

Sabbath Moments
A Service for Healing and Wholeness
Sunday, January 27, 2008, 6pm
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

Finding something deeper ...

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

(Isaiah 9:2)

... Until three months ago I still had fairly good vision. But now all is dark. I'm not hopeless here on my Calvary, though. I know Jesus is waiting for me at the end of the road. To begin with I lived in a big chair, but now I have to stay in bed. Here I have found a wisdom greater than that of mankind. I've found that there is a God, and that he is love, faithfulness, joy and certainty, even to the end of the world.

Before long I shall be no more than a name. But my spirit will live on here among my family, and among those who suffer; even I shall not have suffered in vain.

Natalino, don't feel alone. Never. Go calmly on down the path of time, and you'll receive light, truth. This is the road where there's really a righteousness, not the righteousness of men and women but the righteousness that God alone can give.

My days are not easy. They're hard. But they're sweet because Jesus is with me in my suffering. He comforts me in my loneliness and lightens my darkness.

He smiles at me and lets me work with him. So long, Natalino. Life is short. It passes in a flash. Life is a very short bridge: dangerous for people who want to get all the enjoyment out of it they can, but safe for those who cooperate with Jesus to reach our Homeland.

All love, Your sister in Christ, Benedetta

(From a letter written by Benedetta Bianchi Porro in 1963 to a young man named Natalino who had written about his own suffering)

For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 4:6)

Arise, shine for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.

(Isaiah 60: 2, 1)

In the sorrow of my blindness, in the deep darkness of my solitude, I have tried, willing myself to be serene, to make my sorrow blossom; and thus I seek the humble will to succeed in being as God wishes me: very tiny, as I sincerely believe myself to be, when I manage to see his stupendous grandeur in the dark night of my weary days.

... The days fly by as I wait for the One I love. He is in the air, in the sun I cannot see any more but whose heat I still feel when it comes through the window to warm my hands, and in the rain that comes down from heaven to work the earth.

(Benedetta Bianchi Porro, quoted by Carlo Carretto in Why, O Lord?)

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

(John 6:68)

Mother, you know that for most people Benedetta is dead already. All the same, many will remember me. The end is near, Mother, but you must never feel alone. I am leaving you so many sons, so many daughters to look after.... I have to tell you – I have already heard the Bridegroom’s voice. I’m not very good at praying now. But I offer everything, just as I am. May the One who has been begotten in me guide me to the end.

(Benedetta Bianchi Porro, from her last letter to her mother.)

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
(Psalm 130: 5-6)

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

(“Abide with Me”, an old hymn of the faith)

God be with you as you enter a new week.