

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 2018, p.70*

Gracious God, wash clean our hands and hearts and purify our souls.

Accept the desire within us to honour you,

With strong and pure worship . Amen

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.84*

God of all heaven, we gather here to worship you,
To stand in wonder before you,

To sing and praise and rejoice in your company,

In fellowship with others who bless your name. **Amen**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.86*

God of all earth, we give you thanks for this sacred time.

May the very air be infused with your presence

That all who enter, may breathe you in,

And be filled with your love and peace

And the joy of knowing you. **Amen**

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

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 19 August 2018*

God, we confess that sometimes we try to hurry through our lives

Always looking for something better

And forgetting to experience the joy of the present moment.

Sometimes we don't take enough time to ourselves and to rest in you.

To honour you in our lives.

Forgive us, Father of all time.

May we keep time with you in all we do .Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Order of Service 22 July 2018*

Christ be in my thinking and my understanding,
Guarding me from evil, walking in the light.

Christ be in my speaking, every word a blessing,
Pure and not deceiving, grace to all who hear.

Christ be in my gladness, for the joy of living,
Thankful for the goodness of the Father's hand.

Christ be in my sorrow, in my days of darkness,
Knowing that I follow in the steps he trod.

Jesus, this is my devotion:

All my life to know you,

Every day to walk with you. Amen

Prayers of Intercession for -

1. Sharing our gifts *Roots 5 August 2018*

God, giver of all good gifts, we pray for all people who willingly use
Their time and gifts in the service of others. Bless them all.

We pray for all who set up and work in charitable organisations,
Giving freely of their time and talents.

We pray for people who work together to bring healing
In hospitals, homes and the community.

We pray for people with the gift of words to sow seeds
Teachers, writers, communicators and preachers.

We pray for those who dedicate their lives to serving God
In the workplaces, in the communities around and churches.

We pray for those who feel they do not have a gift or
Feel their gift goes unnoticed.

Bless them with the knowledge that they matter to you. **Amen**

2. The Church

Lord Jesus, you are the vine and St John's Church is one of its many branches.

You sent the Holy Spirit to be alongside us individually every day

To motivate us to become equipped for our tasks

Of caring for each other,

Of demonstrating your love by our work in the local community,

And how we work through the challenges we encounter daily.

Be with us as we worship, pray, learn, discuss and have fellowship

Not just in church services but also in the House Groups,

Elders' meetings and other meeting groups. **Amen**

3. Hopeless people *Roots 12 August 2018*

We pray for the people who feel that they have nothing to share,
Nothing to live for: refugees, the homeless, prisoners,
people at the end of relationships, the sick and those who mourn. **Amen.**

4. Wildfires

We pray for the thousands of people affected by the wildfires sweeping across
many parts of the globe – in Greece, Portugal, United States & Canada.
We thank you for the courage of the firefighters who endure
The most challenging conditions to fight the fires.
We ask you to comfort those who have lost family and friends.
Bless those who have lost all their material possessions
And give them courage to start to make new homes.
Be with them when they wake from sleep
Reliving their terrors escaping from the fires. **Amen**

5. 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 St Johns Order of Service, 27.05.18*

Lord, set your blessing upon us as we go out into the community.

Confirm us in the truth by which we rightly live.

Confront us with the truth from which we wrongly turn.

We ask not for what we want, but for what you know we need

As we offer ourselves and the days ahead for you and to you.

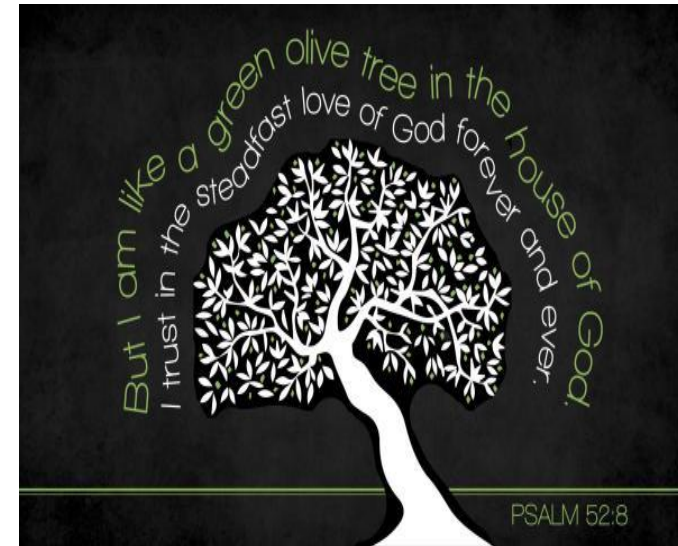
May our faith, unbound from fear, pride or anxiety

Speak of your boundless grace, forgiveness and love.

Make us your disciples, faithful, for your love's purpose. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday 1st 11.15a.m. & 15th August 8p.m. 2018

Number 60
St John's URC Northwood