

## 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 4 & 18 Nov 2018*

**Lord of all the world, with You travelling on the path beside us,**  
**We open our ears and minds to hear and listen to your Word,**  
**We open our hearts and mouths in prayer which praises and questions You,**  
**We put ourselves into your keeping so we will not be afraid. Amen**

**Prayer of Praise** *Adapted from Roots 18 Nov 2018*

We praise you, O Lord, that in turmoil and trouble we can trust you.  
You, O Lord, are the peace beyond war,  
The hope beyond despair,  
The light beyond darkness,  
The stability amid chaos...  
**We praise you for your indestructible love. Amen**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.86*

God of all earth, we give you thanks for this sacred time.  
May the very air be infused with your presence  
That all who enter, may breathe you in,  
And be filled with your love and peace  
And the joy of knowing you. **Amen**

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

**Prayer of Confession** *Adapted from Roots 18 November 2018*

**Lord of all the world,**  
**When we get overwhelmed by the enormity of the suffering-strengthen us.**

**When we lose faith in your love for this world-forgive us.**

**When we struggle to believe that your hands hold us-reassure us.**

**When we slip into colluding with negativity-uptift us and those around us.**

**Make us voices of calm and bringers of hope to those who are fearful.**

**Amen.**

**Personal Prayer** *Adapted from Junior Praise #56 by Chris Porteous*

Lord, You are our guide, our light and our deliverer.  
Will You hold our hand and walk beside the way?

Lord, may our feet tread in your path  
And follow firmly as by faith each day,  
Your word a light, a lamp to lead our steps  
We love the hours when You beside us stay.

Lord, though the storms of life may leave us trembling,  
Your words of comfort bring us peace within.  
When we are weak and fear to face the future  
May we find relief within your loving arms. **Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession for -**

### 1. Refugees and Migrants

Merciful Father, whose Son became a refugee,  
Look with love on those who flee from danger of war and political upheavals,  
Poverty and homelessness and hunger.  
Give hope to those suffering destitution.  
Bless with energy and wise heads, those who work to bring them relief.  
Inspire the politicians to find durable solutions to their plight.  
Make us generous and compassionate. **Amen**

**2. Remembrance** *by Michael Forster Hymnquest*

God of the nations, hear our prayer  
From warring pride your people spare.  
Let us in love and truth unite,  
Justice and peace be our delight.  
**God of the nations, hear our prayer.**

Teach us to turn our bombs to bread,  
Help us to see the hungry fed,  
Welcome the hopeless heal the lame,  
Freedom and hope for all proclaim.  
**God of the nations, hear our prayer. Amen**

### 3. UN World Diabetes Day 4 November

Lord, we bring before you the 425 million known sufferers from diabetes. We thank you for the on-going research which has enabled improvements to be made in the care, monitoring and treatment of this disease, which if it is handled well can enable a sufferer to lead a fairly normal life.

We particularly ask for your blessing on those who are in a position to **educate** families on how to support their diabetic relatives to self-manage their condition. We ask you to help those who hold the funds for this work to use it wisely as family support has been proven to improve the quality of life for diabetics. Therefore, we think particularly of the 80% who suffer from preventable type 2 diabetes – who can have a poor quality of life.

Lord, make educating them and their supportive circle of friends and family possible: to increase physical activity, eat a healthy and balanced diet and live in a clean and healthy environment which not only improves their physical health but promotes emotional well-being and leads to a productive life.

Lord, we think of the suffering of those diabetics who live in poor countries where there are insufficient resources to provide testing kits and insulin. We pray for a breakthrough in research which will enable these resources to be more available more cheaply to support them. **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** *"The still, small voice"* by Charles Wesley

**"Open Lord, my inward ear, and bid my heart rejoice;**

**Bid my quiet spirit hear the comfort of thy voice;**

**Never in the whirlwind found, or where earthquakes rock the place-**

**Still and silent is the sound, the whisper of thy grace." Amen**

# Prayer Fellowship

## At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 7<sup>th</sup>, 11.15a.m. & 21 November, 8p.m. 2018

Number 63  
St John's URC Northwood