
Knots in the Net, Links in the Chain

A Ritual for Meetings and Gatherings



Net (1) a meshed fabric twisted, knotted, or woven together at regular intervals (2) a network of lines, fibers, or figures (3) a group of communications stations operating under unified control

Netting (1) network (2) the act or process of making a net or network

Network (1) a fabric or structure of cords or wires that cross at regular intervals and are knotted or secured at the crossings (2) a system of lines or channels resembling a network (3) an interconnected or interrelated chain, group, or system

Needed: a candle

Introduction

*Coming together is an important function in the life of the modern servant of God. Such a coming together should not only begin with prayer, it should, in fact, **be** prayer.*

A meeting is a coming together and is, therefore, a communion. Every meeting has its business, but it should not cloud the communal sense of servants gathering in and for God. A meeting is a gathering of hearts, spirits, and dreams and consequently demands great respect and reverence for these sacred realities.

If gatherings are to be meetings of hearts centered in God, we need to be aware of the presence of the Divine Mystery. In this awareness, every meeting can become a lesson in humility, charity, and the mystery of how God is working in our lives.

Meetings, like meals, can often begin with a prayer but continue without prayfulness. The sense of worship can easily become lost in the activity of the event. As we

deal with the practical aspects of our agenda, let us remain awake to the presence of the Lord of Light at the heart of our gathering. To sustain this mindfulness, let us burn this candle as a sacramental reminder that our meeting is more than a necessary business function. Let this candle be a reminder that our time here can be both prayer and work.

Lighting of candle

All

Radiant God,
may this candle which we now light
be a sacrament of Your Presence
here among us at this meeting.

As the light streams forth from this candle,
may your Divine Wisdom flow
into every detail of our meeting.

By the light of your Divine Presence,
may we truly see you, our God,
in one another, in all the issues that we face,
and even in the midst of our differences of opinion.

In your Holy Will,
may all things work together for good,
may all that we discuss be blessed
and hasten the building up of your kin-dom.

Scripture

Reader 1 Matthew 4:18-22

Silent Reflection

Sung Response

“Anthem” by Tom Conry (*refrain only*)

Reader 2 Luke 5:1-5

Sung Response

“Anthem” by Tom Conry (*refrain only*)

Antiphonal Prayer

Side 1 God has created us to do some definite service; which has not been committed to another. We have our mission.

*(All) We are knots in the net,
links in the chain.*

Side 2 We are knots in the net, links in the chain, bonds of connection between persons. God has not created us for naught. We shall do good; we shall do God’s work.

*(All) We are knots in the net,
links in the chain.*

Side 1 We have been called to foster oneness and peace, to reconcile all that is fragmented, to be part of a master plan of love.

(All) We are knots in the net, links in the chain.

Side 2 Therefore we trust in God. Whatever, wherever we are, we can never be thrown away or alone, for we have each other.

(All) We are knots in the net, links in the chain.

Side 1 If we are in sickness, our sickness may serve; in perplexity, our perplexity may serve; in sorrow, our sorrow may serve; for we have each other.

(All) We are knots in the net, links in the chain.

Side 2 We may feel friendless, desolate, thrown among strangers, spiritless and futureless; still, we have each other.

(All) We are knots in the net, links in the chain.

Sung Response

“Anthem” by Tom Conry (*refrain only*)

Concluding Prayer

(All)

You are a skillful netmaker, O God,
an adroit seamstress.

You separate the strands of time
and knot and spin them
into the fabric of our lives.

With delicate patience you weave
the network, the tapestry
of our beginning once-upon-a-time.

With intricate detail you knot,
weave, and embroider
your very presence
into our heres and nows.

With great promise you knit and
knot together our hopes
for living and working happily.

Nothing can destroy your handiwork,
nothing can rend or ravel
the threads and knots of the stories you spin.
Therefore we thank you
that we are so wonderfully made.

Knots in the net, links in the chain.
Always the fashion, in season and out.
Be with us as we knot and weave together
our ministerial network and tapestry. Amen.

