A Prayer About the Meeting

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When it's time to hold the meeting
Give fear a place at the table
When fear feels estranged from your gatherings
It only works harder to be let in

When it's time to hold the meeting
Give grief a place at the table
Grief is only passing through
It has healing powers like no other

When it's time to hold the meeting
Give anger a place at the table
Let it shout till it loses its voice
Only then can it give up and listen

When it's time to hold the meeting
Give joy a place at the table
Do not ask it to justify its presence
Or it will quickly run away

When it's time to hold the meeting
Give ego a place at the table
But for God's sake, don't hand it the gavel
Treat it with respect; it's a warrior for your wounds

And whatever you do
When it's time to hold the meeting
Make sure you keep one seat empty
A stranger may appear
Bringing gifts of wisdom, mercy and grace
Only then
Will the meeting be ready to begin

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