

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 and Praise *Adapted from Roots 20 & 27 August 2017*

Lord, we have heard your call reaching out to us
As we have wrestled with doubt and unbelief.
Draw us nearer to you as we strive to live by faith.
Make yourself known to us through the reading of Scripture,
Move us as we sing your praise in hymn and song.
Challenge us as we listen to the preaching of the Word.
**Let us drink deeply of the well of your life-giving water.
Stir us into action by faith.
Empower us to work in the community. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Roots 13 August 2017*

God of all faithfulness, you are there in the boat with us
As we are tossed about by the storms of life.
You reach out to us when we are at our lowest ebb.
You call out to us to step out in faith beyond our own limitations.
You bring calm and peace when all around brings distress.
**How can we cease from singing your praises
We thank you for your goodness to us. Amen.**

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

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 2 July 2017*

We confess that we have not always given of our best.
We have not always lived as people of faith –

In welcoming the stranger or showing kindness to our neighbour,
In doing those things we ought to do, and choosing our words carefully,
And putting our trust in you when the going gets tough.

Grant us your pardon, O God. Amen.

Personal Prayer *Prayerbook 2017p.81*

Lord Jesus, you were exhausted and grieving.
You needed space. You needed peace.
And yet they followed you, the restless crowds, pressing in,
Hungry for your healing and your presence.

Multiplying a meal, you fed them all until they were fully satisfied;
Multiply your gift within me, so that I am sustained & nourished by your Spirit.
Help me, Lord, to do what I can to feed others,
Meeting them where they are, even when I am tired and aching.

**As you have given to me, may I give to others, offering food and comfort
Through your life, your Spirit, in me. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

1. *Adapted from Roots 27 August 2017*

We pray for:
The Church, the body of Christ, that the many denominations may be as one,
That we might respect and learn from one another;
Those whose faith stirs them to action, to make the world a better place,
And those whom have the courage to speak out for others. **Amen.**

2. *Adapted from Roots 20 August 2017*

We pray for those who will go to bed hungry tonight
Aching for food and longing for a crumb of comfort....
We praise the grace of those who share what they have-
Not just food but compassion, knowledge, kindness and wealth.
So help us to be aware of what is within our abilities and resources
To get on and support those less well-off or less able than us. **Amen.**

3. *Adapted from Roots 13 August 2017*

We pray:
For those who find themselves tossed about by all that life throws at them,
And those who feel out of control and do not know which way to turn; **Pause**
For those who find themselves with an unexpected challenge,
And those who have much asked of them and feel overwhelmed; **Pause**

For those who find themselves overtaken by events,
And those who feel rejected and at a loss to know what to do next; **Pause**
We pray for those who find themselves searching for what they do not know,
And those who feel there must be more to life. **Pause. Amen.**

4. *Adapted from Roots 6 August 2017*

We pray for the states of the world – the countries and nations
And their citizens, facing economic hardship. **Pause**
We pray for the citizens of regimes involved in wars and conflicts. **Pause**
We pray for non-governmental organisations
Working for justice, equality and co-operation. **Pause.**

We pray for all the people who feel empowered by you
To be out there making a difference to families and neighbours,
In local services, councils and national government. Amen.

5. Lord, we pray for our Churches and their congregational lives.
Guide those in the Synod who are charged with leading changes in structures
To make the church more effective. **Amen**

6. Lord, we pray for those in our Church congregations 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.

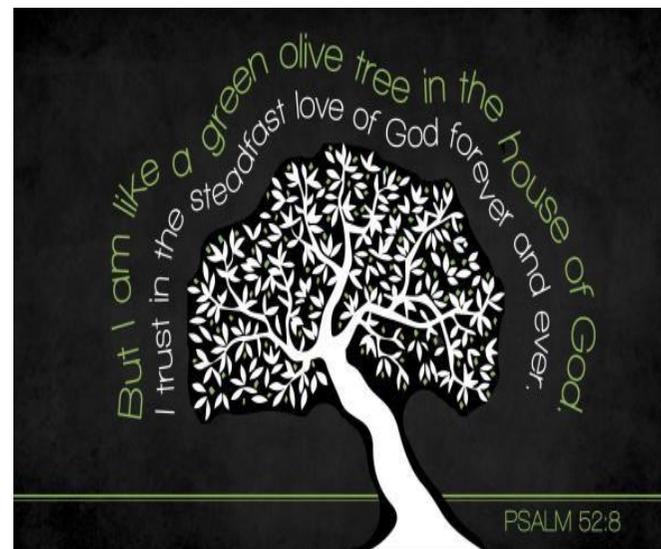
Closing Prayer *Adapted from Roots 13 August 2017*

Loving God, give us this day our daily bread,
Sufficient for the day and with some to spare.
Send us out to share what we have with others.

Loving God, may the blessing of the Holy Spirit be alongside us
Offering a spring of life-giving water to sustain us and
To empower us to venture out into the world,
To step out in faith to serve our neighbours in our communities. Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday 2nd 11.15a.m. & 16th August 8p.m. 2017

Number 46

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