

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 Prayerbook 2020 p105*

We still ourselves to be steeped in the knowledge of the countless ways
In which your covenant has painted your rainbow path across the Earth.
We still ourselves to receive your holy joy, poured out through time & space
Enlivening & invigorating us to respond to join the dance of life.
We still ourselves to become a living remembrance of your grace & glory,
Pilgrims on the journey of eternity, alight with hope
And suffused with praise. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p106*

O Christ, whose wisdom and love are beyond compare,
We confess that we are challenged by your questions with no easy answers.
We proclaim newness of life whilst clinging to old ways of being.
We want to share your love but struggle
When it is revealed through unexpected people.
Help us to listen, to understand, to change,
So that we may behave as your children, as your disciples and as your body.
Forgive us Lord, and make us new. **Amen**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *Adapted from Roots July 12 & 19 2020*

Lord, we thank you that all good gifts come from you.
We thank you for all you have already given us.
And as the good soil welcomes the seed and helps it to grow
We welcome you to take root and flourish in our lives.
Thank you for the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide us through all trials,
Giving us hope and patience, in every situation. **Amen.**

Personal Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p90 & 94*

Merciful God, sometimes it is difficult for us to understand
Why things happen in the ways that they do;
Why people make and carry out plans to hurt others;
Why we find ourselves facing danger;
Why challenges seem to follow wherever we go.

Give us strength of faith to recognise the plans that you have for our good:
Your design for a world where all people are concerned for each other's well-being
And safety, aiming to live harmoniously together.

Help us to believe that this is possible and work to make it happen
By obedience to your will and teaching.

As we journey together, keep us from wrestling with one another to prove our worth
As we have worth in you.

Teach us the way of tending to the broken in society.

Enable us to forgive others and become channels of justice.

Fill us to overflowing with your compassion in our desire to bring comfort,

So that we may nourish the lonely and stigmatised

And become advocates for the vulnerable.

Help us to live confident of your guiding hand and to love others generously. **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. **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 – on what we have just prayed about

Closing Prayer *Adapted from Prayerbook 2020 p101*

God is with us as we go through the week, know that love does no one any wrong

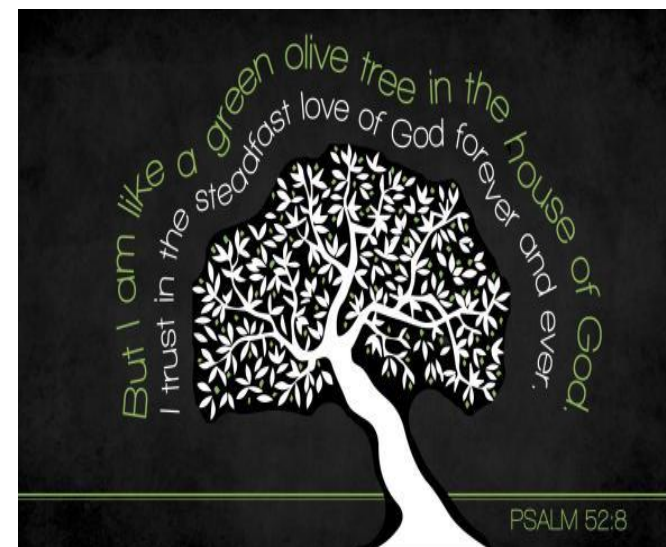
And love is our saving grace

Go though the week recognising that love has everything

To do with justice and right-living....so, go in 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**

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St John's URC Northwood