

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 Roots 5 May 2019*

Sometimes it is hard to come to worship.

Perhaps things are not going so well.

Tiredness has crept upon us.

Busyness has drained us of energy.

Frustration has robbed us of patience.

But however we feel and whatever we have done,

Jesus knows and understands us.

He offers us a fresh start.

So Jesus, here we are.

Welcome us and reassure us. Amen

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Prayerbook p52*

Creation is one, in God,

And we are one, in God.

Let us praise God, for his glory is everywhere,

In EVERY thing.

God's love embraces us all. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we thank you for the privilege and opportunity

To serve your church.

We thank you for the freedom to gather in your name

In peace and safety to worship and to work for your kingdom. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 12 May 2019*

Forgive us, Lord, when we turn away from those whose tears we are afraid of;
Whose grief we have not wanted to share;

Whose pain we have not wanted to see.

Forgive us, and grant us courage to be silent when there are no words;

To be supportive when there is no easy way ahead;

And always to carry the hope of Christ in our hearts

Wherever our journey takes us. Amen

Personal Reflection *Adapted from Prayerbook "The Walker"*

Lord, you are the great walker.

You walk beside us and call us friends.

We know that at times we stray far from you.

Then we are amazed that you come so far to bring us back to the path.

We marvel, at your patience and love in finding

And restoring us to the place alongside you. Amen

Prayers of Intercession for -

1. Freedom to worship

We pray for the many Christians throughout the world who cannot worship
Without fear of persecution or social discrimination or even physical attacks.

We pray especially for those who recently lost their lives in the attacks in Sri Lanka,
Many of whom were worshipping you.

We pray for those left with injury and grief and shock.

Bring your healing presence among them and among those helping them and

Among those now weighted down with the responsibilities

Of preventing worsening division along religious lines. Amen

2. The broken places *19 May 2019*

Use each 10 second Pause to name your personal places silently.

We pray:

For countries where there are deep political divisions, *PAUSE*

For places where there is religious persecution, *PAUSE*

For towns and cities where gang warfare brings fear, *PAUSE*

For communities where there is racial discrimination, *PAUSE*

For social groups for whom there is inequality, *PAUSE*

For workplaces where there is job insecurity, *PAUSE*

For homes where there is dissension and unhappiness, *PAUSE*

For churches who face divisions and dilemmas. *PAUSE*

May your Holy Spirit bring healing. Amen

3. Christian Aid Week *adapted from "Life and Work"*

Lord, the red envelope has been put through our letterboxes, as have hundreds of others been given out in churches and faith communities all over our land. It seems such a small thing, in the face of such global hunger, poverty and economic injustice.

Yet small and slight as it is, this red envelope is a sign, a symbol, of an unwillingness to do nothing, to let entrenched inequalities remain unchallenged and unchanged.

For you, Lord, have told us what is good and what you require of us – to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with you and others.

So we thank you for these red envelopes and for all who deliver them, put money in them and collect them.

We pray that as a result someone somewhere will be able to rebuild a house, send their daughter to school, buy a mosquito net, dig a well or latrine, sow seeds, learn new skills – and in the end, reap a harvest of hope. **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.

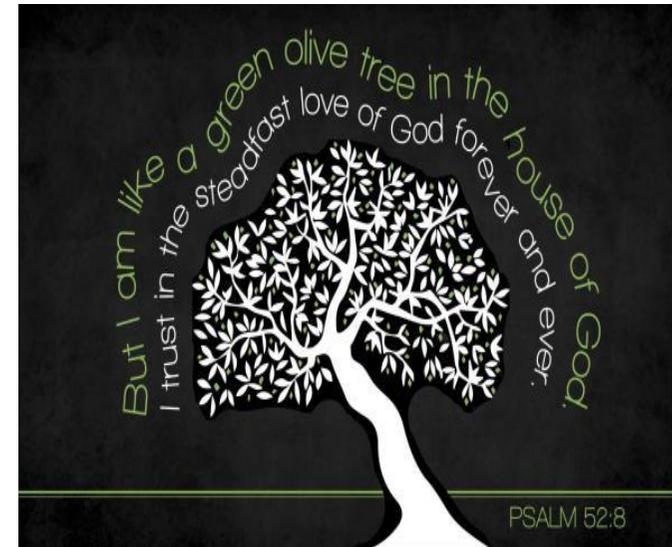
Closing Prayer *Adapted from Rejoice and Sing #474 "Servant Song"*

Brother, Sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.
Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 1st at 11.15a.m. & 15th May at 8p.m. 2019

Number 69

St John's URC Northwood