

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 Prayer Handbook 2018, p.49*

Come Holy Spirit,
Grant to your Church, humility to follow where you lead
And courage to act on what we find. **Amen**

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.54 &57*

**God of all living things,
From the great forests to the ocean depths
From mountains to deep river valleys,
You hold out a promise of a new creation.
You restore hope in us.
We thank you Creator for sending your son, Jesus
To teach us the way to better understanding of your kingdom.
We thank you Creator for sending your Spirit
To blow where you choose, bathe us in love and deepen our faith. Amen**
Pause for silence & reflection as we prepare ourselves for prayer.

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.55*

Spirit of God, sometimes when we hear you, we cower in fear.
Sometimes when we hear you, we stand in bewilderment.
Encourage us to be receptive to the messages you send us. **Amen.**

Personal Prayer at Pentecost *Adapted from Roots 20 May 2018*

Lord, I am not who I want to be....not always and not often,
But, you take me as I am.
Kindle within me the flame of love for you
So that I can share its warmth with others. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

1. Christian Aid Prayer for Myanmar in the week of prayer for Christian Unity

Lord, we pray for all the people who have been forced to leave their homes in Myanmar.

We pray for safety as they travel by boat, and for strength as they walk long distances carrying their belongings.

We pray for food, clean water and shelter on their journey, and for a safe place to live.

Lord, we know that you are a God of love and compassion, and also a God of truth and justice.

Please help all who are involved in this situation to have wisdom and compassion in finding a peaceful solution. **Amen**

2. Displaced People *Adapted from Journey with Jesus May 2018*

Lord, we remember those whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters & war.

We hold in our hearts the families changed forever by grief and loss,
And we ask you to give them your comfort –healing their memories of trauma.
Give them courage to face the long road of rebuilding their homes & livelihoods.
Bless and guide the work of relief agencies and those providing emergency assistance.

May your compassion be in the hearts of the politicians at the UN as they deliberate on improved international cooperation for refugees and migrants
So that better provision can be made for all the millions of displaced peoples.
Keep us focused on the needs of those affected even when the immediate crisis is over. **Amen**

3. Family and Community *Adapted from Roots 6 May 2018*

Lord God, we pray for the needs of the people and situations that are around us,
The people and situations that frighten and confuse us,
That prey on our minds and make demands on us.

We pray in particular, for those we meet who are unable to change their future
but by working together as a congregation, may we find ways to make small differences for them in their restricted daily lives. **Amen**

4. The wider Church

Lord Jesus, you are the vine and St John's Church is one of its many branches.
You sent the Holy Spirit to be alongside us individually every day
To motivate us to become equipped for our tasks

Of caring for each other,
Of demonstrating your love by our work in the local community,
And how we work through the challenges we encounter daily.
Be with us as we worship, pray, learn and discuss
And try to exercise good stewardship of our world's resources,

We pray particularly for our friends at Eastcote-Northwood Hills
As they work through their decision to close the Eastcote Church site.

We pray for our Synod, our Moderator, Andrew,
And those charged with developing the work of pastoral care
And discipleship amongst the Synod's congregations. **Amen.**

6. 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

Almighty God, you have given us such wonderful gifts,

You have inspired and moved us,

Challenged and changed us,

You have loved and supported, cared and upheld us.

Through Christ you made yourself known to the Disciples

And sent them out into the world.

So send us out into our communities in love, in joy, in peace –

Bearing the flame of your Holy Spirit

Showing God's warmth to all 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 2nd 11.15a.m. & 16th May 8p.m. 2018

Number 57
St John's URC Northwood