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## Communion Cup

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## Communion Cup

*For Julia*

Her mother had died  
years ago on Palm Sunday, but I did not know that  
when I invited her to church this Easter.  
She said she would  
“have to think about it” before coming.  
She came though. She wore a fur coat,  
a jeweled brooch,  
sat with me in the fourth from the back  
row, silent. The pastor prayed before lifting  
the bread.  
He broke it—*do this in remembrance of me.*  
Tears slid slowly down her rouged cheeks,  
breaking apart  
into the tributaries of her wrinkles.  
We took the juice in clear little plastic  
cups, the pastor  
said, “I hope you look into this  
and see the blood of Christ.”  
We all drank,  
heads back in unison, then bowed  
to pray again. She held the cup in one hand  
during his  
lengthy prayer—then, when he mentioned  
forgiveness and peace, the plastic cup  
cracked loudly  
under the pressure of her thin frail hand.

--Nicki Bennet '04