

A Liturgy for a Deacons' Meeting

Preparation

We pause to still our minds and quieten our hearts

May we be aware of the living God close to us this night, dwelling with us in love;
source of recreation and rest.

Amen

May we be aware of the living Christ close to us this night, dwelling with us in hope;
source of redemption and life.

Amen

May we be aware of the living Spirit close to us this night, dwelling with us in peace;
source of inspiration and courage.

Amen

Our faith is in the unceasing love of the eternal God, creator, redeemer and sustainer,
present in every aspect of every day and from whom nothing is, or can be, concealed.

[A period of silence to reflect on the day]

Confession

In the stillness of the night and in the quiet of our hearts, we acknowledge before God
the sins and struggles of this day

The time wasted...

The missed opportunities...

The life-affirming words that could have been spoken...

The damaging words that would have been better unsaid...

The temptations allowed to become sin...

Forgiving God, as we confess to you, give us strength and courage to change. Help
us to forgive ourselves and each other, to let go of suspicion, grudges, bitterness or
cynicism and to trust in you alone as, individually and collectively, we continue to
grow and mature as disciples of Christ. Amen.

Reading

Mark 4: 35 – 41

In the evening Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat in which Jesus was already sitting, and they took him with them. Other boats were there too.

Suddenly a strong wind blew up, and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow.

The disciples woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?"

Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and he said to the waves, "Be still!"

The wind died down, and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Do you still have no faith?"

But they were terribly afraid and began to say to one another, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

[silence to reflect on the reading]

Prayers

Still centre within the squalls and storms, you, O God, are our refuge and strength

Grant us courage in our fears

Strength in our weakness

Faith in our doubt

Giver of shalom, calm amidst the busyness, you O Christ, are our companion and guide

Grant us diligence in our working

Refreshment in our resting

Growth in our spirituality

Source of all understanding, brooding over the chaos that anticipates new beginnings, you, O Spirit, are our inspiration and wisdom

Grant us clarity in our thinking

Honesty in our discussing

Integrity in our deciding

Holy and triune God, in whose name we meet this night

May this meeting, and all we do and say, be acceptable to you, we pray.

In Christ's name. Amen.