

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

Is discontinued until Spring 2010

Washington & Chestnut Sts.

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

MAIN Street Shelter

Begins January 4th

Fund raising and shelter cleanup efforts are still needed, along with many volunteering opportunities.

Norman's Game Night

3rd Saturday Evening Each Month

King St Commons, 7:00 pm

Announcements:

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

2010 Season will not be beginning this month, but will be delayed until January 4th. We are still working at fund raising, laundry, and storage, in order to begin, and we are still dangerously low on overnight staff.

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

Your Prayer Notes:

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week:

Pray for our friends in Lower-Bucks County, who have begun to shelter their suburban homeless friends.

Remember Francis for health concerns and the ability to quit smoking; Helen's knees and her ability to continue to come to Tabernacle; employment for many of us; Ron's health problems and his daughter's difficult pregnancy; Norman's broken arm, and understanding of his health problems, the Moyer family during difficult decision times, for those who have fallen away, due to addictions and cultural narcissism, and the future of Still Waters.

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

Please, also keep all of us in prayers; 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:

December 27, 2009: 1st Sunday After Christmas (Year C)

psalm 148, 1 samuel 2.18-20, 26,

luke 2.41-52, & colossians 3.2-17

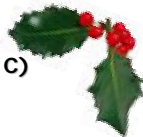
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December 20 :: 2009

Righteous Justice

Or, how LOVE breaks
The Rules

Advent₄

Worship
micah 5.2-5a
luke 1.39-55 (46b-55)
hebrews 10.5-10

Benediction

Tabernacle Worship

75 East Main Street, Pottstown, PA 19465

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



[Service]

Tonight...

Advent 4 ::

LOVE Candle Lighting

Focus Film ::

“ In Him the Scriptures Were Filled ”

Scripture Reading ::

Micah 5.2-5a

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Luke 1.39-45

Focus Film ::

“ Mary’s Song ”

The Scripture ~

Righteous Justice

Or, how LOVE breaks
The Rules

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

Hebrews 10. 5—9

This week's Lectionary:
micah 5.2-5a, luke 1.39-55 (46b-55),

Focus Film ::

& hebrews 10.5-10

“ Nothing is Impossible ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

✚ the girls night out

✚ living on the technicalities

✚ LOVE & rejected offerings

Meditation:

“ ...for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. " **Luke 1.48—49; 52—53**

Reflection:

As Christmas nears, our understanding of the magnitude of this promise fulfilled, begins to dawn. Christ comes to do no less than to upturn the old order and initiate the new. The great self-gift of God reaches out and touches humankind —becomes one withus—in order that the lowly may be exalted: the mothers of Iraq may find solace; the impoverished of war would have life; the marginalized may know justice; war-weary communities may find true peace; that the Earth may be healed. We reach out to meet the divine, taking part in and celebrating finally the life-bearer's arrival that fills all of us who are hungry with good things.



still waters

home church studies

Luke 1.39-45

[Worship]

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she

entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and

exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed

is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the

mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 and he shall be the one of peace. **Micah 5.2-5a**



Consider:

[Words]

Love & Good News Among the Lowly —

The prophet Micah sings and hopes for little Bethlehem. That tiny village, located in the small clan territory of Ephrathah, was a vulnerable territory, exposed to many army forays. But that vulnerable village and clan territory, says Micah, will "live secure" in time to come, because a new ruler/shepherd will feed, guard, protect, and sustain them. The Bible is relentless in its conviction that God will side, eventually, with the little ones.

Out of that faith, Mary sings! Empire must have told Micah (and then Mary) that such hope is absurd in the world of real power. But Mary, trusting the angel, believes that nothing will be impossible for God (Luke 1:37). And so she sings! She sings about "the hungry," the ones cut out of the food chain and denied access to the world's great granaries. Mary knew what Micah knew, what Israel always knew, and what the church knows in Advent. The weak and vulnerable will be "lifted up." The poetry and the song invite us to move out beyond the world given us by "the hard men," and into a new, different world. We may, in anticipation, already act in and for that new age. Already now, in such anticipation, folk in Bethlehem can lean back in confidence. Folk around Mary can hope and sing. And the rest of us, while we wait, may be alongside the hungry and lowly who will be honored by the new reality of the Christ-child.

