

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness
Sunday, March 1, 2009, 6 p.m.
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

To be Willing... the Glory we Carry...

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord rises upon you.**
**See, darkness covers the earth
And thick darkness is over the peoples,
But the Lord rises upon you
And his glory appears over you.**

(Isaiah 60:1-2)

O God, our Father, you have put immortal longings into the hearts of men, and we thank you for them.

For the ideals which haunt us;
For the noble desires which move us to long for goodness;
For the high ambitions to make life a shining thing:
We thank you, O God.

Forgive us, O God, for everything that keeps us from making the ideal into the real.

For the laziness that will not make an effort;
For the idleness which loves to do nothing;
For the procrastination which puts things off until it is too late ever to do them;
For the lack of perseverance which gives up too easily and too soon;
Forgive us, O God.

Grant unto us, God, all that we need to make the dream come true.

Strength of will;
Steadiness of purpose;
Ability to do;
Willingness to bear;
Grant us this, O God.
Wisdom to see what we ought to do;
Courage to begin it;
Fidelity to continue it;
Strength and skill to complete it;
Grant us this, O God.

And even if we begin and fail, help us to know that it is better to attempt and to fail in some great thing rather than not to try at all.

So grant unto us the vision, and the power to make the vision into a deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (William Barclay, from *Prayers for the Christian Year*)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

(Romans 8:18-19)

[The disciples] had seen the strong hands of God twist the crown of thorns into a crown of glory, and in hands as strong as that they knew themselves safe. They had misunderstood practically everything Christ had ever said to them, but no matter: the thing made sense at last, and the meaning was far beyond anything they had dreamed. They had expected a walkover, and they beheld a victory; they had expected an earthly Messiah, and they beheld the Soul of Eternity.

(Dorothy Sayers, from *"The Triumph of Easter"* in *The Man Born to be King*)

What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory – even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

(Romans 9:23-24)

It is precisely that secret and holy place which I believe I glimpsed in the Norman chapel of Saint John [...] and dreamed of once as a room called Remember. The reason I was so at peace in that room [but am not at peace in my everyday life] is that in it I remembered back before time and beyond space to the day when God in his glory made us and the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. By quieting our minds and keeping still, by praying less in words perhaps than in images, maybe most of all by just letting up on ourselves and letting go, I think we can begin to put ourselves back in touch with that glory and joy we come from and begin moving out of the shadows toward something more like light.

(Frederick Buechner, from *Telling Secrets*)

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

(2nd Corinthians 3:18)

God be with you as you enter a new week.