

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 Praise and Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p 40*

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's love endures forever

Lord, we gather with praise-filled hearts.
We shout our "Hosannas" and sing your praise,
For your love endures forever.
Lord, you are our rock, our resting place,
The unshakeable ground on which we stand
For your love endures forever. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p46*

Who is it Lord, that betrays you?
Who is it that lets you down?
Who is it that rejects your word?
Who is it that loses their way?
When push comes to shove, who turns away beguiled by the world?
Forgive me Lord, when that person is me.
Feed me still by your own hand;
Speak to me in gentle tones,
And always give me one more chance. Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p44*

When the world is tough, I run to you.
When I am lonely and afraid, I turn to you.
Grief-stricken and lost, I cry to you.
When my heart is aching, I yearn for you
I seek you out.
I rest in you, my hiding place, my life, my strength.
I need you, my love, my hope, my God. Amen

Meditation on Good Friday & Easter Saturday *Adapted from Prayerbook p51 & 53*

This day acts like a magnet, drawing to its dark core:
All that is too hard, too grisly, too shocking to look at,
All that is just too painful to hear,
All that overwhelms the heart in sadness or intensity or depth of need,
All from which, it seems, we should turn away.
Then, after the agony of the crucified Christ, the yielding up and darkness falls.
Yet for Joseph and Nicodemus the darkness is not an ending
But an opportunity- to request Jesus' body, to embalm it in sweet spices,
To arrange him, wrapped in clean linen, safely in a fresh tomb.
To honour him.

Meditation on Easter and after *Adapted from Called To Praise #292*

With Mary, we have sensed a presence beyond our explanation
And have left the garden to tell the news.
With two travellers, we have walked the Emmaus Road, hope fading
And have not yet walked the path of trust.
With Thomas we have pleaded for certainty
And have not understood the need for the inner sight of faith.
We have seen a distant figure on the seashore
And have not let hope leap beyond reason...
And yet we are invited in to breakfast.
So the bright light of the resurrection breaks into our lives.
Our Lord is risen!

Prayers of Intercession

1. *For resilience in the face of the corona-virus pandemic*

We pray your blessing of resilience:
for those who have fallen sick throughout the world with Covid 19
and pray for their recovery to full health;
for those who are tasked with controlling the spread of the infection
on a local scale or regionally or internationally;
for the medical care staff who have to look after patients
and avoid infecting themselves;
for everyone who is locked down at home;
for those who live alone & have no human contact but the media or internet;
for everyone all over our interconnected world whose lives are being put on hold
or even turned upside down as the economic effects bite and plans are disrupted.
Amen

2. For those in pain *from Church of England website*

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ,
Understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them,
We pray for those in hospital;
Surround the frightened with your tenderness;
Give strength to those in pain;
Hold the weak in your arms of love,
And give hope and patience to those who are recovering;
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

3. For those who grieve *from Church of England website*

Father, you know our hearts and share our sorrows.
We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved:
When we are angry at the loss we have sustained,
When we long for words of comfort,
Yet find them hard to hear,
Turn our grief to truer living,
Our affliction to firmer hope
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious God, surround us and all who mourn this day
With your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children,
Or turn them against you.
When grief seems never-ending,
Take them one step at a time
Along your road of death and resurrection
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about

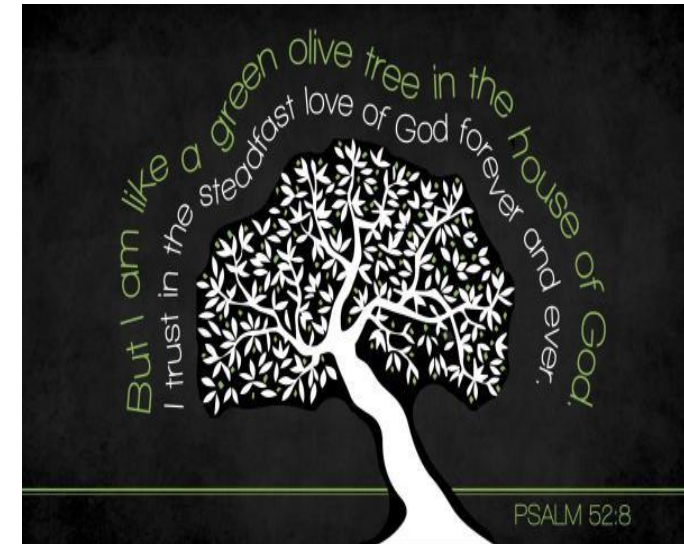
Closing Prayer *Adapted from Roots 19 January 2020*

May we know God's presence in our hearts
And keep Jesus' example before us in our daily lives.
May we know the presence of the Holy Spirit is with us always –
In our hearts and in our lives wherever we are, whatever we do
and alongside us with whomsoever we communicate. Amen

*If you are facing difficult situations and would like us to support you
in your prayers, please email or telephone us. Morfudd & John*

Prayer Fellowship

At home



**You are invited to use these prayers
to help you in your own worship
and prayers in Holy Week
for the work of our Church
and the life of our community**

April 2020

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St John's URC Northwood