

## 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 2018 p.95*

**God, we come with hard hearts and stubborn ways  
And ask you to guide us.  
We come to you to be renewed  
And to be healed.  
Be the lamp to our feet. Amen**

**Prayer of Praise** *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.97*

Praise be to God, who knows us completely.  
Praise be to Jesus, who has lived our life.  
Praise be to the Spirit, who energises our life  
So the Word of God is living and active. **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 14 October 2018*

Forgive us, God, when we close our eyes to the needs of others  
Because we do not like to be made uncomfortable or rearrange our priorities.

May we treat what we have as a gift not a right,  
And not allow our possessions to become our possessors.  
Forgive us when we have clung to possessions as if they define us.  
**Help us to find our treasure in you. Amen.**

**Personal Prayer** *Adapted from Order of Service 22 July 2018*

Christ be in my thinking and my understanding,  
Guarding me from evil, walking in the light.  
Christ be in my speaking, every word a blessing,  
Pure and not deceiving, grace to all who hear.

Christ be in my gladness, for the joy of living,  
Thankful for the goodness of the Father's hand.  
Christ be in my sorrow, in my days of darkness,  
Knowing that I follow in the steps he trod.

**Jesus, this is my devotion:**

**All my life to know you,  
Every day to walk with you. Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession for -**

#### **1. People caught in the aftermath of natural disasters**

God, we ask you to give energy and stamina to the rescue workers and NGOs  
Who give support in the aftermath of natural disasters.  
We ask in particular for your blessing on the desperate suffering survivors of the  
Earthquake and tsunami on the island of Sulawesi. **Amen**

**2. Relationship conflicts** *Adapted from Roots 7 October 2018*

God, we pray for those dealing with conflict & brokenness in their relationships.  
When stalemate is a daily occurrence,  
Bring understanding and reconciliation.  
When relationships have been shattered beyond repair,  
Bring compassion and healing.

When the fallout of conflict in personal relationships  
Affects a wider circle of people – such as children & family, friends & neighbours,  
Work colleagues, church members or the local community –  
Guide those with the professional skills to support and help those involved.  
Give us and them, wisdom in dealing with these complex situations because we  
Rarely know or understand the whole picture.  
Remind those involved to be generous with their love  
And to provide places of safety for those who need to rebuild their lives. **Amen**

### 3. World Mental Health Day 10 October WHO

God, we ask for your help as we focus on the rising tide of mental illness  
Among the teens and twenties **worldwide.**

The many changes which they experience, such as  
Changing schools, leaving home, starting a new job, learning new skills either by  
training on the job or in college or being unemployed-  
All involve creating new relationships and give rise to times of stress & fear.  
For some young people, these feelings can lead to mental illness.  
We think especially of those living in difficult personal situations, such as;  
Caring for family members or being in poor quality housing or a war zone or  
economic poverty.

More stress may come from additional social pressures  
Brought by addiction to online social media, drugs and alcohol.

We pray that parents, teachers, employers, family and friends  
Have an awareness of the mental state of the young people around them  
And are able to build up their resilience from an early age,  
Helping them to cope with everyday challenges, at home and school.  
Give wisdom to governments world-wide so that they invest in programmes to  
raise awareness of how to look after mental health. **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: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11.15a.m. & 17<sup>th</sup> October, 8p.m. 2018

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