

## 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 & Thanksgiving *Adapted from Roots 4-10 July 2021*

Loving God, all-sufficient one,  
We acknowledge your presence and we worship you.  
We adore you Lord of all.

You did not promise us that following the way Jesus taught would be easy.  
We give you thanks that you feed our Spirit when we pray.  
Thank you that you love us so much so that we feel wanted whatever happens.  
You have given humanity sufficient resources to provide sustenance and shelter  
To care for our bodies on life's journey, if shared wisely and fairly. **Amen**

## Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 4-10 July 2021*

God our Father, we are sorry that we overcomplicate everything.  
We confess that we have let you down by allowing material things  
To occupy our minds and dominate our lives.  
Help us to seek simplicity, to slow down, look around and listen.  
Help us to learn how to be still and know that you are God. **Amen**

## Personal Food for thought

"It is not true that Prayer changes things...prayer changes me and then I change things;  
consequently we must not ask God to do what he has created us to do."  
from "The Complete Works of Oswald Chambers"

"Never forget this fact: we share the love of God with people who are hostages of Satan in  
a world under his control. Prayer is the means by which we release the hostages"  
Rev Andy Braunston URC Minister, Glasgow

"It is not true, Church is just for believers: Church is first about belonging.  
It is not true, Church has a list of doctrines: Church is first a way of relating to the world.  
It is not true, Church has an ending already worked out: Church is an adventure and a risk."  
Rev James Fields St Johns Order of Service

## Prayers of Intercession

### 1. For those planning a new future *J P Wise*

We pray for those who are seeking vocational guidance at this time in the academic year.  
We pray for those who are awaiting GCSE and A Level exam results or the outcomes of  
Vocational courses. We pray for those who are in the sixth form and FE who are visiting open  
days at universities and planning the next steps of their studies.  
We pray for all young people about to take their first steps into work in these difficult times.  
We pray for all adults who have been engaged in further and higher education OR  
who are planning to return to work after career breaks for raising a family OR who have found  
work after a period of unemployment.  
We pray for those teachers who have yet again, had to determine the grades for their  
students without examinations – protect their mental health from the pressures of parents  
and students to raise grades.  
We pray for those in careers guidance advising on future work paths.  
May God uphold and direct those in need of support and direction.  
May the paths be clear and the purpose be steady.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and He shall direct your paths" *Proverbs 3:5-6* **Amen**

### 2. For those vulnerable to disease and pain

Lord, as Covid cases surge yet again across the world, we pray that as lockdown restrictions  
ease in the UK, folk temper their behaviour in public and are mindful of those who have poor  
immune systems and are vulnerable to catching the disease despite vaccinations, so still need  
to shield and are going to feel cut-off from life outside home again.  
Cast your blessing over all those working in caring roles in the medical world, care homes and  
at home.  
Give patience to folk needing surgery but caught up in the massive backlog of cases.  
Strengthen their stamina to bear pain and to keep going.  
**Amen**

### 3. For those who are struggling *"Let Justice Roll Down" Colin Gibson, Women's World Day of Prayer 2017*

*Let justice roll down like a river, let justice flow down to the sea;  
Let justice roll down like a river, let justice begin through me.*  
Justice for those who go hungry, crying to God to be fed,  
Left in a world of abundance, to beg for a morsel of bread.  
*Let justice roll down like a river, let justice flow down to the sea;  
Let justice roll down like a river, let justice begin through me.*  
Justice for those who are homeless, victims of war or of need,  
Trapped on the borders of nowhere, lost in the canyons of greed.

Let justice roll down like a river, let justice flow down to the sea;  
Let justice roll down like a river, let justice begin through me.  
Justice for all who are powerless, yearning for freedom in vain,  
Plundered and robbed of their birth-right, silently bearing their pain.  
Let justice begin through me. **Amen**

#### 4. Let us pray about the problem of climate change

We pray for the work of scientists striving to understand the causes of climate change  
And finding possible solutions.  
May politicians of all nations collaborate to move this work on urgently for the good of all.  
We bring to you those suffering the effects of climate change  
Such as wild fires, extreme heat, unprecedented flooding and violent storms.  
May your blessing rest on the rescue workers trying to cope with these disasters. **Amen**

#### 5. Let us pray for those who use our church premises

God, as we emerge back to a reasonably normal late summer  
And hirers of our premises return to worship or to run community classes,  
And new folk come to our buildings  
We ask for your blessing on their activities.  
In particular we ask for your presence in the worship of  
House of Prayer and Ebenezer Church.  
We pray for our Church Administrator and the work that she does  
To support the different community groups who come to St Johns. **Amen**

#### 5. 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 #37 "Sunflowers & thistles" Rev John Campbell

"O give us grace to trust your love when hope remains concealed,  
To watch and pray beside the ones who are not swiftly healed.  
And grant us faith when death itself provides its own release,  
To trust in your undying love to give them perfect peace.

Give us, O God, your loving zeal to comfort, heal and save,  
To care for one another from the cradle to the grave.  
Then north to south, and east to west, let love and hope extend,  
Until the universe is whole and justice knows no end." **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**

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