

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 and Praise *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.109 & 105*

Come with gratitude and praise to Christ the King,

Who enables us to see the invisible God, God the Father.

The God who reconciles all things and has granted us peace through the Cross.

Loving Father, when all that we have done is fading into insignificance,

When earthly things no longer make sense,

Help us to hear your calm quiet voice

Urging us not to be afraid,

Reminding us that your Spirit is with us, always –

To guide, restore and inspire. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.97*

Lord, help us to take the time to be thankful, properly thankful.

May saying "thank you" be a stepping stone to being near you.

To a moment when heaven and earth meet

And your kingdom becomes real enough to touch and know. Amen

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Prayerbook 2019 p.106, Roots 3 November 2019*

Lord, we confess our part in the world's darkness and pain.

We have fears and weaknesses.

Our material greeds lead to economic misery and social inequality.

Our attitudes give rise to prejudice, mistrust and bitterness in our communities,

Shamefully, we allow injustices which lead to persecution and violence.

Forgive us when we behave in ways that dishonour you.

Forgive us when our faith is flimsy.

Forgive us our thoughtless neglect and our lukewarm love.

Forgive us when our behaviour has been nothing to boast about. **Amen**

Personal Reflection *Adapted from "Call to Praise" 445*

Lord, we pray for ourselves as members of your Church and wider communities.

Chasten and reform us:

Deliver us from complacency – and stir up a new hope in us,

Give us the insight to do well –yet stay true to your calling,

Keep the task we have to do for you in the forefront of our minds

–and we acknowledge the trust which you have placed in us to deliver on it.

May we make no claim to privilege except the privilege of service to others. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession for -

1. For the politics of our country *Adapted from Roots 10 & 17 November 2019*

Lord, there is so much in our world which is out of sync with your Spirit,

So much that is at odds with your kingdom's priorities.

We pray that your Spirit will be at work to stir up in us and others

A longing for just living – as justice is the public face of love,

So that grace becomes a hallmark of our communities.

Lord of truth and justice we pray for our world,

In which corruption and deceit are all too easily seen,

Where misplaced ambition becomes idolatry

And those in need are often disregarded and trampled underfoot.

We pray for those with influence to be wise and not self-serving.

Lord, may we proclaim your name with integrity and compassion

In our personal lives and in our communities. **Amen**

2. For Anti-bullying week

Lord, we know Bullies come in all shapes and sizes,

Upfront and ugly or clothed in disguises.

Bullies like stereotypes, love power and are fearful of differences.

Fists and words make victims' lives a misery with these menaces.

Empower victims to speak out and for us to back justice in your name. Amen

3. For those affected by war *Adapted from Roots on-line*

God of justice and peace

We pray :

That those who have been injured or disabled through war are given adequate physical and mental support to enable them to live comfortable lives;
For those who have lost their homes and security through conflict that they may find safety, and secure communities to stay in and work through traumas;
For those who have lost relatives and friends through fighting and bombing that you will place your healing hand on their emotional pain.

We think especially of refugee children whose lives have been blighted especially the orphaned, trapped in camps, unable to live normally and pray that practical solutions can be created by caring governments.

We pause for silent reflection on the current conflicts. **PAUSE**

We also remember those who sacrificed their lives in historic wars of C20.

Comfort those who remember and are pained. **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 to name silently those we know

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 *Fred Green, HymnQuest ID 61670*

We have no mission but to serve

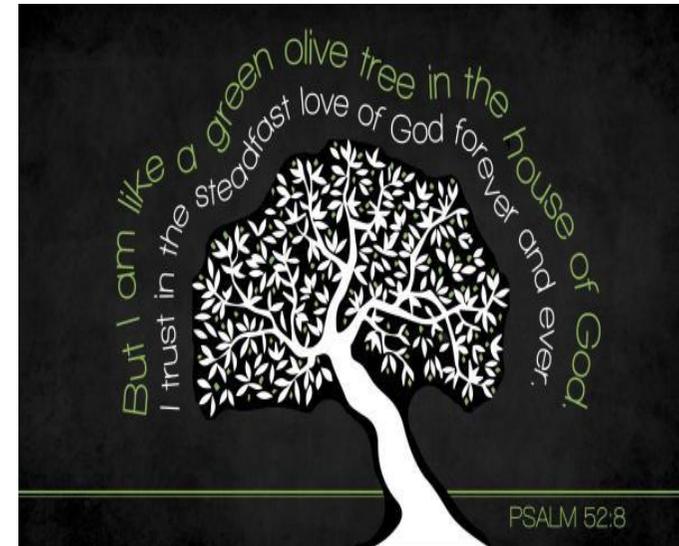
In full obedience to our Lord:

To care for all without reserve

And spread his liberating word. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 6th at 11a.m. & 20th November at 8p.m. 2019

Number 75
St John's URC Northwood