

Thin Places - Sacred Spaces

“The Sacred on the Street”

SERVIETTE

“Thin places” are those places and spaces where we encounter God, the Divine, the Holy. Not usually a word used in the United States, a serviette is a napkin. And how does a napkin encounter God, you may ask? Thanks for asking. ‘Serviette’ comes from an old French word meaning to serve.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. I Peter 4:8-11 (NIV)

Servants of the early church (as in serving each other, not paid servants or slaves) wore towels on their shoulders, ready to be ‘of service’. Since those days, the towel has developed into the stole. Today’s reinvention of the stole could be the dish cloth used by a mom to wash her child’s face, a napkin given with the meal for a homeless person, the towels and wash cloths in the hygiene kits sent to disaster areas. Or, as mentioned in the passage above, it can be whatever our particular gift is to ‘administer God’s grace’ in our service to others.

Some questions to ponder:

What particular gift of service has been given to me by God?

As we go about our day-to-day lives, how do we utilize that gift?

What is our gift as a congregation in the Body of Christ?

In what ways can that corporate gift be used in service to others?

O Divine One,

We come together to encounter, worship, praise and thank you for all your love and care of us. Help us to discern our gifts of your grace as we serve others. Be with us, the Body of Christ, as we work towards transforming ourselves, using those gifts you have so generously bestowed upon us. May we constantly and consistently show your love to a world that so desperately needs it. Amen