

Focus Film ::

“15 Items or Less”

The Scripture ~

## Thou Shalt Not

Or, property rights & co-opted kingdoms

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

Matthew 21:42-44

This week's Lectionary:

Exodus 20.1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19,  
Matthew 21.33-46, & Philippians 3.4b-14

Reflection Film ::

“A New Law”

Benediction ::

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



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

✘ the law gets ugly!

✘ how to topple a kingdom

✘ seeing ourselves as Tenants...



### Meditation:

*Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"*

Matthew 21.33—40

### Reflection:

Paul prefer "not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ" (Phil 3:9)? Formerly a Pharisee, Paul confesses what he did as one of those learned elite, using intellectual prowess to co-opt holy law to coerce and repress.

Initially well-intentioned synagogue teachers and village leaders who believed the law of Moses was the balm of national life, many Pharisees idolized the law and became blind to why Christ had come, opposing him and laying traps for him. In another vineyard parable, Jesus informs them that "the kingdom of God will be taken away" from them (Matt 21:43).



still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 19

[Worship]

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; 4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, 5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. 13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

### Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

In the scriptures, more often than not the land that folks are supposed to call home is not the land they're standing on. Witness the Lord sending Moses to the top of a mountain to see the land that is promised to the people of Israel (Numbers 27:12)—a land that Moses is forbidden to enter since he rebelled against God earlier. Then there is Paul writing to the church in Philippi that "our commonwealth is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20). Christians are supposed to be seeking out a homeland that isn't even on any map.

Through the ages, the hazard with any sort of promised land is that it is usually claimed with bloody force. One people's land of promise is another's land of betrayal, loss, and death. The United States was built, consciously and unconsciously, on the wrenching of soil from others' hands. The gruesome staking of claims and counterclaims shattered the former Yugoslavia. In Israel, ancient promises engender bitterness and violence.

If the pursuit of earthly homelands has destroyed peoples and wounded the Earth, the pursuit of a heavenly country hasn't necessarily been better. Paul emphasizes "straining forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13) and not living like those who have "minds set on earthly things" (3:19). While this is a poetic call to a life of righteousness and deep spirit, such thinking has been misused to justify neglect and degradation of the creation, and dismissal or shame of our bodies, lovingly crafted by God.

What kind of tenants are we (Matthew 21:33-43)? —Julie Polter

[Scripture]

## Philippians 3.4b-14

4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

