

Sabbath Moments
A Service of Healing and Wholeness
Sunday, April 19, 2009, 6 p.m.
Southport Presbyterian Church
The Toney Chapel

Living as God's People...

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:10)

“I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they will say, ‘You are my God!’” (Hosea 2:23)

As He says also in Hosea, “I will call those who were not my people, ‘My People,’ and her who was not beloved, ‘Beloved.’ (Romans 9:25)

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you. (Galatians 3:28-29)

Christ is called a Stone, to teach his servants that he is their protection and security, the foundation on which they are built. He is precious in the excellence of his nature, the dignity of his office, and the glory of his services. All true believers are a holy priesthood; sacred to God, serviceable to others, endowed with heavenly gifts and graces. But the most spiritual sacrifices of the best in prayer and praise are not acceptable, except through Jesus Christ. Christ is the chief Corner-stone, that unites the whole number of believers into one everlasting temple, and bears the weight of the whole fabric....

How vast their obligations to Him who has made them his people, and has shown mercy to them! To be without this mercy is a woeful state, though a man have all worldly enjoyments. And there is nothing that so kindly works repentance, as right thoughts of the mercy and love of God. Let us not dare to abuse and affront the free grace of God, if we mean to be saved by it; but let all who would be found among those who obtain mercy, walk as his people. (Matthew Henry’s Commentary)

A rite for restoration when we have failed...
(adapted from the Book of Common Worship)

God has shown to me his grace and love, and acted in great kindness towards me. God called me into faith and I responded in faith, entering the covenant God established. I was

joined to Christ and welcomed into the household of faith. The grace of God is eternal. Nothing can separate me from God's love. I am still God's child, and God cares for me.

One again I reject sin, profess my faith in Christ Jesus and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which I was baptized. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, I turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world. I turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as my Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love. I commit myself, with God's help, to be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love.

**O Lord, uphold me by your Holy Spirit.
Daily increase in me your gifts of grace:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.
Defend me, O Lord.
I pray in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.**

I thank you and praise you Jesus because you are a merciful God; you will not abandon or destroy me. (Deuteronomy 4: 31)

**I thank you and praise you Jesus because you are merciful and forgiving.
(Daniel 9: 9)**

I thank you and praise you Jesus because by your great mercy, I can come into your house and in reverence bow down toward your holy temple. (Psalms 5: 7)

I thank you and praise you Jesus because you have heard my cry for mercy; you accept my prayer. (Psalms 6: 9)

God be with you as you enter a new week.