

'Collect for Club Women'

by Mary Stewart

Written in 1904 as a prayer for the day by Mary Stewart, a high school principal in Longmont, Colorado, and a member of women's clubs of town and country. "I called it a 'Collect for Club Women' because I felt that women working together, with wide interests in large ends, was a new thing under the sun and that perhaps they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own..."

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
let us be large in thought,
in word, in deed.

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

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

May we never be hasty in judgment
and always generous.

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

Teach us to put into action
our better impulses,
straightforward and unafraid.

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

And may we strive to touch and to know
the great, common human heart of us all.

And, oh Lord God, let us forget not
to be kind!