

## 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 Prayer Handbook 2018 p.25*

God, wiser than we can comprehend, more loving than our hearts can hold,  
In our stumbling walk towards you, we try, we fail, we forget.  
We ask and receive forgiveness,  
We try again and we fail.  
May your warm compassion and abundant grace continue to drench us in love. **Amen**

## Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving *God Is Love Let Heaven Adore Him* Timothy Rees 1874-1939 © Continuum International Publishing Group Ltd

1. God is Love: let heaven adore him;  
God is Love: let earth rejoice;  
let creation sing before him,  
and exalt him with one voice.  
He who laid the earth's foundation,  
he who spread the heav'ns above,  
he who breathes  
through all creation,  
he is love, eternal love.

2. God is Love: and he enfoldeth  
all the world in one embrace;  
with unfailing grasp he holdeth  
every child of every race.  
And when human  
hearts are breaking

*Verse 2 continued*  
under sorrow's iron rod,  
all the sorrow, all the aching  
wrings with pain the heart of God.

3. God is love:  
and though with blindness  
sin afflicts the souls of all,  
God's eternal loving-kindness  
holds and guides us when we fall.  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
o'er us final triumph gain;  
God is love, so love for ever  
o'er the universe must reign. **Amen**

## Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Joint Vigil Service Good Friday 2 April 2021*

As we revisit the foot of your cross,  
As we pause at the entrance of your tomb,  
Help us to own up to all that robs us of full life.  
May we be drawn back into the hope of Easter  
And embrace your grace. **Amen**

## Personal Food for Thought *Adapted from St John's Service 4 April 2021*

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words  
And never stops at all.

Spirit is your breath  
That lingers by my side,  
Whose presence is persistent  
In shaping all my days.

## Prayers of Intercession

### 1. For the sad

Lord, we pray:  
For the many people at present who are sad because of the loss of family or friends,  
Or who are at their wits end as they wait for surgery or medical appointments,  
Or who have no income and have applied for dozens of jobs so are in danger of losing home  
And family security and who have now lost hope.  
We thank you for the many acts of kindness and charities that are supporting sad people but  
we ask you to help them feel the flutter of hope within and the breath of your spirit beside  
them. Remind us to go that extra mile when possible to encourage each other. **Amen**

### 2. For the NHS and its tired staff

Lord, cast your blessing over all those working to the limits of their energy to care for the sick  
Including those who are in intensive care with Covid 19.  
Give wisdom to hospital managers and consultants organising staff rotas  
And scheduling regular surgery and treatment alongside the present crisis.  
Enable paramedics and pharmacists to work safely alongside their hospital colleagues.  
Be alongside GPs who are working in their local communities to maintain their services.  
We pray for stamina for those administering the new vaccines. **Amen**

### 3. For those fighting injustice

Lord, We pray for those standing up for citizens' rights and for justice throughout the world,  
Particularly in Palestine, Myanmar, Iran, Hong Kong, Russia and China.  
Give those detained, your comfort in their bleakest moments. **Amen**

### 4. For those trying to learn new ways of trading abroad

Lord, we pray for those seeking clarity and stability on how to proceed,  
For businesses, farmers and fishermen adapting to new trade agreements,  
And comfort for those who are seeing their livelihoods collapsing due to regulations.  
We pray for supermarkets trying to maintain the flow of adequate food supplies. **Amen**

### 5. For the struggles of our world societies

Loving God, we pray for our world and those nations where violence and tyranny cause so  
Much suffering...  
We pray for people driven out of their homes and their homelands, who struggle to survive in  
Refugee camps...  
We pray for those who do not have enough food to sustain them or water to quench their  
thirst...

We pray for those who are victims of slavery...

In the midst of this global pandemic, we pray for all who care and clean and comfort, for Those who are able to work and those still in isolation.

We pray for the governments of the world and those who manage our economies, that they May align their priorities to your kingdom. **Amen**

#### **6. Let us pray for those who make decisions, every day**

Lord, let the pinprick of conscience remind us that every choice and decision we make within Our families has a ripple of repercussions.

So, help us not to be the stubborn one within our Family circles but to try to understand the other point of view, then family relationships can Flow reasonably harmoniously.

We know that you must often despair at the decisions of local and International politicians Which are influenced by competing points of view, and can often be at odds with what is best For society as a whole, long-term.

So, we bring to your table the leaders of the people of Brazil, of the states of the USA, and Some of the countries who are our close neighbours in Europe such as Italy and France.

We pray for those charged with deciding on how to organise the fair distribution of Covid 19 Vaccines from its suppliers across the world.

So, we pray for the contract-makers of each of these major vaccine manufacturers to put co-Operation, honesty and fairness above considerations of profits.

We pray for the NHS local trusts here in the UK as they make decisions about local Covid 19 Vaccine distribution. They have to co-operate with government strategies aimed at removing The need for our society to be locked-down.

So, we pray for those who are distrustful of vaccines to see the bigger co-operative social Picture and to understand the impact of their decision not to take-up a vaccination may have On the whole community. We ask that we have the courage to seize opportunities to talk to Family and friends who think like this in our circle.

We pray for continued co-operation and patience by the citizens of our country with the Often difficult rules controlling the Covid 19 pandemic, remembering that we are just one Part of the whole world picture, and that how one individual decides to behave has a Knock-on effect.

#### **7. For those who are unwell**

Holy Spirit, Light in our darkness, bless those known to us who are ill in mind, body or spirit, Whom we name now in the silence of our hearts & with whom we must keep in touch. **PAUSE** Make them aware of your presence as the Comforter...always with them. **Amen**

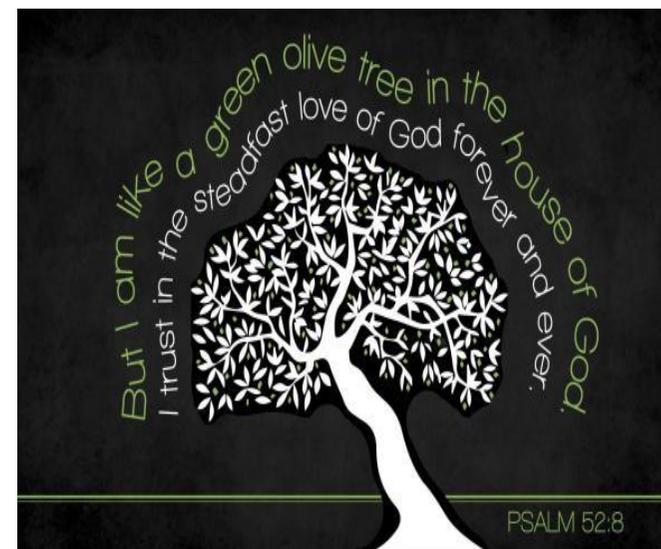
#### **Reflection time & time for quiet or open prayers**

**Closing Prayer** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2021 p.155*

Help us to face the challenges of life in the coming weeks with courage, Knowing that the strength and shield of God will prevail and protect us And that his love will never leave us alone. **Amen**

# Prayer Fellowship

## At home



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

**April 2021**

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St John's URC Northwood