

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness
Sunday, February 8, 2009, 6 p.m.
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

Praise and Peace in Unlikely Places...

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
 And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
 And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities,
 Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
 Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
 So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
 (Psalm 103:1-5)

**Therefore, since we have been justified
through faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have gained access
by faith
into this grace
in which we now stand.
And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings,
because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
perseverance, character;
and character, hope.
And hope does not disappoint us,
because God has poured out his love
into our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
whom he has given us.
(Romans 5:1-5)**

On October 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire swept through the city. Horatio Spafford, a committed Christian, was a prominent lawyer in Chicago, and had invested heavily in the city's real estate, and the fire destroyed almost everything he owned. Two years later, in 1873, Spafford decided his family should take a holiday somewhere in Europe, and chose England knowing that his friend D. L. Moody would be preaching there in the fall. Delayed because of business, he sent ahead of him his family: his wife, Anna, and four children, daughters Annie, Maggie, Bessie, and Tanetta.

On November 21, 1873, while crossing the Atlantic on the steamship Ville du Havre, their ship was struck by an iron sailing vessel and two hundred and twenty-six people lost their lives, including all four of Spafford's daughters. Anna Spafford survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to Spafford beginning "Saved alone." Spafford then sailed to England, going over the location of his daughters' deaths. According to Bertha Spafford, a daughter born after the tragedy, "It Is Well With My Soul" was written on this journey.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with soul.

Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,
Lest this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought:
My sin, not in part, but the whole—
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

God be with you as you enter a new week.