

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 "Prayer Handbook 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 Prayerbook 2019 p.18*

Radiant God, we gather in your presence with praise and thanksgiving for the gift
of your son, Jesus Christ.

Lead us on so that we may be re-energised by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Call to Worship p.58*

Lent is a tree without blossom, without leaf,

Barer than blackthorn in its winter sleep, all unadorned;

A starkness after all has been withdrawn, leaving no hiding place,

Only an emptiness between black branches, a most precious space

Before the leaf and flowers....lest we should miss the stars.

"Unadorned" by Jean M. Watt

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.27*

Thank you for showing us:

-how you care and comfort us in times of sorrow and injury;

-how you provide for us when we need to be nourished;

-how we have received true riches by your sacrifice. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from "Call to Worship" p.71*

Christ, we confess that we ignore your calling to give ourselves our lives, our all.

You have called us more than once to be wholly yours.

Yet we confess that we have always reasoned away the moments

When your presence has become perceptible.

All this could be ignored except for its insistence

And the pressure from within and from without

To see and listen, hear and pay attention, and then to be. **Amen**

Personal Reflection *Call to Worship p.59*

Christ comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old by the lakeside he
came to those men who knew him not.

He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me!", and sets us to the tasks which
he has to fulfil in our time.

And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, he will reveal himself
in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings, which they shall pass through in his
fellowship, and as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience
who he is." From "The Quest for the Historical Jesus" by Albert Schweitzer 1875-1965

Prayers of Intercession for -

1. A Spirit of Unity, comfort and peace *"Roots" 28 April 2019*

In places where there is conflict between nations

Leading to violence and destruction on ordinary people and decision-makers,

Bring a Spirit of Unity, comfort and peace.

In world-wide communities where there is difference and dispute

Between the followers of different religions and their leaders,

Bring a Spirit of Unity, comfort and peace.

In homes around the globe where people live in fear of violence and abuse

And can find neither safety or sanctuary,

Bring a Spirit of Unity, comfort and peace.

May the risen Lord be present through the Holy Spirit

To heal, renew and fill people with hope. Amen

2. Those who grieve *Roots 21 April 2019*

We bring to your comforting arms those who have been recently bereaved

In terrorist attacks and natural disasters and the aftermath of war.

We also ask you to comfort those who dread approaching anniversaries

Of the death of loved ones.

We ask you to comfort those who wait at the bedside of a loved one who is dying.

Amen

3. The hungry in our midst *Roots 14 April 2019*

We bring to your care those who tonight will go to bed hungry,

Those who rely on food banks for whatever reason –

who cannot manage their money,

or are unable to find work which pays enough to live on,

or who are too ill to seek work.

We particularly bring to your care the children whose bodies are constantly
malnourished and go hungry to school and lack energy for living life. **Amen**

4. National Parks Awareness Fortnight UK

We are thankful for the foresight of previous generations in establishing protection from commercial development for beautiful, wild stretches of countryside so that all may enjoy them and be refreshed from seeing panoramas of nature.

Many types of landscapes are protected: impressive waterfalls, magnificent mountains, heather-clad moorlands, broad valleys, hidden coves, dramatic coastal cliffs and sweeping bays inhabited by farmers, birds, animals and sea-creatures.

We pray that wise heads lead the organisation so that they can resist commercial pressures and maintain environments for the common good. **Amen**

5. Northwood Town Centre re-development

We pray for listening ears and wise heads for the debate between planners appointed by TfL and the local councillors when they consider the feasibility of the latest designs as many views have been gathered from Northwood Residents.

Our church community is immediately adjacent to the redevelopment and We pray that its proximity should enable it to be of greater service to the community. **Amen**

6. Lord, we pray for those in our Church congregation who are unwell.

We name in our hearts those we know who are suffering,

Those who are convalescent and those awaiting medical treatment. **PAUSE**

Lord, bring them healing and hope.

Help us to show practical friendship when possible.

We pray for those who mourn.

Lord, bring them your comfort and our friendship. 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 24 March & 28 April 2019*

Let us go joyfully into the world,

Praising God for all that he does with music and harmony, voice and instrument

For his greatness is beyond words.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

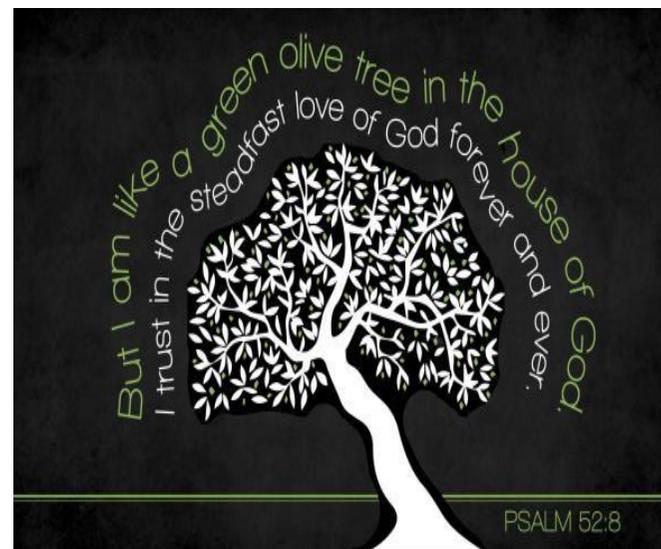
Let us go with the peace of God in our hearts.

Let us go strengthened by the love of God

To bring comfort and healing to those in need. Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 3rd at 11.15a.m. & 17th April at 8p.m. 2019

Number 68

St John's URC Northwood