

Sacred Space

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A SPECIALIZED MISSION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

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God has no body
on earth but ours
no feet but ours
no hands but ours

Ours are the eyes
through which
God sees the world
with compassion

Ours are the feet
on which God travels
to those in need

Ours are the hands
with which God
blesses people and
comforts them

--Adapted from
St. Theresa of Avila

Wishing I had a little Faith



Although you are reading this article after Easter, I am writing it just before Palm Sunday, and that means I am still contemplating the Palm Sunday text from Philippians about Jesus emptying himself. It is a great description of what Jesus did for us - he poured himself out in order to fill us up. I recently read an article in *The Anglican Theological Review* (winter, 2014) with the rather lengthy title: *Hospitality and Embassy: The Persistent Influence of Kenneth Cragg on Anglican Theologies of Interfaith Relations* by Richard Sudworth. In it, Sudworth mentions that in and through this act of self-emptying, God became a guest in the world and, as a result, we are called, as Christians, to practice hospitality in a sacramental way - to be both host and guest in the world and to understand that we are meant to be in relationship with all people, not just the ones who share our faith or our current version of the truth.

Sacred Space is an example of a church without borders. It has no walls, so it has no doors and all are welcome. As a borderless church, it is a great example of Christian hospitality. Everyone who participates in this loosely defined congregation understands what it means to be both host and guest. The park in which we congregate is city property; it belongs to all of us and yet to none of us. When I show up to preside, I always feel like it belongs more to the homeless people who sleep there than it does to me. I am grateful that they welcome me. The fact that it belongs to none of us has recently been emphasized with the enforcement of the City of Hayward's regulations regarding the distribution of food. We have experienced the difference between being a welcomed guest and a not so welcomed one and we know that someday soon, we may have to find another place to gather.

Sacred Space is a specialized mission of the Episcopal Diocese of California, and yet, I would guess, if you were to ask any of the 25 or so congregants on any given Sunday, they would not identify themselves as Episcopalians - it is quite probable that they would not even know what the word means. And although Sacred Space is not what I would label Interfaith, it could certainly be described as Allfaith or Nofaith or WishingIhadalittlefaith just as easily as it could be described as anything else. As such, it is an encounter through which we are reminded to respect the dignity of every human being and given the opportunity to hear those voices which so frequently go unheard in our society.

Sacred Space is a practice of sacramental hospitality. During the service, people come and people wander away. Some people speak, some preach, some sit so quietly you can't tell if they are sleeping or praying. Some smile, and some cry. And it doesn't matter because all are welcome and everyone belongs - each of us both host and guest. In this liturgy we are all praising God, giving thanks, pouring ourselves out for one another, and being filled by Jesus. This is Eucharist!

**by The Reverend Luran Pifke, Rector
St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Fremont**

Welcome Laura - Outreach Social Worker

Laura Van Hook is an LCSW who currently works as a hospice social worker here in the Bay area. Laura received her MSW from the University of Oklahoma in 2002. She has worked primarily in medically focused settings as an LCSW, working with individuals and families from all walks of life providing crisis management, individual and group counseling, resource referral, and advocacy.



Laura was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah by a single mother who taught elementary education in at risk areas of the city and who advocated for those who could not advocate for themselves. These early experiences with her mother, as well as early experiences with an honorary uncle with cerebral palsy, led Laura to pursue a bachelor's degree in special education. In this capacity she worked with at risk populations, teaching special education in socio-economically challenged areas in Utah and Oklahoma.

Her limited ability to facilitate larger scale change for her students and their families led to her change of profession to social work. In graduate school she specialized in medical social work and disability advocacy.

Laura lives in Livermore with her husband Michael. They have a full, noisy home with their three children aged 6-13, a big chocolate lab, and two cats. Laura loves being a mom and spending time with her children. The Van Hook family enjoys doing anything in the out of doors, especially camping, cycling, and hiking. Laura also takes great joy sharing her appreciation of the arts with her children and is a proud ballet, choir, and Suzuki piano mom.



The Ecclesia Cross

Sacred Space Has a New Home

Working with the South Hayward Parish Blue House group in Hayward, we have been given the OK, to use their space to celebrate Liturgy, Prayers and Lunch feeding to our members. With the new location right off Foothill on Maple Court, our members will now be able to attend our services without having to travel too far to come to worship and share lunch.



We have a full kitchen and space to cook and prepare hot meals, lunches for the members of Sacred Space. We have been blessed by the Executive Director (Sarah Lammn) in giving us permission to use their new space and thus avoid harassment from the city on feeding the homeless in Hayward.

We will begin services there mid-month of June and we welcome everyone to our new home.

While Walking to the Bus



The man and his dog are street entrenched;
sometimes safer here.

No such thing as falling out of favor.
You can't really fall off the street.
I pass them in the same spot every day;
even the street has rules of engagement.

The man hugs his dog with unabashed affection,
whispering gentleness, that softly says,

"love is a grace we give to each other it doesn't have to be earned."

His soles are always shredded, his feet are festering.
Together they possesses a delicate dignity
I can only call an integrity of being.

*Please God let them
die together.*

Dying on the street
is one thing,
living without, quite another.

By Linda Bullock

What we are in need of

We are always in need of: toiletries (small bottles), razors, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, reading glasses and adult tube socks. With the nights cooling off we can expect an increase in requests for warm shirts/jackets and blankets.

If you have any questions regarding donations, please feel free to contact Tracy Brown at: glyfley@hotmail.com



*"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."
Mother Teresa*

You are now able to donate online to Sacred Space. We have PayPal to make donating easier and safer. Simply click on the [DONATE NOW](#) or from our [Webpage](#) and you will be taken automatically to PayPal.

Facilitator Volunteer Needed for Oakland

We are a non-profit Specialized Mission in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of California. We are currently looking for a Facilitator for our Sunday services and lunch program at 32nd and San Pablo Avenue in Oakland.

Background:

Sacred Space ministry is a community of un-housed and housed people called by God into Christian community and ministry for the purpose of transforming all our lives.

During our weekly outdoor worship service in Oakland, California, we offer opportunities for private conversation, prayer, blessing or encouragement, and lunch. We draw from the resources of diverse congregations living into God's compassion for the poor.

Our mission is to be in spiritual companionship with homeless and marginalized men and women and all who seek a non-threatening way to be with others in Christian relationship and in community.

Duties Include:

- Oversight of worship services and volunteers;
- The proper use and distribution of donations of clothing, monies and supplies;
- Coordination of food preparation and distribution from local churches and community;
- Plans for future growth of community;
- Maintain the Register of Services;
- Maintains contact with Clergy in Charge;
- Prepares for Special events and holiday events.

Schedule:

Every Sunday at 2:00pm (Rain or Shine)

Spiritual Benefits:

- Walking in the sandals of Christ
- A chance to walk with our sisters and brothers on the street
- Serve as a liaison between the community and the Church
- Become a leader and example for others to follow.
- A leadership role in the church and community

Contact Deacon John @ deaconjt0604@comcast.net

Sacred Space Contacts

Sacred Space - NL

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Email: SacredSpace@comcast.net

Web: SacredSpaceEastBay.weebly.com

Volunteer

Sacred Space Oakland,

Please contact

Bronwen Howes (Temp Facilitator) at
[Bronwen Howes](#)

or

Sacred Space Hayward,

Please contact

Tracy Brown (Facilitator) at
[Tracy Brown](#)

Bishops Committee

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News Letter Editor - Rev. John Trubina
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