

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 & Approach *Adapted from Roots 1 & 11 Nov 2020*

We rejoice in God's invitation to engage with His Word.
Let us draw near to God.
He draws near to us.
We lift up our hands and voices, our hearts and our lives.
Call us O God.
He gathers us all into the depths of his embrace.
Let us be nurtured by Your Word of eternal life,
So that we may find an abundant life with each other. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 15 Nov 2020*

Lord, you call us to live lives of mercy, justice, humility and kindness,
But we do not always behave like this.
You call us to a life of welcoming the stranger
But we do not always welcome.
You call us to a life of solidarity with our neighbour
But we do not always lend a helping hand.
Have mercy on us for the times we have failed to practise your rules. **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
So that we may find again the truths that you have given us. **Amen.**

Prayer for Advent *Adapted from Prayer handbook p126*

This Advent-tide we look for you a-fresh –scanning the horizon or watching for a visitor,
Hearing familiar stories from long ago of You, Lord God made known through Jesus
And present today in your Spirit. We are **re-freshed**, knowing you are ever with us. **Amen**

Personal Food for Thought *Adapted from Bridge of Love p70*



In the beginning was God.
Then God created the world
But the world loved itself
And not God.

So God sent his Son to rescue the world
And even the darkness of the world
Could not quench the light of the Son,
Though it tried.
The Son became the Saviour of the world
And his light grows stronger
With each heart that is opened.

The Son became the bridge
Between despair and hope
And invites us all to cross the bridge
While the darkness sits beneath
Watching and waiting.

Some cannot yet see the bridge.
Their journey has not yet found it.
Some sense its presence
While others glimpse it from a distance
But cannot find their way to it.

One day, emboldened by love
They will see their way clearly
And step onto the bridge
And feel light surge through them
Giving power to release them from guilt & shame
Power to enable them to see life's treasures
To live life in Hope,
Using the power that comes only from God.

Prayers of Intercession

1. For mental resilience for all as society struggles to control the spread of Covid 19 across the world and its many impacts on society & economies

With today's technology we have access to news from afar almost immediately.
Help us not to become blasé about the situations we hear and see
But to pray and care faithfully for all concerned.
We pray for your presence in every country on the globe
And in particular:

For the national & local political leaders who are trying to determine how and where to put their efforts to halt the spread of Covid 19, as it impacts on societies already suffering from war, famine and poverty, plus demanding new lockdowns for some places, then working out the complexity of easing lockdown for others;
For local community leaders working to keep their communities safe;
For those working in the emergency services, in hospitals and in care homes where the impact of the virus is most immediate;
For scientists and researchers in many countries developing treatments and potential vaccines for Covid-19;
For employers, managers, staff & volunteers charged with making factories, warehouses, offices, shops, schools and colleges, transport services and public venues safe places to be in.
We pray for individuals in our own country to be aware of their duty of care to their neighbours and of their responsibilities as citizens to maintain law and order. **Amen**

2. For Remembrance *Adapted from A Chair Pulled to the Place of Prayer pp.120-1*

We are not prepared to consign the tragedy of past conflicts to the history books-detached from the present.

We are not prepared to allow the conflicts of the present day to slip from our minds -detached from our lives.

The accumulated weight of sorrow continues.

We are thankful to those who have given their lives in the quest for justice & peace

And we will carry their legacy of courage & self-sacrifice forward

As we challenge the injustices in our world communities. **Amen**

3. For justice and equality in world society *Adapted from A Chair Pulled to a Place of Prayer p115*

Lord, we feel sadness and anger for all the migrants around the world

Who are so desperate to have peace and economic stability

That they will face death as they leave their homelands

To travel dangerously in search of a new life in strange societies.

We are thankful for the stories of migrants happily settled into new communities

But wonder about the horrors faced in migrant camps and detention facilities.

They are our neighbours and yet without your compassion powering us

The outlook for their future seems bleak.

Help us to seize chances to influence our politicians to be compassionate. **Amen**

4. For the lonely and isolated *Adapted from Roots1 Nov 2020*

Lord, we pray for all of us who feel isolated as a consequence of the Covid lockdown rules

Particularly those who live alone and who may see no human face for days on end,

And as we miss working colleagues & socialising with family and friends.

You are the God of encounters.

We know that You are always there when we are alone

But we need to have human company too.

Help us to be very aware of those we need to get in touch with...now. **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 as visiting is impossible due to Covid 19. **Amen**

Reflection time & time for quiet or open prayers

Closing Prayer

Lord, encourage us to be blessing to others through our kind actions and attitudes to others in our lives. **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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