

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 Prayerbook 2019 p.18*

Radiant God, we gather in your presence with praise and thanksgiving.
Lead us on so that we may be re-energised by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.28*

Thirst-quenching God, water of life, because your steadfast love is better than life.

We will praise you for ever!

Bread-giving God, sustainer of life, we are satisfied with a rich feast.

Our mouths praise you with joyful lips!

Promise-making God, keeper of all, you have been our help.

In the shadow of your wings we will sing for joy! Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.27*

Thank you Lord for showing us:

-how you care and comfort us in times of sorrow and injury;

-how you provide for us when we need to be nourished;

-how we have received true riches by your sacrifice. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 17 March 2019*

God, we are sorry that sometimes pressure overcomes us
And we make wrong decisions.

We know that we should wait on you and be guided by you

Rather than rushing on headlong without thinking of the consequences.

Forgive us and be patient with us.

Help us to listen to you and be guided by you. **Amen**

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Call to Worship p.53*

Let us be ready to welcome the kingdom of God.

Let us be aware of the kingdom of God within us.

Let us have the courage to declare its presence.

Let us be a part of making the kingdoms of this world

Into the Kingdom of God where he will reign for ever and ever. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession for -

1. Those physically and mentally scarred by conflict *Adapted from Roots 24 March 2019*

We pray for those who live in areas of conflict and violence

And in particular here, for the victims of knife stabbings, their families and friends.

We pray for the victims of war in Syria as they cope with fear and chaos

And especially for the children who have never known peace.

We pray for those in Venezuela who suffer the pangs of hunger

And for those who are trying to mediate and bring a peaceful end to the political conflict. **Amen**

2. Lent *Adapted from Call to Worship p.48*

Everyday sights, for everyday people –

Seeds sown in the field, coins lost in the home,

Lilies fading, children growing, bread breaking,

Rich men dining, beggars sighing, shepherds guiding-

Everyday sights, for everyday people.

Our world is where Jesus saw the signs of the kingdom.

And now for us this is the Lenten call:

To look around at all the world,

To think of all our daily life,

And see what cries aloud-

KINGDOM COME!

3. Fair Trade Awareness fortnight focus on cocoa farmers *ideas online*

Lord, make us conscious, as we shop for products made from cocoa beans,
Of the poverty, being experienced by cocoa farmers in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

Let us encourage one another to buy products sold by Fair Trade".

It is working with the farmers to encourage them to set up cooperatives

So that they access the training and support offered by "Fair Trade"-

To help them improve the crop yield, their income and access markets.

Lord, everyone deserves a Living Income to achieve a basic standard of living

Which will enable them to: eat nutritiously throughout the year,

Access healthcare, allow older people to retire from farming with dignity,
And enable saving for unexpected setbacks
Such as the crash experienced in cocoa prices in 2016.
Let us remember when we shop for cocoa products and pay,
That the cocoa farmers need a minimum of £2.40 per day
To achieve a basic income.
We bring to you all those in our communities here and around the world
Who are faced with the stress caused by poverty.

Amen

4. Political Decisions *Roots 17 March 2019*

Lord, we ask that you will give wisdom to those in authority
Who make the decisions that affect our lives.
May they have the vision and compassion,
To act in ways, that are beneficial to all.

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.

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 24 March 2019*

Let us go joyfully into the world.

Let us go with the peace of God in our hearts.

Let us go strengthened by the love of God

To bring comfort and healing to those in need.

Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 6th at 11.15a.m. & 20th March at 8p.m. 2019

Number 67
St John's URC Northwood