

## 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 21 July 2019*

Jesus is the Christ!

Our Sovereign Lord, most worthy of praise.

Lord Jesus.

As we come into your glorious presence,

Accept the offering of our lives

And the true worship of our hearts. Amen.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Roots 7 July 2019*

We give thanks God, for your son, Jesus Christ,

Who paid the price for our wrongdoing and died so that we could live.

We give thanks for your Holy Spirit, living in and among us,

As a constant presence guiding our footsteps, strengthening and sustaining us.

We give thanks for those who try to reflect your love

By listening when we need to offload;

And encouraging us when our spirits flag

And offering a shoulder to lean on when we are at rock bottom. Amen

### Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 14 July 2019*

We come with humble hearts to say "Sorry":

For hurtful words spoken,

For impatience shown and temper lost,

For the times we have not shown others respect.

We ask your forgiveness for not behaving in the way you showed us. Amen

### Personal Reflection *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.72*

We are like green olive trees in the house of God.

We trust in the steadfast love of God forever.

You can see our fragility and our faults

And we are not naïve about ourselves

But we are proud to know that you are our creator

And we rejoice that our lives are beautiful to you.

Make us, O God, into signs of peace and plenty in the community-  
Beautiful, durable, joyful reminders of your promises to mankind.

For....

We are like green olive trees in the house of God.

We trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. Amen

### Prayers of Intercession for -

#### 1. The Leprosy Mission

We pray for The Leprosy Mission and its many partner organisations, worldwide,  
Who bring hope to the millions suffering from this debilitating disease.

We pray for those fund-raising in wealthy countries.

We pray for those working on the ground:

-Combating the social stigma which is still attached to those with leprosy;

-Educating poor people about the early signs of leprosy;

-Administering a schedule of drugs to halt the disease in patients;

-Providing orthopaedic surgery and prosthetics for limbs diseased beyond repair;

-Training rehabilitated patients in new life skills

so they can contribute to their communities and earn a living.

We pray that the dignity of the patients is respected and that everyone  
remembers, those working with them, fundraisers and worldwide supporters,  
that we are all made in God's image, even those patients deformed by disease.

Amen

#### 2. Persecuted for your faith *Roots 14 July 2019*

We pray for those people living in many places in the world

Who are being ostracised, beaten and imprisoned for their Christian faith.

We think of those places where it is now unsafe to worship publicly for fear of  
bombings.

God, strengthen them and may their trust in you allow them to bear witness  
despite their circumstances and that they experience moments of joy. Amen

### **3. Bearing Each Other's Burdens** *Adapted from Roots 7 July 2019*

God, you ask us to bear one another's burdens.

We ask you give us discernment in aiding those in need for reasons of physical or mental ill-health.

#### **Peace and mercy be on them.**

Help us to get alongside and bring comfort to those fighting their way through the dark forest of grief.

#### **Peace and mercy be upon them.**

Help us to speak up for the marginalised and the vulnerable burdened by the onslaught of social media.

#### **Peace and mercy be upon them.**

We ask for courage to make ourselves available to those in need, especially within our own family circle where close emotional ties often make the burden even harder to bear and there is a delicate balance to be struck between interfering and sharing difficulties.

#### **Bless us with wisdom and resilience. 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*

#### **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 14 July 2019*

**God, Let us go out in the knowledge of your love for us.**

**Let us uphold one another in faith.**

**Let YOU be our sat nav in today's world.**

**Let us go out into our communities in the coming weeks with thankful, joyful hearts. Amen**

# **Prayer Fellowship**

## **At home or in Church**



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

**Wednesdays: 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11.15a.m. & 17<sup>th</sup> July at 8p.m. 2019**

**Number 71**

**St John's URC Northwood**