



## God in a cup

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I wait

slightly less than patiently,  
taking up slightly more  
than my share of floor space  
on the ladies' side of church.

Distracted,  
an inefficient ceiling fan  
circulates monsoon-laden air;  
someone's two-year-old  
crawls over, sits on my foot.

In the interlude,  
I contemplate the walk home  
through mud puddles, diesel fumes,  
and poverty; I wonder  
is there time for a cold shower  
before lunch?

I receive communion from the common cup  
then walk back to my space with the woman  
who always shares my Bible,  
smiling with pride and affection  
though we both know she cannot read.

On the way home,  
I buy a diet Coke.  
It is cold and sweet  
but leaves an aftertaste,  
costing as it did,  
more than two days' worth of rice or  
ten measles vaccinations.

In a few days,  
I will once again board a plane,  
spending a day, closer to a lifetime,  
crossing the globe to reach a country called home.

As the fabric of my connection  
to this land I love  
grows thin at the edges  
on this mid-monsoon morning,  
I stretch to remind myself  
there are other places  
I also belong  
where God is served in a cup.

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