

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 20 June 2021 p.35*

God of our ups and downs, we approach you
with concerns in our hearts and questions in our minds
with troubles in our lives and fears for our world.
We come trusting that you never give up on us, abandon or dismiss us
for you are the God of love, of peace, of power -
Our God – three in one. **Amen**

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Roots 5 June 2021 p.23*

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we praise you for the might and mystery of your being.
We praise you in song, in silence, in the mundane and the mystical. **Amen**

Thanksgiving

God, we thank you for the abundance of your creation,
for the marvellous mystery of the growth and healing of living things.
We thank you for making us custodians of your beautiful world. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 6 June 2021 p.27*

God, forgive us when our words are harsh and our actions are unkind.
Forgive us when we judge others rather than join with them in community.
Forgive us when we become set in comfortable ways and are not open to change.
We are grateful that you give us second chances to try to be more like you expect.
Alleluia! Amen

Personal Food for Thought *Adapted from Prayer handbook 2021 p.125*

God, you know how exasperated I get.
How despairing.
I don't know how to respond – or I don't get the opportunity.
"I can't imagine why I'd ever need God, says a friend.
"But what do you mean, *talk to him?*" asks another.
"But why pray? It doesn't work!" says a third.

Yet they all know love exists.
They all love their children – are loved by them and by others.
Many have known what it is to be in love.
Where do they think love comes from?
What do they think love is?

God is love.
Love exists.
Therefore, God exists. Full stop.

Thousands of times love is shown, seen, mentioned-every day. Every hour.
Lyrics in songs.
Endearments at the ends of phone calls.
Couples entwined. Parents cuddling babies. Elderly parents cherished.
All Love!
No one dismisses any of that, but they dismiss you.

Every time we see love we should see you.
But so many people don't!
God who is love, help them to see you.
I know...I know... *I* must help them to see you.
Help me to do that. Please.

Prayers of Intercession

1. For the sad

Lord, we pray:
For the many people at present who are sad because of the loss of family or friends,
or who are at their wits end as they wait for surgery or medical appointments,
or who have no income and have applied for dozens of jobs so are in danger of losing their
home, family security and who have now lost hope.
We thank you for the many acts of kindness and charities that are supporting sad people but
we ask you to help them feel the flutter of hope within and the breath of your spirit beside
them. Remind us to go that extra mile when possible to encourage each other. **Amen**

2. For the NHS and its tired staff

Lord, cast your blessing over all those working to the limits of their energy to care for the sick
Including those who are in intensive care with Covid 19.
Give wisdom to hospital managers and consultants organising staff rotas
And scheduling regular surgery and treatment alongside the present crisis.
Enable paramedics and pharmacists to work safely alongside their hospital colleagues.
Be alongside GPs who are working in their local communities to maintain their services.
We pray for stamina for those administering the new vaccines. **Amen**

3. For the struggles of our world societies

Lord, we pray for those standing up for citizens' rights and for justice throughout the world. We pray for our world and those nations where violence and tyranny cause so much suffering...

We pray for people driven out of their homes and their homelands, who struggle to survive in Refugee camps...

We pray for those who do not have enough food to sustain them or water to quench their thirst...

In the midst of this global pandemic, we pray for all who care and clean and comfort, for Those who are able to work and those still in isolation. **Amen**

4. Let us pray for those who make decisions, every day

Lord, You must often despair at the decisions of local & International Politicians who are influenced by competing points of view, and whose actions can often be at odds with what is best for society as a whole, in the long-term.

We bring to you, in particular, the leaders of the G7.

We pray for the governments of the world and those who manage our economies, that they may align their priorities to your kingdom.

We pray for those charged with deciding on how to organise the fair distribution of Covid 19 vaccines from its suppliers across the world.

So, we pray for the contract-makers of each of these major vaccine manufacturers to put co-operation, honesty and fairness above considerations of profits.

We pray for those who are distrustful of vaccines to see the bigger co-operative social picture and to understand the impact of their decision not to take-up a vaccination may have on the whole community.

We pray for continued co-operation and patience by the citizens of our country with the often difficult rules controlling the Covid 19 pandemic, remembering that we are just one part of the whole world picture, and that how one individual decides to behave has a knock-on effect. **Amen**

5. For those who are unwell

Holy Spirit, Light in our darkness, bless those known to us who are ill in mind, body or spirit, whom we name now in the silence of our hearts & with whom we must keep in touch.

PAUSE

Make them aware of your presence as the Comforter...always with them. **Amen**

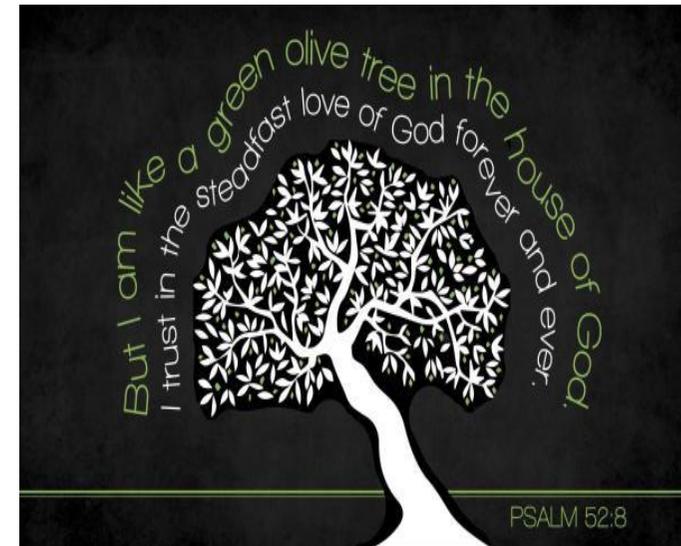
Reflection time & time for quiet or open prayers

Closing Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2021 p.155*

Help us to face the challenges of life in the coming weeks with courage, knowing that the strength and shield of God will prevail and protect us and that his love will never leave us alone. **Amen**

Prayer Fellowship

At home



**You are invited to use these prayers
to help you in your own worship
for the work of our Church
and the life of our community**

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St John's URC Northwood