

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, March 23, 2008, 6pm
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

Resurrection Sunday

O God, our Father, at Easter time 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)

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.
(John 15:13)

What I call the haven is the Cross. If it cannot be given me to deserve one day to share the Cross of Christ, at least may I share that of the good thief. Of all the beings other than Christ of whom the Gospels tell us, the good thief is by far the one I most envy. To have been at the side of Christ and in the same state during the crucifixion seems to me a far more enviable privilege than to be at the right hand of his glory.

(Simone Weil, from Waiting for God)

If you're experiencing pain in a relationship with a child, spouse, friend or coworker, picture Jesus on the cross, sharing the pain that you feel over the relationship. If there are persons you cannot forgive, open your arms wide, breathe deeply and let Jesus Christ pray within you: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Feel free to admit that humanly you cannot forgive, but that with Jesus it is possible. Consider practicing this exercise several days a week, for a month. Don't be discouraged if a feeling of forgiveness doesn't come; for the time being, be content that God has forgiven those involved in the situation.

(from The Spiritual Formation Bible, page 1400)

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

(Mark 15:37-39)

In great dignity, and in the serenity of complete trust, Jesus dies. The blood spilled, like the blood of the Passover lamb, is for our deliverance—the ultimate act of a heart generous with the fullness of God’s love.

Pray for those who are dying. Pray for those who are dying for lack of love. Pray for yourself in the hour of your death. And in the presence of a love “so amazing, so divine,” with confidence in your voice, sing:

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fear subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever sing to you; I will ever sing to you.
(Harry Emerson Fosdick, from “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”)

It is the cup that Thou didst drink, Lord Jesus, more than ought else that renders Thee love-worthy; it is the work of our redemption that supremely claims our love. He put up with people who tried to catch him in his talk, carped at his actions, mocked his suffering and even upbraided him in death. This love of his is tender, wise and strong. Tender in that he took on himself our flesh; careful and wise in that he guarded against sin; and strong in that he suffered death. I trust myself entirely to him who willed to save me, knew the way to do it, and had the power to carry out the work. He has sought me out and called me by his grace.

(Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th century)

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

(Edwin Hatch, 19th century)

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)

God be with you as you enter a new week.