

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

February's Host Church is

St Paul's UCC

Fund raising and Shelter Intake

Center cleanup efforts provide many volunteering opportunities.

Announcements:

Norman Vanderlick has moved to a group home in Harleysville. Please consider writing him a note love and encouragement while he settles in.

His new address is: 140 Crescent Ln, Harleysville, PA 19438

We will be trying to coordinate bringing him to dinner, church, and singing once a month. Pray and see where you might fit in assuring him of our love for him.

The Ministries at MAIN Street Shelter.

We are still working at fund raising, laundry, Intake staffing, and we are still in need of overnight staff. Please pray to see where God would have you to help!! See Pastor Kork, Ron Caulk or Tanya Braken for details, and remember to thank God for the host churches!!

Your Prayer Notes:

Remember in prayer, those requests from last week and:

*The dear people of Haiti, devastated by the earthquake. Grace Brethren International Missions, in Partnership with Convoy of Hope and The American Red Cross, is working on a plan to assist those hurt by this disaster. They have already begun this work and **YOU can help** in prayer and as we collect monetary gifts to aid our FGBC in emergency relief and recovery efforts. Please, seek God as to your sacrificial involvement of Christ's love to our neighbours in crisis.*

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

Remember Ron's health difficulties and his daughter's pregnancy; Patrice's tests on Wednesday; the Grater family, who's elderly father has been diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer; 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.

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:

February 28, 2010: 2nd Sunday of Lent (Year C)

psalm 27, genesis 15.1-12, 17-18,

luke 13.31-35, & philippians 3.17 - 4.1

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still waters
home churches & worship center

February 21 - 2010

Tempted

Or, the comfort of our own Abilities?

Lent 1

Worship

psalm 91.1-2, 9-16

deuteronomy 26. 1-11

luke 4. 1-13

romans 10.8b-13

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 ::

“ Psalm 51 ”

Scripture Reading ::

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16

Congregation Song Worship ::

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

Scripture Reading ::

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

This week's Lectionary:

psalm 91.1-2,9-16, deuteronomy 26. 1-11,
luke 4. 1-13, romans 10.8b-13

Focus Film ::

“ Being Transfigured ”

The Scripture ~

Tempted
Or, the comfort of our own Abilities?

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him,.. Luke 4.1—9

Focus Film ::

“ Tested by the devil ”

Benediction ::

1 Thessalonians 3.11-13

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

¥ changes of the head
changes of the heart

¥ deal *or* NO DEAL

¥ useful wastelands

“

Meditation:

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,..

Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." Psalm 91.1, 9—12

Reflection:

Jesus would have participated in the ritual of remembering the mighty deliverance from Egypt at least 30 times before he stood on the edge of his own wilderness. There, he rejected the temptation to make his own ministry showy, and chose the power of the Holy Spirit.

For the Israelites, for Jesus, and for us, our desert journey gives us the opportunity to name and reject the false idols we have collected—whether they be comfort, power, or protection. Only then can we be truly ready to recognize and accept God's promise: "Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation" (Psalm 91.14, 16).

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 91.1-2, 9-16

[Worship]

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, 2 will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, 10 no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. 14 Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. 15 When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. 16 With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Consider:

[Words]

The first two Sundays in Lent summon us to focus on the God who answers us as the only secure source of well-being in the world. The worldly implication of this summons is that life in faith contradicts the way the world is organized, and calls us to an alternative life of fearless discipline.

This week's texts constitute a meditation on a primal human question: "Who will make us safe?" The answer, in biblical context, is not a surprise: the only security is trust in God.

- Deuteronomy 26 is a classic affirmation concerning the God who saves, provides, and protects. This God is powerfully and totally committed to God's treasured people.

- Psalm 91 is a poetic affirmation about the protective God for the journey. The psalmist names the many threats on the journey of life, and then points to God's protective angels who keep us safe from snakes, lions, and every threat.

- Paul affirms "salvation" for all who trust in Christ, for this God is "Lord of all" and "generous to all who call on him" (Romans 10:12). There is no qualifying condition. We need only shun other helps and trust completely.

The narrative of Luke offers a challenge to this threefold affirmation. The tempter seeks to talk Jesus out of his security and his vocation by offering other fake modes of well-being. In Luke 4:10 the tempter quotes from our psalm as a way of seduction. But Jesus refuses the offer. (In the reprise of the same story in Matthew 4:11, the angels of Psalm 91 minister to Jesus, just as promised.)



Lent is a time to sort out and refuse the other offers and to embrace the only reliable gift of well-being. Imagine choosing the Lord of the gospel rather than money, control, and power—the usual seductions in our society. **Walter Bruggemann**

[Scripture]

Romans 10.8b-13

8b "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11 The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Also, read **Luke 4.1-13**