

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 Prayerbook 2017 p.102*

1. In the stillness,
In the quiet,
I pause with you.

2. In the noise,
In the bustle,
You stay with me. **Amen.**

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.106*

The Lord of Hosts is with us

Our refuge and our strength.

God of strength in a world of change

You are present and we give you praise.

God of safety, when the earth shakes and groans

You are faithful and we shall not fear.

God of refreshment in busy days,

You are among us and we are glad. Amen

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

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 1 & 8 October 2017*

Merciful God, forgive us:

For times when we have denied your authority

And gone our own way,

For times when we have ignored your truth

And hidden your image within us,

For times when we have based our living on the world's values

Not to the eternal values you have entrusted to us.

Merciful God, forgive us. Amen.

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Roots 12 October 2014*

Lord, we can't understand why

Those who have made little attempt to live decent lives,
Get the same invitation and are welcomed when they come.

Lord, open our closed minds to the miracle of your Grace.

May we see that your kingdom is for the lost, the broken, the sinful -

People like us. **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 and pursue truth in our deeds. Amen.

2. *Adapted from Roots 3 September 2017*

Lord, we pray remembering Jesus' fortitude:

For those who carry the cross of persecution and oppression

Give strength and courage;

For those who carry the cross of pain and suffering

Give strength and courage;

For those who carry the cross of isolation and loneliness

Give strength and courage;

For those who carry the cross of grief and mourning

Give strength and courage. Amen.

3. *Adapted from Roots 17 September 2017*

Families come in many different guises and provide us with stability.

Jesus extended his family to include his friends and disciples.

We pray for families experiencing discord, anger and bitterness.

We thank you for those who work to bring forgiveness and reconciliation.

Give counsellors and mediators wisdom and discernment.

We thank you for the fun and security of loving trusting family groups

Of relations, friends and church congregations

And for the joy and happiness they bring. Amen.

4. *Adapted from Roots 8 October 2017*

We remember all who seek to feed the hungry and thirsty:
Those who work for aid agency projects in the most testing situations. **PAUSE**
We remember all who care for the injured, sick and abused in war zones:
Those who work for medical relief agencies in refugee camps. **PAUSE**
We pray for those who work for peace and reconciliation in different spheres:
For the United Nations, ACAS, Relate and others. **PAUSE Amen**

5. *Prisons Week of Prayer 8-14 October 2017*

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.
We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.
Support with love prisoners & their families & friends & prison staff.
Heal those who have been the victims of crime.
Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, to love mercy,
Being always aware of Christ's example of humility
And buoyed up by the constant companionship of his Spirit. **Amen.**

6. 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

7. **Lord, we ask a blessing on 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 19 October 2014*

Fill up the purse of our lives with the currency of your kingdom:

The pennies of prayer, the pounds of kindness,

The notes of Grace and the cheques of truth,

So that, like Jesus, we may share that which is truly of value

To those we encounter day by day. Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday 4th 11.15a.m. & 18th October 8p.m. 2017

Number 48

St John's URC Northwood