

Sabbath Moments:
A Service for Healing and Wholeness

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

Dwelling in God

**Lord, through all the generations you have been our home!
Before the mountains were created, before you made the earth and the world,
You are God, without beginning or end.**

(Psalm 90:1-2)

The still dwelling upon God is the quietest but the most potent action of all.
(Emmet Fox, from Power through Constructive Thinking)

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

(John 14:1-3)

The source of all such coming together is surely Jesus himself. Community is ever his gift. It was this way from the start.... In Christ Jesus we are formed into one people stretching through the ages of time. And in this sense, the community he creates is not only a gift. It is holy. That is, its source is not in us. It emanates from him. Community sweeps forth and claims us from the realms of grace.

(Stephen V. Doughty, from Discovering Community)

**Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your curtains wide, do not hold back;
Lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.
For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
Your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.**

(Isaiah 54:2-3)

At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you going to leave, too?”

Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You alone have the words that give eternal life. We believe them, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”

(John 6:66-69)

Some years ago a famous novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for future stories, the most prominently underscored being this one: “A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live together.” This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great “world house” in which we have to live together – a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.

(Martin Luther King, Jr., from *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*)

Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on rock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash.

(Jesus' words, from Matthew 7:24-27)

I feel more and more convinced that only a spirituality which thus puts the whole emphasis on the Reality of God, perpetually turning to Him, losing itself in Him, refusing to allow even the most pressing work or practical problems, even sin and failure, to distract from God – only this is a safe foundation for spiritual work. This alone is able to keep alive the awed, adoring sense of the mysteries among which we move, and of the tiny bit which at the best we ourselves can apprehend of them – and yet, considering that immensity and our tininess, the marvel of what we do know and feel.

(Evelyn Underhill, from *Concerning the Inner Life*)

God be with you as you enter a new week.