

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 12 January 2020*

We gather, gracious God, as your people

Following in the way of your Son

And being aware of the constant power of the Holy Spirit.

As we sing your praises, may we celebrate your faithfulness.

You have raised us up and called us to be your people.

Our desire is to do your will.

As we offer our prayers, may we be confident of your grace.

At the start of a new year, we offer again our lives in your service

And rejoice that we are with you for eternity. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Roots 12 January 2020*

Loving God, we are grateful that you can break into our lives

Prompting us with moments of clarity.

Help us to act on your advice with confidence.

Help us to be aware of the blessing that you bestow on us

When we are aware of the road you want us to follow

Which enables us to be open to new opportunities

And be ready to embrace them.

Help us to work for your glory. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from 26 January 2020*

Forgive us, Christ of the Cross

When we claim allegiance to our own church building rather than to your cross;

When we identify with a style and place of worship which satisfies us

But excludes those of different traditions;

And when we go along the road of uniting with those who share our agenda rather than those who witness your baptism.

Forgive us when we are at cross-purposes with you and those you call as your own.

Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Junior Praise p 92*

God, I do not know what lies ahead, the way I cannot see;

Yet You stand near to be my guide, You'll show the way to me.

I know who holds the future and You'll guide me with Your hand.

With God things don't just happen, ev'rything is planned.

So as I face tomorrow with its problems large and small,

I'll trust the God of miracles; give to Him my all. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

1. For places where there is great division and hostility *Adapted from Roots 26 January 2020*

God of healing, we entrust to you those places

Where religious intolerance has encouraged violence and persecution;

Places where power struggles have made war zones of cities

And graveyards of villages;

Places where the social fabric of communities has been destroyed.

We entrust to you communities which are struggling to keep a finger-hold on life;

Where mistrust has brought isolation, fear and pain;

Where relationships in families and between friends have been broken by mistrust

And bitterness has brought grief.

We bring to your care especially the children of these broken places who are

growing up with no concepts of the warp and weft of love and trust

Which is the fabric of community and face a bleak future .

We acknowledge that we are too part of the world cycle of inhumanity to man and

must do our best in our own communities not to perpetuate division. Amen

2. For the World Church *Adapted from Roots 19 January*

God of all times and all places we pray for your Church throughout the world;
For congregations facing persecution and violence

-May they know your grace and peace;

For congregation struggling as they age and shrink

- May they know your grace and peace;

For congregations struggling financially to maintain a church building

- May they know your grace and peace;

For congregations that are divided and disillusioned

- May they know your grace and peace;

For congregations witnessing in areas of poverty and social conflict

- May they know your grace and peace;

And for ourselves in our own church in our community

- May we know your grace and peace. Amen

3. 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

Wednesday: 22nd January at 8p.m. 2020

Number 77

St John's URC Northwood