

Communion Meditation  
August 1, 2010  
Steve Findley

This past Friday morning, we got word that a young friend of Anna's named David had lost his battle with cancer. His mother Lori has been chronicling the long difficult journey on line, recording powerful insights on the waxing and waning of hope, on the foundations of faith that sustain them, and on the unbreakable bonds of love among parents and child, among family, among friends. In her entry yesterday, Lori noted that last Wednesday, before his death, David was lying in bed, listening to music on his i-Pod. The piece of music he was listening to was the theme music from the movie "Deep Impact." The piece was titled, "Heaven and Earth are about to collide." On Friday afternoon, David's brother wrote that, when the collision came, it was so gradual as to barely be noticeable. But, Lori wrote, "Yesterday's collision of heaven and earth was indeed gentle, but it will reverberate throughout our lives forever."

For those of us who open ourselves to the presence of God in our lives, there are indeed times when Heaven and Earth collide. Sometimes the collision involves great loss: the loss of a beloved child, the loss of a saint of the church, the loss of a job or a home or a relationship or the dreams and expectations that we have for our lives. Sometimes the collision brings great joy: a birth, a wedding, a baptism. Sometimes the collision is jarring, sometimes it is gentle. But the "deep impact" reverberates within, at the level of the soul, and the impact reverberates throughout our lives forever. It is in these collisions, however, that we meet God, and we learn that God is real and present, constant and faithful. Good things happen, bad things happen, but through it all God walks with us, supports us, sustains us, rejoices with us, grieves with us. We have only to remember to look and see that God is there.

Heaven and earth collided when Jesus came into the world. In Jesus, heaven met earth and earth met heaven, time after time, from his birth to the beginning of his teaching and healing ministry, to his death on the cross and his resurrection to new life. Nowhere is that collision more tangible than at this table, where we are

invited to meet Emmanuel, God With Us, face to face every time we eat the bread and drink the cup. Let us pray.

On the eve of the Passover, as Jesus gathered with his beloved friends, He took a loaf of bread, and He blessed it, and He broke it, and he gave it to them saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Whenever you eat this bread, remember me." And then He took the cup, and blessed it, and said "Drink of it, all of you; for this cup is the New Covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me." Come now, and receive this feast for the soul. Open yourselves to the presence of the Living God in your lives. The Lord invites you all to come and eat. Walk with God. See that God walks with you, always. And let God's transforming love reverberate throughout your life, forever.

Because God loves us so much, God has showered us with gifts of time, talent and treasure in different measures. We now have an opportunity to show our love for God by returning a portion of what we have received, so that all the world may share in God's abundance. Please give with love.

Loving God, please bless and multiply these gifts that the world may know the power of your love. In Jesus' name we ask it, Amen.