

## *Pastoral Prayer: "Threaded Together"*

There are moments in our lives when we are like thread.

Single stranded

Flexible

Almost invisible

Vulnerable to breaking with an errant tug or cut

Yet capable of sewing together that which is separated

Singleness can be frightening, but sometimes our very thread quality is vital:

Our single vote cast

Our single letter written

Our single smile shared

Our single stand taken

Our single light in the darkness

O God, give us the courage to affirm and live the strength of our singularity.

At other times, we twist our threads again and again with other threads until we come up with string. Then string is twisted into twine.

Twine that is not as flexible or invisible as thread, but more enduring, as it is made up of many different strands: different visions, cultures, or ideas.

In Twine moments, we experience the thrill of being tied to a high-flying kite buffeted by the wind, yet holding steady.

In Twine moments we can affix a tent to the ground and know that it will stay in the storm.

In Twine moments we stake a tomato plant until it is strong enough to bear fruit.

We become twine when we are twisted, interwoven with others into a strong whole and move together as one.

Like the UMW at church, or the African Choir,

Like the notes of a concerto, or the colors of the rainbow flag,

Like a City Council or an Olympic team

O God beyond division, help us to trust that which is different from ourselves, so that we might become strong and enduring together, bound with cooperation, respect, and our hope.

And finally, when twine is twisted with other twine, it becomes rope, stronger still. And when rope is twisted and twisted with some metal inserted, it becomes Cable,

Which is no longer flexible or invisible

but Capable of greatest endurance.

Capable of holding up bridges, freeways, and buildings,

Capable of lasting long into the future

And necessary for great stability, as long as its integrity is maintained.

While we can never be a cable alone,  
together we become part of that cable that holds.

We pray for the cables of which we are a part, and which hold that which we value:

The United Methodist Church  
The US Constitution  
International Climate Accords  
Peace Processes around the globe  
The UN  
Freedom of the Press  
Global Health

O God, whether we are thread, twine, or cable right now, help us recognize the value of each  
and to be fully what you call us to be in every changing moment.

We pray now in the words, which Jesus taught us to pray, saying together:

Our Father . . . . .