



## Acts 1,13-26 Choosing Mathias

Today we gather.

Meeting together to consider  
where we stand and who we are.

We come to order ourselves

into a new sense of order  
according to our progress from the last gathering to this one.

Be with us, O God,

in this space and time  
as we affirm and shape the changes in our understanding of the way.

We desire not to fly apart

in garish fantasy of vision but rather to move the boundaries  
that we have set before

in order to encompass and embrace  
the living and breathing growth of each and all.

We work in prayer and dialogue.

In going back to see where we have been  
for the journey forward today.

We are here

to reconcile all that we were,  
our trust ... our hopelessness ... our joy  
our despair ... our confirming ... our betrayal  
to offer a farewell to those departed  
and to welcome those who are newly come.  
to confess, absolve, reconcile, renew  
to be all that we can be.

To set firm a pathway that is possible

possible for us to walk until we meet again  
to reassess the journey and again set firm a pathway.

Each step along the way

we clear the stones and obstacles,  
healing and refreshing each other.  
We listen openly to each tale of travel and  
hear each one's proposal for the time ahead.

Knowing you are here, God,

we are freer in our interaction,  
more daring in the sharing of our personal visions,  
loving in our confrontation,  
deeply silent in consideration and  
accepting in the choices that for a little while will help us  
to define our actions until broader definitions draw us on.

In this your presence,

we meet to order ourselves anew,  
to consider where we stand and who we are.

today we gather.

From Miryam of Nazareth: Woman of Strength and Wisdom by Ann Johnson