**Opening Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving**

**Psalm 145**

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

All you have made will praise you O Lord, your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom, and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving towards all he has made. The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving towards all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

O Lord out of your grace and mercy come close to us now as we seek to come close to you. It is with love and longing that we enter your presence. A holy and divine sanctuary of welcome and peace. A place of forgiveness and reconciliation. A place of healing and restoration. Our true home where one day you will call us to be with you for eternity.

To the glory of your name and your kingdom. Amen

**Intercessions**

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. So Lord show your compassion on those for whom we pray and those with whom we pray.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We bring before you those directly affected by this Corona Virus. The sick, the infected and those awaiting test results. Those suffering from isolation, uncertainty and fear. The carers, medical professionals and support staff. Those involved in palliative and end of life care and those who support families and loved ones who have suffered loss.

Father God, we ask that you would come alongside the sick and place your healing hands upon them. Wrap them in your loving arms and take their fear away. We trust that through prayer and petition and the help of medics all that can be done, will be done.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We bring to your throne of grace those who are often unknown to us but who are known to you. Those who selflessly support their communities unseen and un-recognised giving of their time, their money and their love.

Thank you Lord for all people who give their time, energy and financial help, that do it for your glory, not their own. They are angels on earth and we thank them for their tireless support. Uphold and bless the background workers who seek nothing more than to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We bring into your throne room those who you are drawing towards yourself. Those presently living in fear and anxiety in confusion and doubt. Those whose circumstances are under continual threat through poverty, through criticism, and through torment and ill-health.

 For those who have little, help us to have generous hearts towards them. Help us to stand alongside them, put our arms around them and pray with them that all will be well in the fullness of time. Words are often easy but help us to show love and help in a practical way. Sometimes a listening ear is all that is required, so that people understand we hear their concerns and worries and that someone does care. May all living in fear and anxiety know that they are not alone, for you Lord are always close.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Finally we bring before you those who are seeking to find the way forward through this present crisis. The politicians, the business leaders, the vaccine researchers.

For the politicians, medical researchers and other leaders in this country, bless them Lord and help them to make the right decisions at the right time. Have your hand upon them as they lead us through the current pandemic and may they clearly hear your voice, to guide them and give them wisdom.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We rest on your promises father. Not to be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to present our requests to you our God and Father. And that your peace, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus,

in whose name we pray. Amen