

Tuesday - February 27

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:44-46

I want to tell a devotional story about how God is breaking through to me, but I don't have that kind of story to share. I feel I may be afraid of thin places. A thin place is where the space between heaven and earth seems to touch. As Will Willimon put it in our advent study, "God uncomfortably close." Susan Robb, in her book *Seven Words*, tells of a monastery on Iona, an island off the coast of Scotland where for centuries pilgrims have been coming to experience a "thin place where only tissue paper separates the material from the spiritual."

I worry that my thin places would be ragged and torn, where God would see all I'm not. But avoiding thin places leaves me un-empowered, with no hope to share, and unable to change. However, Robb continues her story. "Those who witnessed Jesus's death might have felt like they were in the opposite of a thin place - somewhere that God seemed to be absent rather than overwhelmingly present. But when all seemed lost, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, God and humanity reconciled, and all the earth becomes a thin place through Jesus Christ."

This Lenten season, I pray I can invite God to come "uncomfortably close" and be intentional about seeking those thin places where God can make more of my life, to look for places in my life that remind me of God's presence and treat these opportunities when I allow God to come close with reverence.

Mike Ott

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me to accept and embrace the thin places where I am invited to be close to you. Amen.