

**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**

**Tuesday Evenings**

256 South Hanover Street Pottstown

7:00 to 9:00

**Bright Hope Community Home Church**

**Thursday Afternoons**

Myrtle Street, Pottstown

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

**Ministry:**

**The Table**

**Every Wednesday Evening**

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**Marx @ Trinity Reformed UCC**

**King & N Hanover Streets, Pottstown**

10:00 pm to 8:00 am

**Norman's Game Night**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Evening Each Month**

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

**Your Prayer Notes:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we operate the mobile shelter this season. Also remember the host churches that will be extending the love of Christ to our friends. Thank God for them!! And remember to pray for Trinity Reformed UCC as they prepare to host for the first time in March.

**Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:**

Pray for Brenda, as she recovers in the hospital; Jerry for recovery in rehab; Ron's health; John and Glenn, for fulltime employment, an apartment, and strength during temptation; Please, also keep John's health in prayer; and for us all, as we seek rest, and to be graceful to those who misunderstand us, our mission, and judge us out of ignorance.

Please pray for Jeff & Sandy Reifsnnyder, their family and Cocalico Creek Fellowship, and Pastor Kenn Cosgrove, his family and the people from Grace church since their churches closings. There are very good and God honoring people who are valuable to Christ in His ministry!

**Next Week's Scriptures:**

**March 1, 2009: First Sunday of Lent (Year B)**

**psalm 25.1-10, genesis 9.8-17,**

**mark 1.9-15, & 1 peter 3.18-22**

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**still waters**  
home churches & worship center

March 1 - 2009

**Tempted to swim  
Or, finding out that God is  
all Wet**

*First Sunday of Lent*  
**Worship**

genesis 9.8-17

psalm 25.1-10

mark 1.9-15

1 peter 3.18-22

**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 ::

Psalm 25.1-10

Focus Film ::

“Genesis 9.8-17”

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

1 Peter 3.18-22

Focus Film ::

“Temptation”

The Scripture ~

## Tempted to Swim Or, finding out that God is all Wet

I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Genesis 9.13—16

This week's Lectionary:

First Sunday of Lent (Year B)

psalm 25.1-10, genesis 9.8-17,  
mark 1.9-15, & 1 peter 3.18-22

Reflection Film ::

“Psalm 25”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✧ falling out of the boat!

✧ sink or swim, OR...

✧ enticement under Umbrellas!

“

**Meditation:**

*For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark,.."*

1 Peter 3.18—20a

**Reflection:**

With the rainbow covenant in Genesis, we see God is sovereign over even the worst violence. Through the horrors of the Roman Empire under Nero, and tragedies in the United States and around the world today, Christians must hold onto baptism, 1 Peter urges, remembering our commitment to God and recognizing Christ's lordship over the powers.

# still waters

home church studies

## Psalm 25.1-10

[Worship]

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. 4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! 8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. 9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

### Consider:

[Words]

The ark, rainbow, and dove are symbols of promise, signs of ending and beginning. Whatever devastation Noah witnessed, it evoked a promise, a covenant that never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all living things (Genesis 9:15). Symbols marked the beginning of a new order. The ark, in which only a few were saved (1 Peter 3:20), spoke of salvation. The dove conveyed the promise of life (Genesis 8:11), while the rainbow reminded of the covenant faithfulness of God.

At the Jordan the Spirit, like a dove, holds the promise of new life. While the baptized Jesus carries in himself, like the ark, the hope of salvation, the voice from heaven expresses the covenant faithfulness of God. To these signs is added the heavens torn apart (Mark 1:10), a symbol of prophetic hope expressed by Isaiah (Isaiah 64:1-2). In the scriptures "heaven" and "earth" are themselves symbols for two dimensions of history, that which is hidden—heaven—and that which is apparent—earth. Isaiah's vision of God "tearing the heavens open and coming down" poetically acknowledges, in Pablo Richard's words, that "history is not simply what can be seen in the world of appearance, the empirical world. It also has a deep transcendent, hidden dimension."



Such symbols speak of the reality of God intervening in the human story, inviting us to live differently. The first letter of Peter, written to Christians deprived of citizenship and civil rights, reminds them that their baptism is not just a sign of the washing off of physical dirt but of their entry into a covenant relationship with the crucified and risen Christ, to whom the ruling forces and powers are subject (1 Peter 3:21-22). Outwardly, victory over the forces remains hidden in empirical history, but the signs and symbols retain the power to remind us of the final triumph.

[Scripture]

## Mark 1.9-15

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." 12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."