

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*
PHB 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 PHB 2017 p.2 & 3*

Eternal God of heaven and earth, of time and space

How majestic is your Name!

Ever-loving God of this New Year, of all years past and years to come

How majestic is your Name!

We approach you in awe yet knowing we will receive a welcome of love. Amen

Prayer of Praise & Thanksgiving- Jesus' Baptism *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.7&12*

God of Moses, Aaron and Miriam: you call us by name.

We thank and praise you for the faithfulness of

Two cousins, keeping to the script, honouring the instructions,

John demurring, Jesus insisting,

John taking hold and Jesus trusting in his arms,

John holding him and lowering him into the river.

Trusting in your Spirit.

We thank and praise you for the light and love,

Which you gave to them as Jesus arose from the water,

To begin his ministry

Trusting in your Spirit.

We hear you call us by name,

You call us to praise you by living out that call:

For us to be your hands & feet, your heart and voice in the world.

Always trusting in your Spirit. Amen

Prayer of Confession *PHB p.9*

Loving God, make us fit to serve you.

We do not know why you have chosen us.

You love us when we are not worthy of your love.

You call us when we are reluctant to hear.

You choose us when no one else sees our worth.

You reassure us when our faith grows weak.

You hear our anguished cries and support us when we are afraid.

We know that you are faithful to us

So make us worthy of your constant and unwavering trust. **Amen**

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

Personal Prayer *Adapted from PHB 2016 p.3*

God of heaven and of every season beneath,

Help us to leave behind in the year that has died

All that it held of shame, sorrow and sin

And to treasure the riches we experienced-

The learning, the laughter, and the love.

God of past and future,

Teach us to grasp the year that is born-

Promises by which we may live, kindnesses we can offer & hopes you set before us.

God of work and busy-ness,

We ask for confidence for this new year's duty-

Energy amid its demands and wisdom in the unfolding of its days & tasks.

God of every season, may the living of our years serve the purpose of heaven. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

1. Christian Unity *Adapted from PHB 2017 p.11 & CTBI 2017*

God, we confess we block the moving of your Spirit because

Some of us "follow Paul" and others "follow Peter"

And others have differences between Reformed, Baptist and Anglican.

Living God we all belong to you.

Confront us with the unity of love which makes us one.

May our divisions not rob the cross of its power.

May that love without end make us one in heart and purpose,

So that we can carry Christ's light into the world,

Into the dark places, where fighting, discord and division impede our united witness.

May Christ's light effect reconciliation in our thoughts, words and deeds. Amen

2. Long and difficult journeys *Adapted from Roots January 1,8,15 2017*

We pray for those facing difficult times in their life journeys today.

Bless them with assurance that your love surrounds them and strength to persevere.

Give them hope, Lord.

We pray for asylum seekers who face journeys of great hardship

And whom we do not always welcome.

Help us to understand better what they have escaped from
So we will be more tolerant about what we don't understand
Or grumble about them being a drain on our resources.

Give them hope.

We pray for the unemployed, for people who can't remember when they last worked, and for the many who have now lost the will to work,
For all who seek work and see only bleak times ahead.
Help us to understand their frustration and help them if we can.

Give them hope.

We pray for the people who help those on the streets who are using drugs and alcohol to escape from the misery of their lives, such as the Watford Street Angels or the Salvation Army or Crisis.

We may not have the courage or ability to join in this work but open our eyes to see where, how and what we can contribute. Amen

3. Our Churches *Adapted from Prayer Handbook 2014 p.67*

We pray for congregations, large and small:
For elders and ministers, who serve with dedication,
For members who exercise their ministries quietly and competently,
For all those who serve the Church.

**God who stands at the doorway and welcomes us with open arms,
Guide us, your church, to do the same in our community
To show that your love is reflected and offered to all. Amen.**

4. We remember those bereaved recently or still mourning past losses.
Bless them all with courage, healing and love.
If possible help us to make a practical gesture of support. **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 25 December 2016*

In the beginning was the Word. **All things came into being through him.**
What has come into being is life. **The life was the light of all people.**

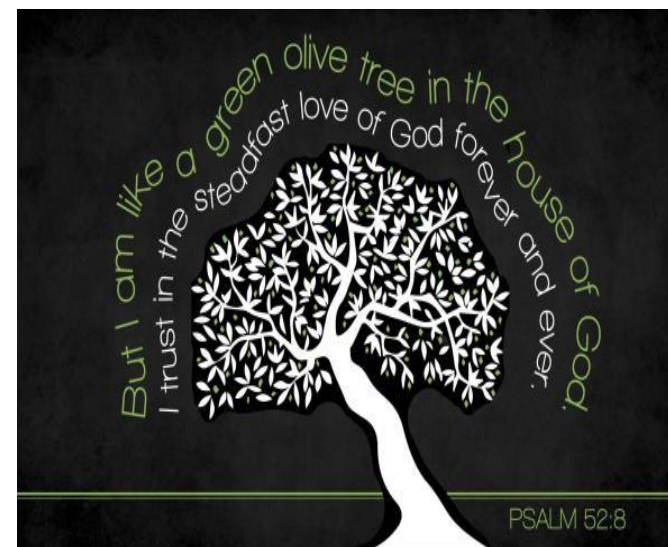
The light shines in the darkness. **The darkness does not overcome it.**

Send us out in the power of the Spirit

As messengers of peace & heralds of good news. Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday: 4th 11.15a.m. & 18th 8p.m. January 2017

Number 39

St John's URC Northwood & St Martins URC South Oxhey