

Sabbath Moments:
A Service for Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, April 13, 2008, 6pm
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

Fullness of Life

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

(Jesus' words, from John 10:10)

Now, with God's help, I shall become myself.

(Soren Kierkegaard)

So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

(Galatians 5:1)

When Mary went to the sepulcher on Easter morning, she only found an empty tomb. But when she turned back to ordinary life, Christ met her under the ordinary accidents of existence. Therefore she did not recognize the character of her own experience. She thought He was the gardener. Just so we, often supposing to find Him in the "religious," seem to find only emptiness; yet He meets us directly in the paths of common life. But if Mary hadn't gone to the tomb, she would have missed the meeting entirely. Just so, the faithful performance of traditional duty, the carrying out of religious routine, though it may seem to result in emptiness, brings us to the spot where the meeting can take place. That, I think, is especially true of the daily discipline in prayer which many people find so difficult.

(Evelyn Underhill, from *The Ways of the Spirit*)

May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

(Ephesians 3:17b-19)

Yesterday I met a whole man. It is a rare experience, but always an illuminating one. It costs so much to be a full human being that there are very few who have the enlightenment, or the courage, to pay the price ...

(Morris West, in the novel *The Shoes of the Fisherman*)

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had known who I am, then you would have known who my Father is. From now on you know him and have seen him!”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied.”

Jesus replied, “Philip, don’t you even yet know who I am, even after all the time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!”

(John 14:6-9)

Most of us seem to be more concerned with strengthening our boundaries than with developing our center. The quest for wholeness has to do with softening our edges and strengthening our center, which for the Christian involves entering more deeply into the relationship offered to us in Christ.

(James C. Fenhagen, from *Invitation to Holiness*)

For it has pleased God to tell his people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.

(Colossians 1:27)

The pathway to wholeness, therefore, involves on the one hand bringing to consciousness the inner conflicts that prevent us from owning our own worth, while on the other hand claiming the gift of faith that makes it possible for us to enter into that relationship with the Christ through whom our worth is assured.

(James C. Fenhagen, from *Invitation to Holiness*)

God’s secret plan has now been revealed to us; it is a plan centered on Christ, designed long ago according to his good pleasure. And this is his plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ – everything in heaven and on earth.

(Ephesians 1:9-10)

God be with you as you enter a new week.