

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 27 Sept, 11 Oct 2020 & #390 Called to Praise

Generous, hospitable God, who turns no one away,
Welcome each one of us now and embrace us in your being.
As parents nurture their children, so You nurture us.
As parents guard their children, so You watch over us.
As our creator, You love us.
We never know what is just around the corner but we know
That whatever follows, You are here with us.
We offer in return our adoration and love. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession

Adapted from Roots 6 September & 4 October 2020

Lord, in the higgledy-piggledy ways of life
With challenges and changes pulling us this way and that,
We sometimes find it hard, in the heat of the moment,
To know what is right and what is wrong.
We go off on wild goose chases that lead us nowhere & into barren places.
We find our way back to you in sorrow for our failings
And in penitence for our wanderings.
Forgive us for our failings and wrongdoings.
Forgive our insensitivities to the ways of others.
Forgive anything that cuts us off from each other or You. **Amen**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Adapted from Roots 4 & 11 October 2020

Lord, as we are enriched by Your welcome,
Relieved by your forgiveness,
Comforted by Your all-embracing love,
And for the eternal hope that comes from You,
We give You thanks and praise. **Amen.**

Personal Food for Thought

Adapted from Roots 13 Sept 2020 & Prayerbook 2020 p114



Thoughts for reflection

- Guess how many sweets are in each jar?
- Which picture of a jar most resembles my own "jar" of forgiveness?
- How can I nurture a forgiving attitude?

Lord, I thank You that You have commissioned me to live out Your love here on Earth and pray that I may enter into it with all my heart, all my soul and all my mind. However, I am aware that this is a commission full of risk and challenge, so I pray that You will keep me close to You. Amen

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 those grieving *Adapted from URC streamed service 31 May 2020*

Lord, bring comfort to those who are grieving, especially for those who have been separated from the dying and those unable to attend their funerals.....

Bless with love the memories we have of those who have died

And now rest in your presence.

Give patience to those who are the friends of the grieving.

Help us to be there if needed but not to be intrusive. Amen

3. 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**

4. For justice and equality in world society

Forgive us for the economic divisions we have been part of creating in society

As a result of our desire for more things to make our lives more comfortable.....

The consequences of inequality in the food, housing & education available are evident with many people in low paid jobs with poor health & low life expectancy.

Forgive us for the deliberate or unwitting racism we may be part of.

Forgive us for any gender bias.

Forgive us for bias against other religions & suppression of freedom to worship.

Forgive us for the repression of people's freedom to voice opinions peacefully.

There is so much for different people in societies throughout the world to be angry about & try to change,

Especially with the tsunami of unemployment due to Covid 19

Which has brought more difficulties across all parts of every society.

Our world societies are so closely linked that we need to have an awareness of each other's circumstance & how a decision in one place impacts in another place.

We pray for justice & fairness in all societies. **Amen**

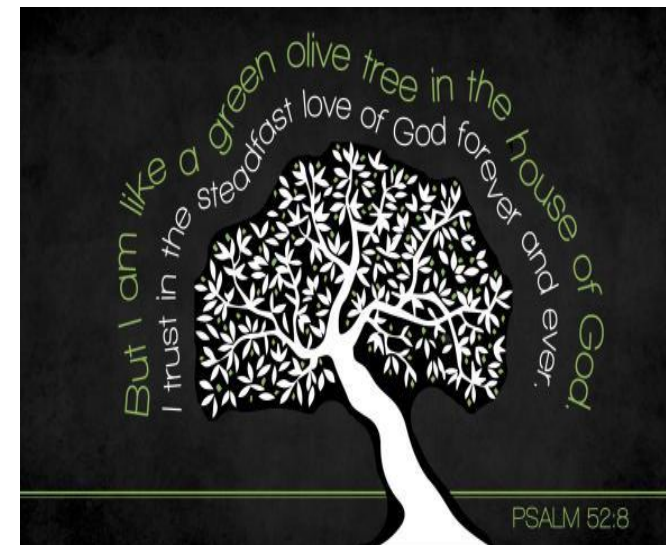
Reflection time & time for quiet or open prayers

Closing Prayer *Adapted from Roots 13 Sept 2020*

Lord, we go into a world of noise & confusion, of hope & fear, of delight & regret with the message of an unchanging God who gave his all, so we might live life to the best of our ability, confident in Your love. **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**

October 2020

Number 86

St John's URC Northwood