

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.109 & 105*

Come with gratitude and praise to Christ the King,

Who enables us to see the invisible God, God the Father.

The God who reconciles all things and has granted us peace through the Cross.

Loving Father, when all that we have done is fading into insignificance,

When earthly things no longer make sense,

Help us to hear your calm quiet voice

Urging us not to be afraid,

Reminding us that your Spirit is with us, always –

To guide, restore and inspire. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.97*

Lord, help us to take the time to be thankful, properly thankful.

May saying "thank you" be a stepping stone to being near you.

To a moment when heaven and earth meet

And your kingdom becomes real enough to touch and know. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.106, Roots 3 November 2019*

Lord, we confess our part in the world's darkness and pain.

We have fears and weaknesses.

Our material greeds lead to economic misery and social inequality.

Our attitudes give rise to prejudice, mistrust and bitterness in our communities,

Shamefully, we allow injustices which lead to persecution and violence.

Forgive us when we behave in ways that dishonour you.

Forgive us when our faith is flimsy.

Forgive us our thoughtless neglect and our lukewarm love.

Forgive us when our behaviour has been nothing to boast about. **Amen**

Many Personal & Intercessory Prayers are indicated in the poem below.

Read, Reflect, Pause and develop your own prayers around the themes of the ambiguity of politics but its necessity in our lives and the consequent mix of our hopes, fears and faith.

We watch as the jets fly in

with the power people and the money people,

the suits, the budgets, the billions.

We wonder about the monetary policy

because we are among the haves,

and about generosity because we care about the have-nots.

By slower modes we notice

Lazarus and the poor arriving from Africa

and the beggars from Central Europe

and the throng of environmentalists with their vision

of butterflies and oil, of flowers and tanks,

of growing things and killing fields.

We wonder about peace and war,

about ecology and development,

about hope and entitlement.

We listen,

beyond jeering protesters and soaring jets,

and faintly we hear the mumbling of the crucified one,

something about feeding the hungry

and giving drink to the thirsty,

about clothing the naked

and noticing the prisoners

more about the least and about holiness among them.

We are moved by the mumbles of the gospel

even while we are tenured in our privilege.

We are half ready to join the choir of hope,
half afraid things might change,
and in a third half – of our faith turning to you
and your outpouring love that works justice
and that binds us to each and all to one another.
So we pray amidst jeering protesters and soaring jets,
come by here and make new
even at some risk to our entitlements.

“The Noise of Politics” By Walter Brueggemann

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 to name silently those we know

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 *By Ruth Burgess*

In the strength of God the Maker, we are going on a journey.

In the friendship of Jesus, we are going on a journey.

In the safeguarding of the Holy Spirit we are going on a journey.

A star is shining.

Angels are busy.

Mary is pregnant.

Joseph is packing.

Advent is coming.

It’s time to go.

May God bless us with hope and wonder as we travel.

Amen



Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 4th at 11.15a.m. & 18th December at 8p.m. 2019

Number 76
St John’s URC Northwood