

Invocation given at the Maine State Assembly on Tuesday, February 28th,
2023

by the Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson, Priest in Charge,
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME.

Let this invocation be an invitation
to take a moment to prepare.
To quiet the noise
that followed us into the room this morning
and to create a space
of opportunity and meaning.

This invocation is an invitation
to the spirits in our lives that
motivate, drive, and inspire us.
The Spirit or spirits to whom we pray
and, the spirits that bond us
one to each other:

The spirit of collegiality
that reminds us that aisles and hallways
are places for us to walk
toward each other
and journey together.

The spirit of justice
that brings to our minds eye
the people who elected us
and who gave us
the power to do right by them.

The spirit of hope
that compels us to seek
possibilities, opportunities, and generosities.

This invocation is an invitation,
also, to let go.

To let go of the spirits
that have had their grip
on us and our society
for too long

The spirit of animosity
that tries to convince us
that we are enemies
and not companions on a journey.

The spirit of hubris
that tries to convince us
that the “I” is more important
than the “we.”

The spirit of fear
of difference, of change,
of pain, of not being heard
that prevents us
from being our best selves
to and for each other.

And so, dear friends,
as the community gathered this morning
let us mark this time of invocation
with an invitation
to a brief moment of silence
in which we breathe in
the spirits of collegiality, justice, and hope
and let them fill us

And, we breathe out and blow away
the spirits of animosity, hubris, and fear
and let them mark us no more

silence

And may the great Spirit or spirits
to whom we pray
sustain our breathing in
and our breathing out
today and always.
Amen.