

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, January 6, 2008, 6pm
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

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)

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, be born again into our world. Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain, wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope, come, thou long-expected one, with healing in thy wings. Holy Child, whom the shepherds and the kings and the dumb beasts adored, be born again. Wherever there is boredom, wherever there is fear of failure, wherever there is temptation too strong to resist, wherever there is bitterness of heart, come, thou blessed one, with healing in thy wings.

(From *The Hungering Dark*, by Frederick Buechner)

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)

Therefore I urge you, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of

this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(Romans 12:1-2)

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)

O Lord Jesus, help me as this new year begins. Help me to be brave, to be willing, and to keep my eyes fixed on you alone. As you show me the next step on the path you have laid down for me, help me to walk in it. I want to follow though I often see that my own efforts are ineffectual and so very small. Help me to remember that you, Lord, rejoice each time I take a step forward. Thank you for rejoicing in my small beginnings and may I learn to rejoice, too, over each moment that I live awake, alive, and aware of your presence with me. In Jesus name, Amen.

God be with you as you enter a new week.