

Welcome

Join in saying the underlined words in **bold** type together.

Prayer of Gathering *From Psalm 52:8 Like a green olive tree in the House of God*
PHB 2013 p.75

1. With roots in the soil
Of past generations

**We worship you,
Living, loving God.**

2. Through layers of soil
At times fertile,
At other times depleted,

**We reach for experience and
Sustenance from saints of old.**

3. And in our own time, we offer to you, fresh shoots and new ideas
Borne upon branches shaped and gnarled by life,

And pray our worship shall be to you fruitful, sweet and rich. Amen

Prayer of Approach *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.39*

Loving Jesus, enter into our midst:

Forgive and pardon us,

Turn us to face each other, to live in your reign of love. **Amen**

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Roots 19 March 2017*

God of all, we come with shouts of praise to make a joyful noise! Hosanna!

You have poured your love into our hearts

And by the actions of your Son, Jesus Christ,

You have reconciled us to yourself. Amen

Thanksgiving *Adapted from Roots 2 April 2017*

Lord, you are the One who brings life from death, hope from despair,
Beauty from ashes and flesh from dry bones.

Thank you that we are included in your great promise-

Your offer of a fresh start and a new beginning

With a life following your guidance.

Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 23 April 2017*

O God, forgive us when we cannot see you for all our questioning,

When we refuse to believe, out of uncertainty or fear,

When we don't recognise you at work within us.

Forgive us, God of mercy.

We come with busy hearts and minds

So let us confess to God all those things we should not carry.

Pause for silence & reflection as we prepare ourselves for prayer. Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.47 \7 Roots 2 April 2017*

Jesus, come to us when we weep over all that is not well,

And despair that what is precious seems lost to us.

When all seems lost and darkness feels too close

In those moments, come to us, reach out and call our name, be our light and hope.

Renew us, forgive us, restore us.

Send us out knowing that you will come to us again and invite us to your table. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

1. *Adapted from Roots 20 March 2016*

Lord, as we think of Jesus riding on a donkey, so we pray for all animals today.

We pray for those which are mistreated and beaten

Or forced to live in cramped cages in factories or laboratories,

For those trapped and hunted and killed violently,

For stray dogs and cats living on the streets.

We give thanks for all the ways in which animals serve our lives,

Especially those which have become pets and special companions.

Loving God, bless all your creatures. Amen.

2. Tennebrae *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.43*

Lord, as evening falls,

We gather in thanks

For this place and all places,

For this time and all times;

For this most holy night and for this most holy table.

We lift this cup, we offer this food,

We offer our lives on behalf of the world you so love.

Even in this hour of darkness,

We seek to shine for you in our communities. Amen

3. Easter Day *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.49*

Praise be to God for we have been touched by his glory

And discovered the great gift of salvation.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Your forgiveness flows to us and your spirit lives in each of us

To enable us to be your hands in our communities.

We pray that we can be faithful stewards of your good news:

Encouraging others who have turned you away,

Acting as agents of comfort and healing

For those who have been hurt by others. **Amen**

4. *Adapted from Roots2, 16 & 23 April 2017*

Lord we pray for our world.
Hold back the hands of hate and establish peace in our hearts.
Where there is terror, pain and fear, may your comfort cover those people.
Where there is mourning, illness or sadness, may hope rise again.
Where there are those who are at a loss to cope,
We pray that we or others are able to offer appropriate help.
We think especially of the famine struck countries of Africa and the Yemen.
Lord we pray for the dispossessed, the exiled and the abused,
For those who commit atrocities in the name of a god,
We pray that we can be your ambassadors to break the chains of wickedness.

Hear our prayer. Amen

6. **Our Churches** *Adapted from Prayer Handbook 2014 p.67*

We pray for congregations, large and small:
For elders and ministers, who serve with dedication,
For members who exercise their ministries quietly and competently,
For all those who serve the Church.

God who stands at the doorway and welcomes us with open arms,

Guide us, your church, to do the same in our community

To show that your love is reflected and offered to all. Amen.

7. We remember those bereaved recently or still mourning past losses.
Bless them all with courage, healing and love.
If possible help us to make a practical gesture of support. **Amen.**

Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about AND

Time for those present to add their prayers, if they wish to,

for the life of St John's & St Martin's, our communities & the World

either in open prayer

or by using stones symbolically & placing them at the foot of the Cross.

Closing Prayer *Adapted from Roots 9 April 2017*

King Jesus, You are the Alpha and the Omega,

The beginning and the end,

Before all things and far beyond tomorrow,

The same yesterday, today and for ever,

Exploding all our preconceptions,

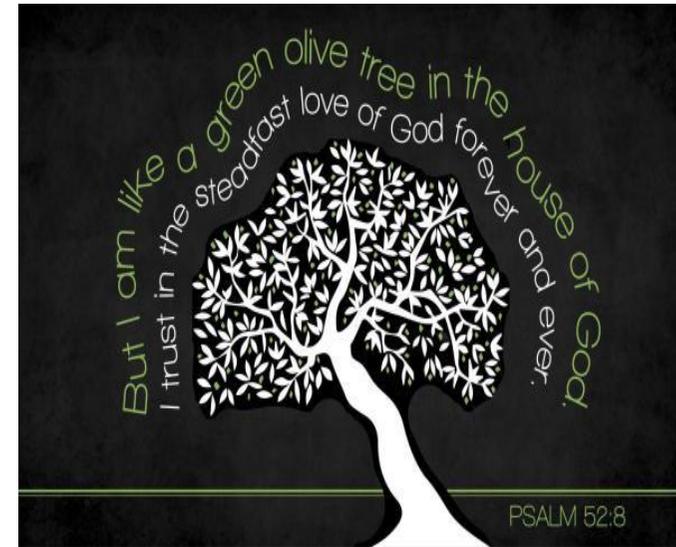
Our fears, assumptions and expectations.

Enter our lives, go before us, walk beside us,

May we always honour your name. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



To pray for the work of our Church and the life of our community

Wednesday: 5th 11.15a.m. & 19th 8p.m. April 2017

Number 42

St John's URC Northwood & St Martins URC South Oxhey