

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 19 November 2017*

Gracious God, we bring to you, our selves:
Our thanks, our praise, our hearts, our lives.
We come to seek a sense of your presence
And the reassurance of your love. **Amen.**

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.110*

God of the Past- you nourish us with memory.
God of the Present- you challenge us to speak of you.
God of the Future- your purposes are sure and right.
God of All Ages- **to you be praise**
Yesterday, today and forever. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.114*

Be thankful!
Bless the name of God who is full of goodness.
Know the assurance of enduring love and loyalty that never wanes. Amen.

Pause for silence & reflection as we prepare ourselves for prayer.

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 5 November 2017*

God, **forgive us when we show off to impress others**
Or sacrifice integrity for popularity.
Give us a quiet confidence that has no need to boast
And that puts integrity before success
So that we may be people of depth and honesty to your glory. **Amen.**

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p. 102-3*

Lord, I need you in the noise and bustle of life. *PAUSE*
As each day dawns, stand ready with me as I face the day's challenges. *PAUSE*
As each path unfolds, let me sense you, close and strong. *PAUSE*
At each crossroads, whisper your advice and let me hear. *PAUSE*
As each night comes, help me to let go of my worries
And pass them to you while I sleep. *PAUSE*
Then in the quiet, I will pause with you. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

1. *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.107*

We pray for people who must deal in truth:

For rulers, politicians, diplomats and officials

That they would serve with integrity and care;

For police, lawyers, judges and juries

To be wise to see the truth and courageous to follow it;

For writers, journalists and advertisers

That they would find joy in the honest use of language;

For preachers and leaders in the Church

To be confident in the ways and word of Jesus;

And we pray that we ourselves will respect & pursue truth in our deeds. Amen.

2. *Adapted from Roots 5 November 2017 p.7*

We pray for those who are considered to be great in our world
And who wield power and influence over others.
Give them serving hearts:

That speak up for the poor and do not flatter the wealthy,

That embrace social unity and do not reinforce division,

That free justice and do not imprison the truth,

That respect creation and do not destroy her riches.

Give them integrity which no praise, position or privilege can shatter. Amen

3. *Remembrance Adapted from Prayerbook 2016 p.107*

We are the fruit from fallen seeds that died for peace to multiply.
From their sacrifice came lessons to remember.

Lessons which we seem to find so hard to action

As we still see wars and political tensions rising across our world.

Give the leaders of our armed forces integrity not to abuse their position

But to lead by the example of self-control and fairness

Even when faced with evil horrors in the heat of conflict.

God, be present to remind us of wisdom, truth and all that is good. Amen.

4. *Adapted from Roots 5 November 2017*

We pray: for the hungry and thirsty **and all those who work to relieve their suffering now and develop measures to prevent it in future;**
for homeless and displaced people, all who are dispirited and deprived of a full life **and help us to work together to find new opportunities and make hope real;**
for the sick and suffering **and all who care for those at home, in hospitals, hospices and in makeshift tents in refugee camps.**

There are no easy answers & we are discomfited by the suffering of others. Give us courage to believe that we can make a difference And confidence to offer ourselves to do something about it. Amen.

5. Lord, we pray for those in our Church congregations who are unwell. We name in our hearts those we know who are suffering, those who are convalescent and those awaiting medical treatment.
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

6. **All Saints** *Adapted from Called to Praise p.228*

Lord, we are called to be saints in the community of God. **PAUSE**
Lord, in the place where you have set us. **PAUSE**
Help us to truly be your people:
In our Church community here in Northwood
And also our wider surrounding community.
We pray that our presence has an impact
On the well-being of our neighbourhood. Amen

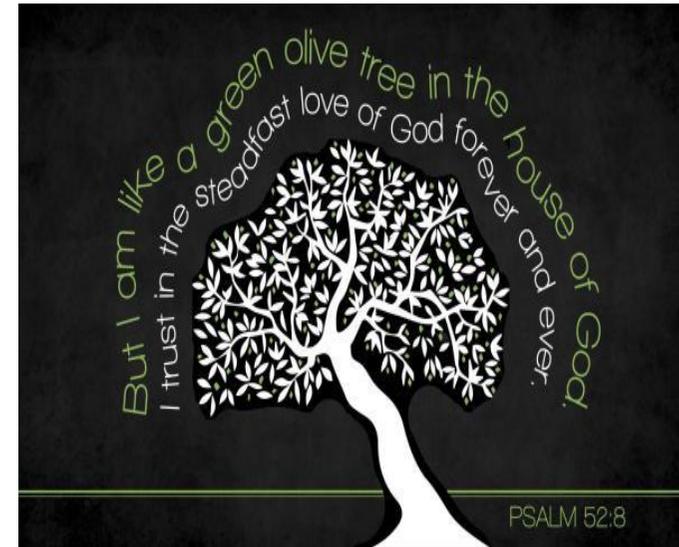
Reflection time – on what we have just prayed about AND Time for those present to add their prayers, if they wish to,
for the life of St John's & St Martin's, our communities & the World
either in open prayer
or by using stones symbolically & placing them at the foot of the Cross.

Closing Prayer *Adapted from Roots 26 November 2017*

Look into our hearts and know the Lord is with us.
Go out into the World and serve its people's needs.
Walk on holy ground. Go in peace. Be useful. Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday 1st 11.15a.m. & 15th November 8p.m. 2017

Number 49
St John's URC Northwood