

2/5/21



When I was in youth choir at church, we were handed a new anthem which made us all chuckle ... There were horse lovers in the crowd, and seeing the title DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER brought up mental images of God leading a bunch of church folks around a corral on a leash! My adult self, however, has grown to LOVE the image suggested by Percy Dearmer's poem... everyone joined together in a circle, "tethered" to the Holy Spirit, linked to Christians in every time and place.

First published in 1931 in England, the tune to which we now sing the words wasn't composed for another few years until Harold Friedell, renowned organist and professor at Juilliard School and Union Theological Seminary's School of Sacred Music in New York City, used the words to compose a hymn tune. In 1957, he arranged the hymn tune in anthem form for use by his own church choir. Since then it has been a consistent "best-seller."

It has been described this way:

" There are occasionally anthems, indeed marriages of text and tune,  
That give us a glimpse of HEAVEN.... This is one of them. "

Here is the text:

"Draw us in the Spirit's tether; for when humbly in thy name,  
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Touch we now thy garment's hem...

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup  
Then with thanks to God the Father, break the bread and bless the cup.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our loving make as sacraments of thee  
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We will serve thee faithfully."

The anthem begins in the Upper Room with the disciples and then comes full circle in the final verse to ALL of us as we embody the Spirit in our own lives, becoming disciples in our time by making sacred everything we do – eating, caring, helping, giving .....

[Click on this link](#), close your eyes and listen – and as you take in the anthem's exquisite beauty, experience for yourself the touch of Jesus' hem...



Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)



Harold Friedell (1905-1958)