

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

Announcements:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

2009/2010 Season is beginning to ramp up and we are still working at fund raising, laundry, and storage, in order to begin. We are dangerously low on overnight staff, threatening our November opening.

We will be gathering at Christ Episcopal Church on Thursday October 8th at 7:00 pm with our ministry partners to information sharing and to gather our final plans for this Shelter Season.

Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Ron Caulk for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

Your Prayer Notes:

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Bruce Heller is in Sanatoga Center, room 211. Please send him a card, offer a phone call, drop in to see him, and please pray for his health.

Pray for our shelter friends, for fulltime employment, apartments, and strength during temptation; remember.

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:

October 11, 2009: Proper 23 (Year B)

psalm 22.1-15, job 23.1-9, 16-17,

mark 10.17-31, & hebrews 4.12-16

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Ministry:

The Table

Every Wednesday Evening

Washington & Chestnut Sts. 7:00 pm

MAIN Street Shelter

On Summer Hiatus Until November

Fund raising and shelter cleanup efforts are underway.

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

King St Commons, 7:00 pm



October 4 - 2009

Suffering
Or, finding a
Credible Voice



Worship
psalm 26
job 1.1; 2.1-10
mark 10.2-16
hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12

Benediction



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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...

Focus Film ::

“One Flesh”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 26

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Job 1.1, 2.1-10

Focus Film ::

“Empathy Capacity”

The Scripture ~

Suffering Or, finding a Credible Voice

...but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2. 9—10

This week's Lectionary:
mark 10.2-16, psalm 26, job 1.1; 2.1-10,
& hebrews 1.1-4; 2.5-12

Focus Film ::

“Credible Love”

Benediction ::

Romans 16.25-27

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

≠ why me?

≠ divorcing God

“

Meditation:

Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips." Job 2. 9b—10

Reflection:

"The story of Job causes us to question the motives of our worship: Are we seeking gain in this life or in the life to come? Jesus' words on marriage and children force us to ask similarly difficult questions, as they strike at the heart of our conceptions of relationships and responsibility." -- Verna J. Dozier



still waters

home church studies

Psalm 26

[Worship]

1 Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering. 2 Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind. 3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you. 4 I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites; 5 I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked. 6 I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O LORD, 7 singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. 8 O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides. 9 Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty, 10 those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes. 11 But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me. 12 My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

Consider: Peter B. Price

[Words]

Why do we suffer? Is it our own fault? Are we being punished for wrongdoing? These kinds of questions dog us today just as much as they did the writers of the Bible. Many of the psalms ask the question, Why me? They represent the voices of people who sense that they have lived faithfully: "Lord be my judge...; my trust in God never wavers" (Psalm 26:1). Job also was "a sound, honest man who feared God and shunned evil" (Job 1:1). Yet despite his goodness, he was to experience faith-testing calamity at the heart of an almost Faustian bargain between God and Satan (Job 2:1-6). His resilience in suffering causes first his wife and then others to question God.

Many of the psalms, particularly 38 and 51, reveal a heightened sense of self-awareness over wrongdoing, and there is undoubtedly a real element in suffering that is brought upon ourselves through our misdeeds. Mark points us to the oppression in marriage caused by patriarchy, and the life-tearing pain of divorce when a marriage dies. Or the destruction of the innocence in children, or life's poor "little ones," through abuse and exclusion (Mark 10:13-16). The roots of all violence are to be found in oppression of the small and weak.

Paradoxically, it is through suffering that healing comes. Hebrews reveals a God who throughout the human story has sought ways of

being heard. To wrest humanity back from its own destruction, God did not choose angels, but human beings: "What are human beings that you spare a thought for them?" asks the writer rhetorically, and answers, "You have crowned them with glory and honor and put all things under their feet" (Hebrews 2:6-8).

Human failure to live up to its destiny means that God's intervention through Jesus, and his submission to suffering and death, was to "benefit all humanity" (Hebrews 2:9). Jesus' example is not something we are required to observe through the rearview mirror of history, but to follow in every detail in order to "make perfect through suffering the leader of their salvation" (Hebrews 2:10).

Some mystery!

Reflection and Action

When have you asked the question, Why me? Have you had times when your own sense of wrongdoing has been heightened? What caused such a change of perspective? How has Jesus' experience of suffering challenged you to live your life as he did?

