

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 Praise and Thanksgiving *Adapted from "Seeds of Trust" Taize, songs on p70-89*

Sing praises all you peoples,
Sing praises to the Lord.
In the Lord we'll be ever thankful.
O come let us sing to the Lord, our hope.
Our hearts find joy in the Lord.
It is good to trust and hope in the Lord.
Trust in him and do not fear. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p66*

Our Lord and our friend, we confess our impatience.
You made a promise which still holds true
For we have not been left alone,
And it is through our unflinching togetherness in the here and now,
Amidst the not-knowing and not-seeing,
That all You wish for us will be accomplished....
But all in your good time. Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p65*

Lord, we believe we know,
But sometime, what we believe we know, seems so very small.
Lord, we trust in faith
But sometimes we find our faithful trusting wavers.
Eventually sufficient time passes for us to make better sense of our journey.
When that happens, it somehow no longer matters
That our knowing had seemed so small and that our trusting had wavered.
We rejoice at how patiently, how quietly and persistently
Your love simply waited for us to catch up with you. Amen

Meditation on Hope *Adapted from "Seeds of Trust" Taize, Rediscovering Hope p70-89*

Hope is what we long for but cannot see.
Hope means patiently waiting.
Hope needs deep roots and a strong foundation.
Hope relies on Trust.
Our Hope means trusting in the love of God.
His love gives us resilience to keep on hoping, day in, day out.

Remember that this is the same God who has been here for all time.
He was present with our forefathers through "thick and thin".
He is still here in us and with us.
We need to discern how he is working through us
And in situations all around us in the present time.
That knowledge will give us courage to keep on hoping, day in, day out.

Jesus said "I have said these things so that my joy may be in you
And that your joy may be complete."

Fear is a barrier to joy – fear of tragic consequences
And agonising worry about the future.
God does not promise to take away human pain but shares his strength with us.
God combats our fears through his love
Which gives us a deep well-spring of inner joy, a certainty, a firm foundation,
From which to face what comes, day in, day out.

Prayers of Intercession

1. For resilience in the face of the corona-virus pandemic

We pray your blessing of resilience:
for those who have fallen sick throughout the world with Covid 19
and pray for their recovery to full health;
for those who are tasked with controlling the spread of the infection
on a local scale or regionally or internationally;
for those looking after the sick in hospitals & care homes & key workers such as
launderers & cleaners, food shop & transport workers, teachers & funeral
directors, rubbish collectors & delivery drivers & all who are providing a service;
for everyone who is locked down at home;
for those who live alone & have no human contact but the media or internet;
for everyone all over our interconnected world whose lives are being put on hold
or even turned upside down as the economic effects bite and plans are disrupted.
Amen

2. For those in pain *Adapted from Church of England website*

Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ,
Understood people's fear and pain before they spoke of them,
We pray for those in hospital;
Surround the frightened with your tenderness;
Give strength to those in pain;
Hold the weak in your arms of love,
And give hope and patience to those who are recovering;
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

3. For those who grieve *Adapted from Church of England website*

Lord, you know our hearts and share our sorrows:
When we are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved:
When we are angry at the loss we have sustained,
When we long for words of comfort.
Gracious Lord, surround us and all who mourn this day
With your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children, or turn them against you.
When grief seems never-ending, take them one step at a time
Along the road of Hope. Amen

4. For those who are in despair over loss of work & income

Lord, we are facing a tsunami of unemployed people,
Desperate for what the future holds for them and their families.
Open our eyes to those in need so that
If we have anything to share, we can truly love our neighbours. Amen

Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about

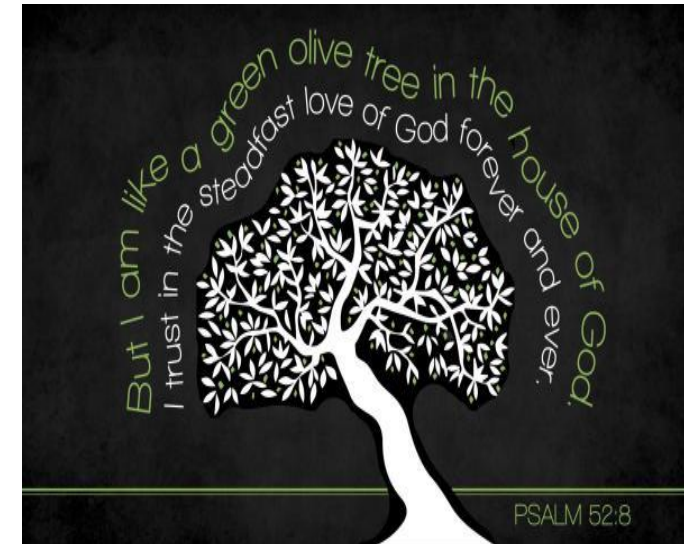
Closing Prayer *Adapted from Roots 19 January 2020*

With the Holy Spirit at our side let us focus on what we need to do
To respond well to the strange times that we find ourselves in.
May we know the Father's presence in our hearts
And keep Jesus the Son's example before us in our daily lives.
May we know the presence of the Holy Spirit is with us always –
In our hearts and in our lives wherever we are, whatever we do
and alongside us with whomsoever we communicate. Amen

*If you are facing difficult situations and would like us to support you
in your prayers, please email or telephone us. Morfudd & John*

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