

OPENING ODE

A goodly thing it is to meet,
In friendship's circle bright,
Where nothing dims the pleasure sweet,
Nor dims the radiant light,
No unkind word our lips shall pass,
No envy sour the mind,
But each shall seek the common weal,
The good of all mankind.

The Mary Stewart Collect

Keep us O Lord from pettiness: let us be large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face, without self pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene and gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things of life that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all, and O Lord God let us not forget to be kind.

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