

GHWC COLLECT

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

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

May we put away all pretenses 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 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 as one.

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

and O Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!

GHWomansClub.org

The Collect was written as a personal prayer by Mary Stewart in 1904. She was just out of college and beginning her first job as a high school principal. She offered the prayer for publication as a club woman's Collect because she felt 'women working together for large ends' was something new. It has since been printed in many forms and many lands and set to music.

The word collect (pronounced COLL-ect) comes from the Latin word collectus which means 'gathered together'. A Collect is a prayer to God which gathers together the thoughts of the congregation into one prayer for the day.