

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.97 & 98*

Today, in silence and simplicity,

We hear your ready invitation and let ourselves into your presence.

Here, may we remember gladly, savour deeply

And be refreshed by all your gracious gifts. 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 Roots 5 October 2019*

Lord, we confess that we like our lives to be cosy.

We have built around ourselves a comfort zone, a place where we belong.

We share it with those who think like us, who have the same interests,

Points of view and standards of living.

If we notice people outside our own comfort zone at all,

We pay them scant regard.

It takes a lot to jolt us out of our self-satisfied daily life.

Forgive us for our self-indulgence in satisfying our own needs

First and foremost.

Help us to see then to step outside our comfort zones

And give practical and emotional support to anyone we encounter in need.

Amen

Personal Reflection *Adapted from "Call to Worship" #445*

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

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 homeless on our streets. *Adapted from Roots 5 October 2019*

Into your hands, Lord, we place those who live on the pavements.

We know that there are many, many reasons for homelessness.

We know that the sheer hopelessness of not having a home leads to total despair.

When we see homeless people we should be jolted out of our comfort zone.

We pray for the organisations which provide food, beds and counselling

And remind ourselves that these need our gifts of money to sustain this. **Amen**

2. For International victims of modern slavery *Rachel Carnegie, Anglican Alliance*

Loving God, we call to you with hearts in pain for all in our world

Who suffer the horrors of modern slavery;

For all who dream of a better life in another place

Only to be trapped, tricked and traded;

For all those who labour, forced and unseen, to make our everyday goods;

For all who agonise over loved ones lost into this trade in humans.

Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed-

May we too be voices against oppression, channels of good news;

May our eyes be open wide at all times to see those who suffer in our midst –

Yet out of sight.

All this we pray to you, our loving God, for whom NO ONE is invisible. **Amen**

3. For healthy eyes

We pray for the professionals who work to care for our eyesight

- opticians, optometrists and ophthalmologists,

- for the dedication of skilled surgeons who restore the sight of young and old.

We pray in particular for the work of **Orbis**, the flying eye clinic which serves the most remote areas of Africa and Asia and rural areas elsewhere where people are unable to access eye clinics. Their volunteer specialist eye surgeons and nurses donate several weeks of their holiday time, to fly with the fully equipped plane to treat those going blind with treatable conditions and those with poor vision, as well as training local doctors and nurses.

We pray that their fund raising continues to be successful as the statistics prove that they are making an impact. Everyone they treat successfully becomes a useful member of their community again with the ability to be educated, work and care for family members. **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 *Adapted from Roots 14 July 2019*

Lord, let us go into our communities

With eyes and hearts open to the needs we see around us.

As we are blessed with belonging

So may we draw others into your community of care. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesdays: 2nd at 11a.m. & 16th October at 8p.m. 2019

Number 74

St John's URC Northwood