

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 Roots 24 September 2017*

Lord, we come to you now with love in our hearts,
Praise on our lips, intent on worship.

We come to offer our time and thoughts to you.

We come to receive your comfort and challenge for us.

**Lord, unite our prayers and our worship,
That your name may be glorified. Amen.**

Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.94*

Lord, our hearts sing with your truth, they burst with elation.

Let us sing from the mountaintops and shout from the rooftops,

Proclaim your love and greatness.

You have created a world of artistry and surrounded us with beauty.

Help us to show our gratitude by living in your image,

Spreading your Good News. Amen.

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

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Roots 17 September 2017*

We are sorry, Lord, for the pain we have caused to others

By our actions and our words,

When we have been judgemental of others

And ignored our own faults and failings

Free us from the burden of our selfishness

Forgive us and let your love bring healing and renewal. Amen

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.93*

Lord, give me the trust I need to believe that you forgive me

For the things I say and the actions I make,

For what I forget or fail to imagine,

For my self-regard, my narrowness of thought and a heart lacking in love.

I ask in the name of Jesus, who, even in his deepest pain,

Forgave his tormentors and taught us all the depth of love. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

1. *Adapted from Roots 3 September 2017*

God, 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.

2. *Adapted from Prayerbook 2017 p.90*

Compassionate God, open our eyes and ears.

Around the world small groups huddle seeking solace,

Pulses racing, stomachs churning, mouths dry unable to eat their final morsels,

Sandals on, bag of essentials ready, awaiting the moment to leave.

Compassionate God, open our eyes and ears.

Driven by fear, intimidation, desperation, pushed beyond endurance,

The unknown future less awesome than current reality.

The tipping point reached-they flee.

Each small group coalesces, becoming a great flood,

A massive sea of individuals each with a story of pain, loss and hope.

Compassionate God, open our lives to respond in love

As individuals and as a church. Amen.

3. *Adapted from Roots 10 September 2017*

We pray for reconciliation and peace between nations and races

Where there is oppression and abuse of power. **PAUSE**

Reconciling God, may we honour one another

And always work for reconciliation and peace in our world. Amen

4. *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.**

5. *Adapted from Roots 24 September 2017*

We pray: for those who struggle to find work
And those who are overworked in sweatshops,
For those who offer careers advice, guidance and support,
For those in dangerous jobs- in the emergency services and
Those in tasks which bring life-threatening situations every day.

**Loving God, we pray for your kingdom when all will be safe and secure.
Amen.**

6. God we ask your blessing on all who work

In our schools, colleges and universities.

As a new academic year starts, we pray for all students

And particularly those for whom this is a time of new beginnings. **Amen.**

7. 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. **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 *Adapted from Roots 21 September 2014*

May the generosity of God challenge and inspire us

To include all in our prayers and invite all to our table

And to ensure all are treated with dignity, fairness and respect. Amen.

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday 6th 11.15a.m. & 20th September 8p.m. 2017

Number 47

St John's URC Northwood