

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 **On Hold until May**

Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

MAIN Street Shelter

April @ Christ Episcopal Church

316 High Street, Pottstown

10:00 pm to 8:00 am

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

Announcements:

Please pray for our work. The Shelter is coming to an end on Wednesday morning, and the work of fund raising and laundry, storage are beginning. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Ron Caulk for details

Your Prayer Notes:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

Please pray that God would bless our endeavors as we draw to a close, the operation of the 2008/2009 mobile shelter. Also remember the host churches that have extending the love of Christ to all of us. Thank God for them!! And remember to pray for Christ Episcopal as they host for the first time this final month.

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Pray for our shelter guests, fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation; pray for Norman's health; and for the Caulk's family in the sadness of their loss; Also remember Bob & Lois during a very trying time. Please, 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.

Next Week's Scriptures:

April 26, 2009: **EASTER 3 (Year B)**

psalm 4, luke 24.36b-48,

acts 3.12-19, & 1 john 3.1-7

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April 19 - 2009

Autonomy Or, me and my personal Jesus



Easter 2
Worship
psalm 133
john 20:19-31
acts 4:32-35
1 john 1:1-2:2
Benediction

Tabernacle Worship
75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465
Every Sunday Evening at 5:30, St. John's Parish House

[Service]

Tonight...

Focus Film ::

“Doubting Thomas”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 133

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

John 1.1.-2.2

Focus Film ::

“Atheist”

The Scripture ~

Autonomy

Or, me and my personal Jesus

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. But Thomas, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,...

John 20.19b—21, 24,30—31

This week's Lectionary:

Easter 2 (Year B)

psalm 133, acts 4.32-35,

john 20.19-31, & 1 john 1.1 - 2.2

Reflection Film ::

“He Is Risen”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

✧ Me, and my shadow

✧ who's not with us?

✧ missing His presence & missing His grace



Meditation:

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." Acts 4.32—35

Reflection:

The resurrection testimony of Acts 4 is not an incidental inclusion in a laundry list of communal acts. It is at the heart of a fundamental restructuring of the community's common life. As though the core assumptions of how we now live and organize our lives had enjoyed a seismic or even cosmic shift. And the material reorganization is a testimony too. A resurrection economy. Something the poorest among them could sink their teeth into, or pass hand to hand around the circle, touching the Word of Life. — Bill Wylie-Kellermann

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 133

[Worship]

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Consider:

[Words]

At best, sharing common enemies provides people with a temporary bond and the false security of pseudo-intimacy. It depends on the self-righteousness of continually projecting our own dis-ease and hostility on the enemy. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

False teachers feed this self-deception, which is why the Johannine tradition sounds such an alarm. These Johannine letters promote the true unity that comes from the shared bonds of love and the core truths common to believers. This kind of bond is why, in Acts, "those who believed were of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32).

Remembering the itinerant groups that had followed Jesus, watch what this kind of unity brings to these earliest Christians in Jerusalem: "...no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common" (Acts 4:32). Authentic community brings that economic and emotional homeostasis we call justice.

Jesus breathes on the disciples (John 20:22), empowering them to forgive sins and bring balance to the community and society. Sharing lands and houses, the early church unifies their love for one another; there is "not a needy person among them" (Acts 4:34).

The land redistribution campaign of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez could lead to a situation that looks like that described in Acts, by granting the rural poor expanded loans, rights, and land once controlled by the rich. Caution: If it is merely ordered from the presidential office and does not emerge from the unity of the people, it will not be spiritually radical. Nor will it last. —Robert Roth



[Scripture]

1 John 1.1-2.2

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.