

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, January 4, 2009, 6 p.m.
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

New Year, New Beginnings...

“Do not despise these small beginnings for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...” (Zechariah 4:10, NLT)

As this new year begins, are you also feeling called to new beginnings? How do you feel about your own “small beginnings?” How wonderful to know that God rejoices – a large word – over our small beginnings! This short verse in a relatively obscure book... what does it invite you to pick up this year and celebrate? Could these words be God’s invitation to you to try something new, to change something old, to be bold in some new discipline, to receive your blessings with joy, to meet your challenges with peace... what small beginnings are you called to offer to God in this new year?

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
(2nd Corinthians 5:17)

Sometimes, Lord, often—
I don’t know what to say to you.
But I still come, in quiet
for the comfort of two friends sitting in silence.
And it’s then, Lord, that I learn most from you.
When my mind slows down, and my heart stops racing,
When I let go and wait in the quiet,
realizing that all the things I was going to ask for
You know already.
Then, Lord, without words,
in the stillness
You are there...
and I love you.

Lord, teach me to pray.
(Eddie Asker, from *A Silence and a Shouting*)

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” The Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for him and seek him. So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord.

(Lamentations 3:22-26)

Dear Jesus,
Help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be
 a radiance of yours.
Shine through us
and be so in us
that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us
but only Jesus.
Stay with us
and then we shall begin to shine as you shine,
so to shine as to be light to others.
The light, O Jesus, will be all from you.
None of it will be ours.
It will be you shining on others through us.
Let us thus praise you in the way you love best
 By shining on those around us.... Amen.
(From *Words to Love By*, by Mother Teresa)

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.
(2nd Corinthians 3:18)

Here is my life, here is my honor, here is my will; I have given them all to you. I am yours, do with me what you will. I know very well, my Lord, how little I can do. But now that I have come to you, now that I have climbed that watchtower from which all truth can be seen, I shall be capable of all things so long as you do not depart from me. But if you depart from me, even for a moment, I shall fall back to where I was, which was in hell.
(Teresa of Avila, from *Her Life*)

God be with you as you enter a new week.