

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, April 26, 2009, 6 p.m.
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

Come, let us worship!

Christians travel the same ground that everyone else walks on, breathe the same air, drink the same water, shop in the same stores, read the same newspapers, are citizens under the same government, pay the same prices for groceries and gasoline, fear the same dangers, are subject to the same pressures, get the same distresses, are buried in the same ground. The difference is that each step we walk, each breath we breathe, we know we are preserved by God, we know we are accompanied by God, we know we are ruled by God. (Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*)

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

**How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!**

“Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?”

**“Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?”**

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

(Romans 11:33-36)

In Albert Einstein's early days physicists had scratched their heads for some 50 years over the unexplainable orbit of the planet Mercury. Newton's theories of gravity had served well for centuries to understand the orbits of all the other planets, but in Mercury's elliptical orbit, the point nearest the sun drifted by a very small amount... Astronomers conjectured that another small hidden planet, which they named Vulcan, might orbit near the sun and exert gravitational force on Mercury. But Vulcan was never discovered...

But then Einstein formulated his general theory of relativity. When he applied this gravitational formula to the eccentric orbit of Mercury, he had one of the breathtaking moments of his scientific life: the numbers fit. Mercury was a mystery no more. My life will on occasion have an orbit like Mercury, which for a time simply defies my best efforts to explain it. Nonetheless as surely as there is order in the universe, there is a heavenly reason for my circumstances utterly consistent with God's Word and character. I just cannot understand it yet. (Craig Brian Larson, *Pastoral Grit*)

And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped. (Exodus 4:31)

It is no good asking for a simple religion. After all, real things aren't simple. They look simple, but they're not. The table I'm sitting at looks simple: but ask a scientist to tell you what it's really made of--all about the atoms and how the light waves rebound from them and hit my eye and what they do to the optic nerve and what it does to my brain--and, of course, you will find what we call "seeing a table" lands you in mysteries and complications which you can hardly get to the end of... Reality, in fact, is always something you couldn't have guessed. That's one of the reasons I believe Christianity. It's a religion you couldn't have guessed. If it offered us just the kind of universe we'd always expected, I'd feel we were making it up. But, in fact, it's not the sort of thing anyone would have made up. (C.S. Lewis, *The Case for Christianity*)

And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. (Deuteronomy 4:19)

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)

They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. (Psalm 106:36)

The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian church today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of him—and of her. In all her prayers and labor this should have first place. We do the greatest service to the next generation of Christians by passing on to them undimmed and undiminished that noble concept of God which we received from our Hebrew and Christian fathers of generations past. This will prove of greater value to them than anything that art or science can devise. (A.W. Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy*)

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.
(Psalm 29:2)**

God be with you as you enter a new week.