

## 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 Prayerbook 2019 p.76*

**Gathering Father,**

**You draw us back from where we do not belong.**

**Apart from you, we have tried to satisfy our emptiness and dryness**

**With what does not satisfy.**

**Meanwhile you have waited for us.**

**Keep us mindful of your unfaltering love. Amen**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *Adapted from Roots 4 & 11 August 2019*

Father, we thank you for never giving up on us.

We thank you for the witnesses of faith who have gone before us.

We thank you, that just as the sun rises on each new day

So we can start afresh each day with you. **Amen**

**Prayer of Confession** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.77*

Father, our eyes that do not see and our ears that do not hear

Prevent us from sharing your goodness

And enriching the world.

We ask your forgiveness for not opening our hearts to your love

And sharing it so that your blessings multiply. **Amen**

**Personal Reflection** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.69*

O God of Peace, make us peacemakers wherever we go

That with every step we take and every day we live,

Peace may be our gift to the world.

We pray for the households and families of which we are part

That all who belong within them, may find a true peace and joy

With anxiety calmed and peace restored.

We pray for our churches where we are welcomed

That all present may be bound by that peace which is a sign of your blessing.

We pray for the communities where we live

That peace may walk our streets. **Amen**

### Prayers of Intercession for -

**1. Bearing Each Other's Burdens** *Adapted from Roots 7 July 2019*

God, you ask us to bear one another's burdens.

We ask you give us discernment in aiding those in need for reasons of physical or mental ill-health.

**Peace and mercy be on them.**

Help us to get alongside and bring comfort to those fighting their way through the dark forest of grief.

**Peace and mercy be upon them.**

Help us to speak up for the marginalised and the vulnerable burdened by the onslaught of social media.

**Peace and mercy be upon them.**

We ask for courage to make ourselves available to those in need, especially within our own family circle where close emotional ties often make the burden even harder to bear and there is a delicate balance to be struck between interfering and sharing difficulties.

**Bless us with wisdom and resilience. Amen**

**2. For situations of imprisonment** *Adapted from Roots 2 June 2019*

Come Lord, into situations of imprisonment of different kinds across the world.

To those imprisoned against their will, exploited or abused...

To those imprisoned by special needs that the world does not understand or have time for...

To those imprisoned in their minds by darkness of depression and anxiety...

To those imprisoned by their overpowering additions...

To those imprisoned by their pursuit of wealth...

To those imprisoned by the power of their fears- real or imagined.

Come, Lord and set your people free. **Amen**

**3. For corrupt government** *Adapted from Roots 2 Sept 2018*

God of justice, we live in an unjust world.

We are all too aware that shame stalks the corridors of power

And that hypocrisy is second nature to many.

God, in your mercy, remove the dinginess of disgrace and discrimination,  
Revealing truth, promoting light and calling the world to see the witness of Christ.

We pray for the leaders in our world:  
Those in government by fair vote,  
Those who have attained power through corrupt means,  
Those who have taken control by force.  
Guide all leaders in the way they rule over their people.  
Help them to act wisely and with fairness to all in their countries.

We pray for our own government, our Queen, our Prime Minister and all members  
of Parliament.

May they act fairly as make the laws and policies that govern our land, be they  
laws about taxes, or policies about how our young are educated, or plans for how  
the health services are run.

In particular, they need wisdom in sorting out Brexit.

God of justice, guide our hurting world. **Amen**

**4.** 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 14 July 2019*

**God, Let us go out in the knowledge of your love for us.**

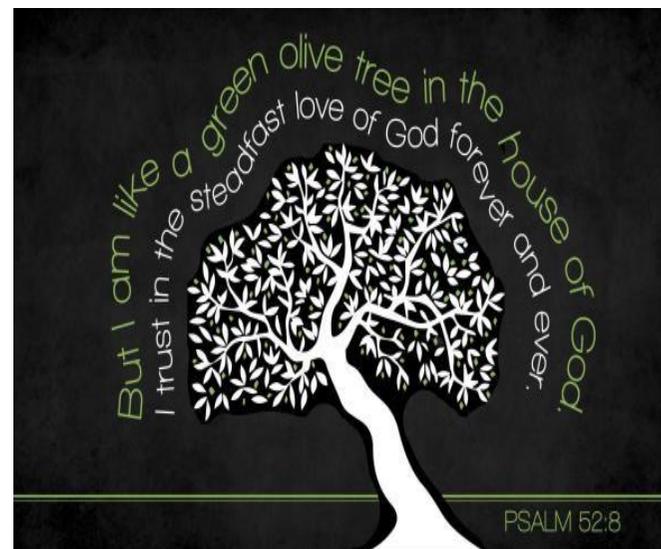
**Let us uphold one another in faith.**

**Let YOU be our sat nav in today's world.**

**Let us go out into our communities in the coming weeks  
with thankful, joyful hearts. Amen**

# Prayer Fellowship

## At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 7<sup>th</sup> at 11.15a.m. & 21<sup>st</sup> August at 8p.m. 2019

Number 72

St John's URC Northwood