

## Prayer of Gathering

*From Psalm 52:8 Like a green olive*

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 & Approach *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.42*

Faithful God, faithful beyond our deepest fears  
Beyond the rejections of the world, beyond the grave,  
Hear our prayer.  
We praise you for being among us when we are lost in despair.  
We praise you for keeping promises  
When we have no memory of your words. **Amen**

## Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Called to Praise #342 & 343*

Lord, we confess that sometimes it seems as though you were never with us  
That in ascending high you left us alone, bereft,  
Struggling with the world you said you loved.  
Where are you when little children die of hunger,  
When lives are wasted by unemployment,  
When callous terror kills without discrimination,  
When plague or virus sweep the earth,  
When families are fractured,  
Or when crime struts along the street?  
**Pause 10 secs for silent reflection**

Yet when we stop to think, Lord,  
We know that you did not leave us.  
You came to us with the gift of living power,  
Which empowers us to do your work in the world  
**Forgive us our weakness in doubting that you are here now. Amen**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Surprised By Grace p.42*

Thank you Lord, for those jewel-in-the-mud moments  
When life is really beautiful.  
Thank you for every piece of treasure in our lives.  
Give us eyes that see the sparkles in the dust  
And grace to polish what is tarnished. **Amen**

## Personal Food for Thought *Adapted from Called to Praise #345*

Now we have found our voice!  
[Are we ready for the challenge?](#)  
Gifted by the Spirit,  
Our tongues are released  
And we are free to speak our faith to all peoples.

We rejoice that you accompany us eternal Spirit  
And give us confidence to speak in the different orbits of our lives:  
Through education and the growth of learning,  
Through science and the pursuit of truth,  
Through art colour, pattern and design,  
Through committee meetings, financial & business activities  
Through politics and the search for justice,  
And in how we relate to others.  
In consequence, we would hope to be  
Examples of your living Word in every sphere of our lives  
Willing to tell of God's great love.

## Prayers of Intercession

### 1. *For India & other low income countries* *Adapted from Christian Aid website*

Healer of all, giver of life,  
We bow our heads, lift up our hearts, and pour out our prayers as tears  
For our sisters and brothers, our human family in India  
Enduring a Covid crisis worse than our imagination can comprehend.  
Oxygen, good leadership, wood for cremations, hope of this second wave ending-  
All too short in supply.  
How do we pray for an inadequate system now collapsing?  
How do we pray for an underinvestment in healthcare?  
How do we pray for the end of a virus that spreads because of inequality and injustice?

We pray because we believe In your love and compassion, in your mysterious ways,  
In your promises of comfort, in your provision as Yahweh,  
In your power to intervene, in your work transforming hearts  
In your incarnate solidarity that descended even to hell  
And is present even in this reality.

So we do pray  
For generosity and provision from the international community  
For the fair and equal distribution of a vaccine,  
For the fundamental right of healthcare to be realised,  
For the doctors and nurses at breaking point to be helped,  
For a deeply flawed system to be disestablished,  
And resurrected as a new creation of your making and blessing. **Amen**

## 2. For our NHS workers

We ask your blessing on the workers in our NHS  
Who have been battling to keep sick people alive over the past year, and  
Who are now able to take breaks and take time to  
Come to terms with the great fight of which they have been part,  
We ask that there is mental support for workers suffering from anguish and depression.

**Amen**

## 3. For those held in captivity

Merciful Father, we cry to you from the depths of our concern:  
For those wrongly imprisoned or held captive;  
For those negotiating to secure their release so that the ways of peace and diplomacy  
May prevail over acts of violence and aggression;  
For their captors to have a change of heart.  
We pray especially for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, her husband and little daughter. **Amen**

## 4. For the furloughed workers

Father we are grateful that money has been found from our taxes to fund those who would  
have been laid-off due to the pandemic.  
However, now as many businesses face financial ruin, we pray for their managers who will  
have to make workers redundant in the next few months.  
Then for the workers themselves, who face a bleak future, caught in an economic rut.  
The effects of loss of work and income can lead to despair and a spiral of ill health.  
We pray that our government leaders find ways of guiding the unemployed into new training  
And can subsidise them to some extent. **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.....  
Make them aware of your presence as the Comforter...always with them.  
For those awaiting or receiving hospital treatment we ask  
That their medical specialists and nurses have perceptive minds and steady hands  
For surgical procedures and therapies.  
Then as the sick improve and are convalescent, enable us to send them messages of  
encouragement and friendship. **Amen**

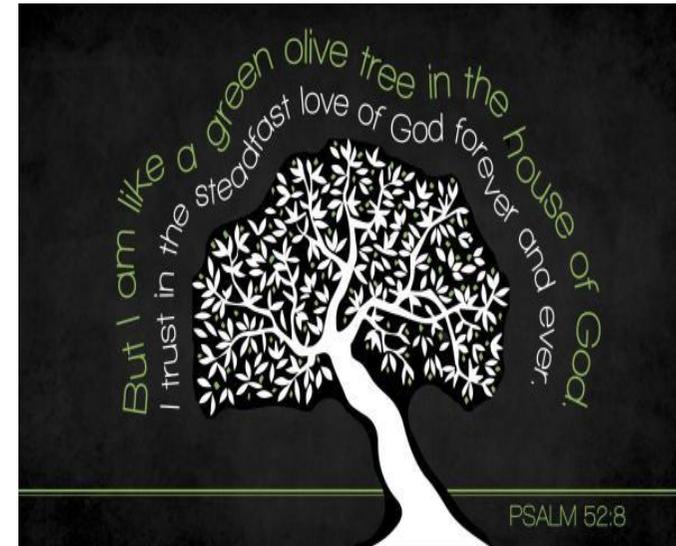
## Reflection time & time for quiet or open prayers

### Closing Prayer *Prayer of St Columba*

Encircling God, be thou a bright flame before me,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path below me,  
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today, tonight and for ever. **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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