[Scripture]

Mark 10.2-16

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" 3 He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" 4 They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." 5 But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." 10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11 He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." 13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

16 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.



still waters home church studies
Daily Lectionary Readings
 for Ordinary Calendar Year B [Worship]

These readings are adapted from *The Book of Common Prayer*, Daily Readings for Year One.

Sun Oct 4	am: 118 pm: 145	2 Kng 20:1-21	Acts 12:1-17	Luke 7:11-17
Mon Oct 5	am: 106:1-18 pm: 106:19-48	2 Kng 21:1-18	1 Cor 10:14-11:1	Matt 8:28-34
Tue Oct 6	am: 121, 122, 123 pm: 124, 125, 126	2 Kng 22:1-13	1 Cor 11:2, 17- 22	Matt 9:1-8
Wed Oct 7	am: 119:145-176 pm: 128, 129, 130	2 Kng 22:14-23:3	1 Cor 11:23-34	Matt 9:9-17
Thur Oct 8	am: 131, 132, 133 pm: 134, 135	2 Kng 23:4-25	1 Cor 12:1-11	Matt 9:18-26
Fri Oct 9	am: 140, 142 pm: 141, 143	2 Kng 23:36- 24:17	1 Cor 12:12-26	Matt 9:27-34
Sat Oct 10	am: 137, 144 pm: 104	Jer 35:1-19	1 Cor 12:27-13:3	Matt 9:35-10:4
Sun Oct 11	am: 146, 147 pm: 111, 112, 113	Jer 36:1-10	Acts 14:8-18	Luke 7:36-50
Mon Oct 12	am: 1, 2, 3 pm: 4, 7	Jer 36:11-26	1 Cor 13:1-13	Matt 10:5-15
Tue Oct 13	am: 5, 6 pm: 10, 11	Jer 36:27-37:2	1 Cor 14:1-12	Matt 10:16-23
Wed Oct 14	am: 119:1-24 pm: 12, 13, 14	Jer 37:3-21	1 Cor 14:13-25	Matt 10:24-33
Thur Oct 15	am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50	Jer 38:1-13	1 Cor 14:26-33a 37-40	Matt 10:34-42
Fri Oct 16	am: 16, 17 pm: 22	Jer 38:14-28	1 Cor 15:1-11	Matt 11:1-6
Sat Oct 17	am: 20, 21 pm: 110, 116, 117	2 Kng 25:8-12, 22-26	1 Cor 15:12-29	Matt 11:7-15

Sun Oct 18	am: 148, 149, 150 pm: 114, 115	Jer 29:1, 4-14	Acts 16:6-15	Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
Mon Oct 19	am: 25 pm: 9, 15	Jer 44:1-14	1 Cor 15:30-41	Matt 11:16-24
Tue Oct 20	am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39	Lam 1:1-12	1 Cor 15:41-50	Matt 11:25-30
Wed Oct 21	am: 38 pm: 119:25-48	Lam 2:8-15	1 Cor 15:51-58	Matt 12:1-14
Thur Oct 22	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	Ezra 1:1-11	1 Cor 16:1-9	Matt 12:15-21
Fri Oct 23	am: 31 pm: 35	Ezra 3:1-13	1 Cor 16:10-24	Matt 12:22-32
Sat Oct 24	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	Ezra 4:7, 11-24	Philemon 1-25	Matt 12:33-42
Sun Oct 25	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	Hag 1:1-2:9	Acts 18:24-19:7	Luke 10:25-37
Mon Oct 26	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 1:4-20	Matt 12:43-50
Tue Oct 27	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	Ezra 5:1-17	Rev 4:1-11	Matt 13:1-9
Wed Oct 28	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	Ezra 6:1-22	Rev 5:1-10	Matt 13:10-17
Thur Oct 29	am: 50, 59, 60 pm: 66, 67	Neh 1:1-11	Rev 5:11-6:11	Matt 13:18-23
Fri Oct 30	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	Neh 2:1-20	Rev 6:12-7:4	Matt 13:24-30
Sat Oct 31	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	Neh 4:1-23	am: Rev 7:4-17	Matt 13:31-35

your talking points notes...