

**Sabbath Moments:
A Service for Healing and Wholeness**

Sunday, April 12, 2009, 6 p.m.
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

The Glory of the Risen Christ...

[Jesus] looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. (John 17:1-5)

The Glory of Jesus Fully Revealed in Revelation Chapter 5

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne...

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb... and they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.
You have made them to be
a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand... In a loud voice they sang:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and strength and honor and glory and praise!

The Day of Resurrection has dawned upon us, the day of true light and life, wherein Christ, the life of believers, arose from the dead. Let us give abundant thanks and praise to God, that while we solemnly celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection, he may be pleased to bestow on us quiet peace and special gladness; so that being protected from morning to night by his favoring mercy, we may rejoice in the gift of our Redeemer. Amen. (Mozarabic Sacramentary, 6th century)

A Hymn Story: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand.
The Shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
A home with the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat
And the burden of the day.*

Elizabeth Clephane, a frail Scottish Presbyterian woman, was born in 1830. Her father was a county sheriff and her mother was a descendant of the famous Douglas clan. Elizabeth had many physical disabilities, yet she served the poor and sick of her community and was nicknamed "Sunbeam."

She wrote the words for "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" in 1868, just one year before she died at the age of 39. It was published a few years later, along with several other poems she had written, in a Scottish Presbyterian magazine. All were published anonymously.

Clearly Elizabeth, like most Presbyterians of her day, was an serious student of scripture, for her poems are filled with Biblical references. For example in stanza one:

The reference to "the mighty Rock" is taken from Isaiah 32:2.

The reference to "the weary land" is taken from Psalm 63:1.

The reference to "home within the wilderness" is taken from Jeremiah 9:2.

The reference to "rest upon the way" is taken from Isaiah 28:12.

The reference to "noontide heat" is taken from Isaiah 4:6.

The reference to "burden of the day" is taken from Matthew 11:30.

O God, our Father, at Eastertime we remember the great hope of eternal life which you have set before us, and we feel within our hearts the longings for goodness, and for you. Grant that nothing may hinder the hope of eternal life from coming true, and the desire for goodness and for you from being realized.

(William Barclay, from *Prayers for the Christian Year*)

God be with you as you enter a new week.