**Opening prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving**

**Psalm 95**

“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving

and extol him with music and song.”

Father, help us to worship you in spirit and truth,

that our hearts will be opened by your love,

our minds nourished by your truth,

our imagination stirred by your beauty,

our consciences quickened by your holiness,

and our wills surrendered to your purpose.

**Amen**

**Intercessions**

Let us begin our intercessions with a minute of silence where we remember in our own way those that have been affected in any way by the Coronavirus.

*‘A moment of silence’*

Gracious Father, we pray for all those affected by this virus, for those who have lost loved ones. For those who are sick. For those who are fearful. For any who have been affected in any way. Lord, may we know the comfort of your presence, the power of your healing, may our security be in the assurance of your love and compassion. We pray for those who are especially vulnerable. Help us to look to you and we ask that we may know your deliverance.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

We give thanks for all those who are giving so much to caring for us at this time, often at considerable risk to themselves. Our NHS, Doctors and all in the medical professions, Carers both at home and in Care homes, those who serve us with deliveries and shopping, there are so many, Father, we thank you for them. Help us to be a grateful people.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

We give thanks to for all the volunteers in our own church, faithfully serving in many ways to minister to those in need, we think of Cafe Emm and Foodbank but there is so much going on in both organised and personal service in our church and we thank you so much for all those who in various ways are keeping us together. We look forward to the time when we can all be together again. And our prayers we ask that at this time many will call on your name and look for your salvation.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

Father, it is in times like this when so much of ‘normal’ life is taken away from us that we begin to realise how much we have. You speak to us in this. In our sense of loss of ‘normal’ at this time we consider Jesus in all that he gave up to come to earth and suffer and die for us, help us to understand that what we have lost is nothing to what he voluntary gave for us and we pray that when this time is over we will be more grateful, thankful for the lives we have and that we will more faithfully consider those who have much less both in this country and further afield. Father, we pray they will not be cast adrift and forgotten.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

We finish our prayers by asking for guidance and wisdom for those who have to make difficult decisions in the coming days and weeks. That they will make those wisely and honestly and will not be motivated by political or populist considerations. There is much on their shoulders and we ask for your grace and help to be with them.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

**Amen!**