[Scripture]

Luke 1.46-55

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



still waters
Daily Lectionary Readings home church studies
 for Advent Year C [Worship]

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

Sun Nov 29	am: 146, 147 pm: 111, 112, 113	Amos 1:1-5, 13- 2:8	1 Thess 5:1-11	Luke 21:5-19
Mon Nov 30	am: 1, 2, 3 pm: 4, 7	Amos 2:6-16	2 Peter 1:1-11	Matt 21:1-11
Tues Dec 1	am: 5, 6 pm: 10, 11	Amos 3:1-11	2 Peter 1:12-21	Matt 21:12-22
Wed Dec 2	am: 119:1-24 pm: 12, 13, 14	Amos 3:12-4:5	2 Peter 3:1-10	Matt 21:23-32
Thur Dec 3	am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50	Amos 4:6-13	2 Peter 3:11-18	Matt 21:33-46
Fri Dec 4	am: 16, 17 pm: 22	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt 22:1-14
Sat Dec 5	am: 20, 21 pm: 110, 116, 117	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt 22:15-22
Sun Dec 6	am: 148-150 pm: 114, 115	Amos 6:1-14	2 Thess 1:5-12	Luke 1:57-68
Mon Dec 7	am: 25 pm: 9, 15	Amos 7:1-9	Rev 1:1-8	Matt 22:23-33
Tues Dec 8	am: 26, 28 pm: 36, 39	Amos 7:10-17	Rev 1:9-16	Matt 22:34-46
Wed Dec 9	am: 38 pm: 119:25-48	Amos 8:1-14	Rev 1:17-2:7	Matt 23:1-12
Thur Dec 10	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	Amos 9:1-10	Rev 2:8-17	Matt 23:13-26
Fri Dec 11	am: 31 pm: 35	Haggai 1:1-15	Rev 2:18-29	Matt 23:27-39
Sat Dec 12	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	Haggai 2:1-19	Rev 3:1-6	Matt 24:1-14
Sun Dec 13	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	Amos 9:11-15	2 Thess 2:1-3, 13-17	John 5:30-47
Mon Dec 14	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	Zech 1:7-17	Rev 3:7-13	Matt 24:15-31
Tue Dec 15	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	Zech 2:1-13	Rev 3:14-22	Matt 24:32-44
Wed Dec 16	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	Zech 3:1-10	Rev 4:1-8	Matt 24:45-51

Thur Dec 17	am: 50, 59 pm: 60, 33	Zech 4:1-14	Rev 4:9-5:5	Matt 25:1-13
Fri Dec 18	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	Zech 7:8-8:8	Rev 5:6-14	Matt 25:14-30
Sat Dec 19	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	Zech 8:9-17	Rev 6:1-17	Matt 25:31-46
Sun Dec 20	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	Gen 3:8-15	Rev 12:1-10	John 3:16-21
Mon Dec 21	am: 61, 62 pm: 112, 115	Zeph 3:14-20	Titus 1:1-16	Luke 1:1-25
Tue Dec 22	am: 66, 67 pm: 116, 117	1 Sam 2:1b-10	Titus 2:1-10	Luke 1:26-38
Wed Dec 23	am: 72 pm: 111, 113	2 Sam 7:1-17	Titus 2:11-3:8a	Luke 1:39-56
Thur Dec 24	am: 45, 46 pm: 89:1-29	Isa 59:15b-21	am: Gal 3:23-4:7 pm: Phil 2:5-11	Matt 1:18-25
Fri Dec 25	am: 2, 85 pm: 132, 110	Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4	1 John 4:7-16	John 3:26-31
Sat Dec 26	¹ am: 93, 96 pm: 34	Isa 62:1-5	Heb 2:10-18	Matt 2:1-12
Sun Dec 27	am: 96 pm: 34	1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28	Col. 1:9-20	Luke 2:22-40
Mon Dec 28	² am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50	Isa 12:1-6	Rev 1:1-8	John 7:37-52
Tue Dec 29	am: 18:1-20 pm: 18:21-50	2 Sam 23:13-17b	2 John 1-13	Luke 1:57-66
Wed Dec 30	am: 20, 21 pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 17:17-24	3 John 1-15	John 5:1-15
Thurs Dec 31	am: 46, 48 pm: 90	am: 1 Kg 3:5-14 pm: Isa 65:15b- 25	am: Jam 4:13- 17; 5:7-11 pm: Rev 21:1-6	John 4:46-54

your talking points notes...