

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 1 February 2020*

Lord of All, you are our light and our salvation;

Unite us through the power of your cross.

We have come from different places.

We have brought differing needs.

We have different stories to tell and diverse experiences to share.

We face varying challenges and are bestowed with unique talents to face them.

Above all we are united in the love of Christ. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Roots 16 February 2020*

We thank you God, for the seeds of faith

that have been planted and taken root in our lives,

which You have watered and tended, gently and faithfully:

seeds of hope and acceptance,

seeds of belonging and forgiveness,

seeds of grace and encouragement.

Help us to be your gardeners by sharing these seeds of faith,

And nurturing them in our communities. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 2 February 2020*

Forgive us, God, when we mistake self-sufficiency as strength
and regard being needy as weakness.

Forgive us when we talk ourselves up and don't see our own foolishness

In thinking our way is the best. Amen

Personal Prayer for Ash Wednesday *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020*

I will lie down today with a broken spirit and a contrite heart,
knowing the boldness of my morning prayers have faded with the heat of the day.

Do not banish me from your presence but let me walk with you.

Hide your face from my wrongdoing, and turn a blind eye to my weakness.

Strengthen me for service, teach me your wisdom, deliver me from my guilt.

For you are God, my Saviour, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise,

because you have washed away my offence and have cleansed me from my sin.

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

1. For wisdom in the use of knowledge *Adapted from Roots 9 February 2020*

We pray for those whose application of knowledge is shaping our world:

for those with leading technical knowledge;

for those with cutting-edge scientific knowledge, and

for those with advanced medical knowledge.

We ask you also to bless them with your wisdom in their decision-making.

We pray particularly for the media who inform us of knowledge.

We are bombarded by facts and figures, real and fake news,

by "must sees" and "must haves".

May we see the truths behind all of this information.

We pray for those in positions of power and responsibility

who might be tempted to misuse their influence

and seek popularity and sensationalism before integrity. Amen

2. For resilience in the face of the new corona-virus epidemic

We pray your blessing of resilience:

for those who have fallen sick in China and elsewhere in the world

and pray for their recovery to full health;

for those who are tasked with controlling the spread of the infection

on a local scale and regionally and internationally;

for the medical care staff who have to look after patients

and avoid infecting themselves;

for those returning home from business or holiday trips
who are being quarantined for two weeks;
for everyone all over our interconnected world whose lives are being put on hold
or even turned upside down as the economic effects bite and plans are disrupted.

Amen

3. World Cancer Awareness Day 4 February-“progress is possible”

Lord, we pray that the co-operation between medical researchers all over the world will continue to improve as they aim for three-quarters of people, who develop a cancer by 2034, to be treated with affordable treatments and to survive for five years.

We ask your blessing on the international initiatives and funding collaborations to improve research and develop treatments for cancers. **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 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 *Adapted from Roots 19 January 2020*

May we know God’s presence in our hearts

And keep Jesus’ example before us in our daily lives.

May we know the presence of the Holy Spirit is with us always –

In our hearts and in our lives

Wherever we are, whatever we do and alongside us with whomsoever we meet.

Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: February 5 @ 11.15a.m & 19 @ 8p.m. 2020

Number 78

St John’s URC Northwood