

The Gifts of Companions and Friendship

(Adapted from *Gift, Mystery, Calling*, Robert F. Morneau, St. Mary's Press 1994, pp. 25-28)

- Hymn:** "Companions on the Journey" (BB #406, verses 1 and 2)
- Leader:** Bless you, Holy Friend, for the gift of companions – those with whom we share life. May we always be true companions, you and me and us.
- All:** Holy Friend, teach me to be the type of loyal, wise, and generous friend that I hope for when I meet other women and men. Warm my soul with a passion for loving friendship.
- Reader 1:** (*Luke 24:13-17*) That very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. He said to them,
- Reader 2:** "What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?"
- Reader 1:** The word of the Lord!
- All:** Thanks be to God.
- Leader:** Offer a silent prayer of thanksgiving for your League companions on your life's journey. (*Rest in quiet reflection for a moment.*)
- LS:** Touched and gently lifted,
- RS:** Touched and gently lifted.
- LS:** Friendship, crests of time peaking over all others,
- RS:** Days heightened, living forever, giving vision,
- LS:** Crescendos that hold aloft the meaning of life.
- RS:** Two people discover that they see the same thing,
- LS:** Feel deeply the same events of life,
- RS:** And have the ability to share the same vision and excitement together.
- LS:** Touched and gently lifted,
- RS:** Touched and gently lifted,
- LS:** Friendship, ferns and flowers nourishing the hunger for beauty,
- RS:** Meat and wine inebriating the spirit,
- LS:** Words and glances bonding the distance,

RS: Good friends do not need long times together.

LS: Rather, when they do meet, their intense affection deepens and lasts.

RS: Intense friendship creates a safe zone for the bonding of hearts.

LS: Timing when to come and when to go indicates an authentic and healthy friendship.

RS: Friendship is a grace freely given, non-enforceable.

LS: Touched and gently lifted,

RS: Touched and gently lifted,

LS: Friendship, birthdays too far apart – celebrate now,

RS: Anniversaries, too often forgotten – celebrate now,

LS: Death, too soon approaching – celebrate now.

RS: Friendship is the pleasure of presence in storm and sun that allows us to thrive.

LS: Touched and gently lifted,

RS: Touched and gently lifted.

Leader: God of snow banks and stars, poets and lovers of beauty, thank You for the lights of night and the luminous people who guide our way.

All: Thank You for all those who walk with us between joys and sorrows, between our doubts and hopes.

Reader 1: God of all good gifts, what treasures have been poured out of Your glass of blessings: music, memories and new-mown hay. Yet what can compare with friendship, the gift of sheer grace?

All: Teach us to celebrate the mystery of love and affinity.

Reader 2: May we see in all companions a sign of Your providential love.

All: Gently lift us to the heights of union with you and with those we love. Give us days of tall living. Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn: “Companions on the Journey” (BB #406, verses 3 and 4)