

The Red String

Hymn: “Come and Journey with a Saviour”
Come and journey with a Saviour
Who has called us from our birth,
Who has washed us in the waters,
And who loved us on the earth.

Refrain:
Come and journey, come and journey.
With a Saviour who has come.
We are all God’s sons and daughters.
In the Spirit we are one.

Come and journey, journey inward.
Come and seek Him deep within,
Where He meets us in our living,
In our striving and our sin.

Leader: This League theme of *companions on the journey* can bring us comfort, direction and food for thought. “Companion” comes from the words “com panis:” together, bread; that is, to break bread together. Yesterday we explored the theme of bread; today we will look at the “com,” the “together” part and the “journey” part of our theme.

Reader: And Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Voice 1: Yes, as we journey through life, Jesus walks with us, as we encounter the members of our family, among our friends, those who live in our towns and villages, our co-workers, those we serve, our priests, children, young people, the immigrants, and the elderly persons that we spend time with. He is the secret “third party,” our unseen companion.

Leader: Now what about the journey? On your tables is a ball of red string. Can someone pick it up and hold the end? Your life has begun! Now toss it gently to someone else at your table, this is your childhood. Now she holds a part of the red string as she tosses it to someone else at your table: you go to school; hold a piece and toss: you graduate and get a job. Hold and toss... and so on. Your life’s journey continues, toss and hold the string back and forth at your table, with each line that we pray:

Reader: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And the fact that I think that I am following Your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust You always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for You are ever with me,
and You will never leave me to face perils alone.

Prayer by Thomas Merton

Voice 1: Well, this is quite the web we have woven!

Leader: Yes, our lives can get pretty complex at times. Everyone, raise your web of wool up high.

Voice 1: Each day we offer our lives to God.

Reader: Take, Lord, receive. All I have You have given me. I surrender it all to You, to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace, with these, I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more.

Voice 1: Each week at mass, we offer our lives to God.

Reader: Take, Lord, receive. All I have You have given me. I surrender it all to You, to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace, with these, I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more.

Voice 1: At the end of our lives, we offer our lives to God.

Reader: Take, Lord, receive. All I have You have given me. I surrender it all to You, to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace, with these, I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more.

Voice 1: And Jesus laughs, takes the end of my red string and starts to roll it up.

Leader: Someone at your table can begin to roll up your red string as we listen:

Reader: And as He rolls up your red string, Jesus says, "Come, you are blessed by My Father, He delights in you. Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Voice 1: Well how come, Lord? What do You mean?

Reader: Come, My beloved, for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was sick and you took care of Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.

Voice 1: Lord, when was it that I saw You hungry and gave You food, or thirsty and gave You something to drink? And when was it that I saw You a stranger and welcomed You, or naked and gave You clothing? And when was it that I saw You sick or in prison and visited You?

Reader: And Jesus smiled and said, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, who are members of My family, you did it to Me. Come now, to the place I have prepared for you from the beginning of time.”

Hymn: “Come and Journey with a Saviour”
Come journey, journey outward
Telling others of His name,
Telling others of His glory
Of His cross and of the shame. *Refrain*