

## 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** *Adapted from Roots 6 January 2019*

**Lord, from the comfort of our homes and the security of our lives in Northwood,**

**We come to seek you with our hearts and minds and souls.**

**In worship and adoration, we kneel before the manger with the Wise Men,**

**Laying before Jesus the treasures of our hearts. Amen**

**Prayer of Praise** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.5*

Glorious God, Three in One,

We give you praise for your strength and splendour.

We praise you for the earth's beauty-glory that proclaims your name.

We praise you for your power in the rage of the hurricane

And for your calm found in still waters. **Amen**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.86*

God of all earth, we give you thanks for this sacred time.

May the very air be infused with your presence

That all who enter, may breathe you in,

And be filled with your love and peace

And the joy of knowing you. **Amen**

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

**Prayer of Confession** *Adapted from Roots 6 January 2019*

We confess that the message of the Christ-child in a manger

Is drowned out by the commercialisation of Christmas.

Comfortable sentimental feelings mask the truth,

Yet Wise men were challenged to journey across strange lands to find Jesus,

But we are reluctant to leave our comfort zone to look for you.

Forgive us Lord and renew in us the challenge of Christmas. **Amen.**

**Personal Prayer** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.123*

God of our families and our belonging,

Of our dependence and our independence

Of our communities and our churches

Of our learning and our questions,

We offer you now a fresh invitation

Into our homes, our relationships, our lives,

Through this coming year. **Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession for -**

**1. For World Leaders** *Prayerbook 2019 p.2.*

At the start of a new year, we pray for our world

And for those who lead our nations.

May your justice be in their heads and hearts.

May your concern for the poor guide their consciences.

May your love of peace shape their agendas.

As we pray for our leaders, we pray for ourselves.

Show us our own power.

Equip us to choose, to speak and to act.

Be the ground on which we stand and the love which drives us on. **Amen**

**2. The migrant crisis from Calais**

Merciful Father, whose Son became a refugee,

Look with love on those who flee from danger of war and political upheavals,

Poverty and homelessness and hunger, living daily in mortal peril.

Give hope to those suffering destitution.

Bless with energy and wise heads, those who work to bring them relief.

Inspire the politicians to find durable solutions to their plight.

Make us generous and compassionate. **Amen**

**3. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on the theme of Justice** *online*

God of Justice, grant us the wisdom to see right from wrong,

Let our hearts be guided by honesty and our lips speak truth.

In times of doubt, cloak us in courage the colour of trust.

Arouse in us the passion for unity and peace

So that we may be bearers of good news. **Amen**

#### 4. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity *Adapted from Roots, 20-26 January 2019*

In the week of prayer for Christian Unity  
We look to you Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
For guidance, inspiration and the enabling of our gifts from you.  
By the example of your perfect unity, Three-in-one,  
May we be encouraged in our faltering and erratic attempts to come together.  
Let the Holy Spirit lead us in recognising the gifts in ourselves  
Which we can pool for the good of each other and your Church.  
We pray for our worldwide church family to draw closer in your enveloping love.

**Amen**

5. 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 and for whom the New Year stretches long and lonely.

**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 "Called to Praise" p.42*

Lord, you sent your Son into the world  
To be its one true light.  
Brighter than the lighthouse flashing danger,  
Greater than Orion's blazing in a winter sky,  
Jesus is our light.

**As the torch's flame banishes the fear of the night**

**So Christ you are our light,**

**Beaming like the orange street lamps**

**Which guide us safely home.**

**Amen**

# Prayer Fellowship

## At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11.15a.m. & 16<sup>th</sup> January at 8p.m. 2019

Number 65

St John's URC Northwood