

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 2 September 2018*

**God, we approach you as a community of faith
Who together journey towards better ways of living.
Help us to find you here, as we, as fellow travellers,
Support and encourage one another.
Make us wise and willing to listen to you. Amen**

Prayer of Praise *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018 p.84*

God of all heaven, we gather here to worship you,
To stand in wonder before you,
To sing and praise and rejoice in your company,
In fellowship with others who bless your name. **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 2 September 2018*

God, we admit that our motives can get murky.
Forgive us when we "play-act" our faith, not letting your words sink into us,
Merely reciting what sounds good

Without acknowledging the ugliness in our hearts.
Peel away the layers of our hypocrisy and help us to drop our masks.
**Forgive us for our wicked ways.
Bring your light into our hearts. 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. The Church**

Lord Jesus, you are the vine and St John's Church is one of its many branches.
You sent the Holy Spirit to be alongside us individually every day
To motivate us to become equipped for our tasks
Of caring for each other,
Of demonstrating your love by our work in the local community,
And how we work through the challenges we encounter daily.
Be with us as we worship, pray, learn, discuss and have fellowship
Not just in church services but also in the House Groups,
Elders' meetings and other meeting groups. **Amen**

2. Justice *Adapted from Prayerbook 2018p.86*

Merciful God, bringer of justice, arise in our world.
We see injustice and oppression and it feels hard to make a difference.
PAUSE FOR ONE MINUTE TO THINK OUR OWN PARTICULAR PRAYERS
We pray especially for Nazarin Zaghari-Ratcliffe imprisoned in Iran.
Only your love can change the world.
Let us trust in your healing power to release us from whatever holds us back
From being the quiet or loud game-changers in our communities.
We ask all these things in your name. **Amen**

3. New academic year *adapted from Free Churches Group: Education Committee*

We pray for those entering formal or informal education: for those in local schools, colleges, universities, churches, in community centre classes or groups, evening classes, apprenticeships or exploring alternative pathways to learning.

We pray particularly for:

all adults going to work for the first time or returning to work following further or higher education courses or career breaks after spells of unemployment or raising a family;

all young people planning their next steps into vocational training, or further or higher education courses;

all infants beginning their first term of formal education in nursery or reception;

all those involved in teaching, learning support and careers guidance.

May God uphold and direct those in need of support and direction.

May the paths be clear and the purpose steady.

We pray that it is a time of transformation, joy, challenge, and personal growth.

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 *Adapted from St Johns Order of Service, 12.08.18*

Never forget "Be still and know that I am God

And there is none beside me"

As we offer ourselves for you and the days ahead to you

Make us your faithful disciples, helping others to travel the road of life.

End our longing for the old days, give us the vision that we need,

As once we have started on this journey there can be no turning back.

You keep us travelling in the knowledge that you are always at our side. Amen

Prayer Fellowship

At home or in Church



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

Wednesday 19th September 8p.m. 2018

Number 61
St John's URC Northwood