

**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

**MAIN Street Shelter**

**Begins January 4th**

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

**Announcements:**

**The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.**

2010 Season will not be beginning this month, but will be delayed until January 4<sup>th</sup>. 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:**

January 3, 2009: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Christmas (Year C)

psalm 147.12-20, jeremiah 31.7-14,

john 1.1-18, & ephesians 1.3-14

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still waters  
home churches & worship center

December 27 :: 2009

**An Empty House**  
Or, looking for God in all the  
**Wrong Places**

**Worship**

psalm 148

1 samuel 2.18-20

luke 2. 41-52

colossians 3.2-17

**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...

Focus Film ::

“ Psalm 148 ”

Scripture Reading ::

Colossians 3.12-17

Congregation Song Worship ::

~ offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his

Scripture Reading ::

deeds with songs of joy

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Focus Film ::

“ Why Are We Here? ”

The Scripture ~

## An Empty House Or, looking for God in all the Wrong Places

Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. . .

"Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

Luke 2. 44—47; 49b—50

This week's Lectionary:  
psalm 148, 1 samuel 2.18-20, 26,  
luke 2.41-52, & colossians 3.2-17

Focus Film ::

“ Be Made New ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

[Journaling Worship  
your talking points notes...  
for this Week's Church Discussion]  
✚ asking questions that God isn't asking

✚ hide and go seek

✚ what's in a Name

“

**Meditation:**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 1.16—17

**Reflection:**

Like the gospel of Luke, the lectionary moves quickly from the birth and circumcision of Jesus to his rite of passage, as he goes to the temple at 12 years of age. There he exhibits his precociousness; when reprimanded by his mother, he answers enigmatically, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" In this utterance Jesus offers a clue to his self-understanding as Son of Father, and to his vocational horizon that stretches well beyond that of his parents. Though he returned home to be obedient to them, he clearly has a larger obedience in purview.

In the exhortation to the church in Colossians 3, we see the vocation of the church that replicates that of Jesus: to act out and embody practices of human healing and reconciliation - all of which are countercultural, now as in the time of Jesus.

# still waters

home church studies

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 [Worship]

18 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

## Consider:

[Words]

The site of the temple opens and closes these final readings, just as Luke opens and closes Jesus' infancy narrative in the setting of the Jerusalem temple. First, we see the young Samuel, who has been given to serve the Lord by his mother, Hannah. Earlier in the chapter, Hannah recites a canticle not unlike Mary's as she praises God for Samuel and offers him to God. Samuel is portrayed as an excellent servant who "was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod" (1 Samuel 2:18).

Luke portrays Jesus in a very similar fashion, an obedient Jewish boy who finds safety and comfort in the temple, instead of with his parents. Here, after being missing for three days, Jesus responds to his frantic parents somewhat nonchalantly, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's

house?" (Luke 2:49). Here Luke makes Jesus' allegiances clear. Jesus belongs to God, not to blood relatives. It is an idea he will reinforce throughout Jesus' life, first by implying that Jesus finds his true family among those who hear and do God's will (Luke 8:21, 11:27), and then by asserting that following Jesus will divide

traditional families and create new ones based on belief instead of blood (Luke 12:53).

Now that Christmas is over, and just when we are tempted to set our spiritual lives on cruise control until Easter, Paul insists that we prepare to actually live with, not just wait for, Jesus. He spells out just how: "...[C]lothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.... Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other.... And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful" (Colossians 3:12-13, 15). The last three words alone are enough homework to last us until Easter and beyond. If we can achieve just half of Paul's advice, we can help build the peace of Christ to rule not just our hearts, but the world.



[Scripture]

## Colossians 3:12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



still waters  
home church studies  
Daily Lectionary Readings  
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	<sup>1</sup> 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	<sup>2</sup> 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...**