Prayer prompts

1. Praying for 5 people to know the love of Christ.
   You will need 5 candles and a box of matches.

   Pray for each person individually, asking God to draw close to them and to be revealed to them, as you light a candle.

   A possible prayer you can pray:

   Holy Father, thank you for giving me ……. In my life,
   Please bless them and draw close to them today.
   Wake them up wondering about you, give them a hunger to find you and help me show you light to them.
   Amen

2. Praying for our churches and the wider church.

Above are all the churches in the benefice. Some of us are attached to these beautiful buildings and the memories of meeting with the peace of God within their walls. Other only care for the people we share those experiences within. Most of us cannot separate the two. What unites all of us is the peace acceptance and gentle reminder of God's presence. We are missing gathering together to worship and are desperate to return but it is slowly dawning that our ideas of re-opening with a bang will not be possible and it will be many months before we can worship as whole congregations together.

Hold your thoughts and feelings about this up to God, allow the different emotions to rise and settle. Acknowledge how you feel and what you hope for in the moths and years to come. Ask God to help us and every church across the world to look after each other and to reach out to those that don't know him. Pray that God gives us new ideas and expands our imaginations.

You might want to pray this prayer for the worldwide church;

May your love that never fails
strengthen the weak
encourage the fearful
calm the anxious
heal the sick
through your church –
your washed hands
and feet on earth –
distant but still present
virtual but still connected
apart but still helping.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Amen.

3. Pray for those who are ill, suffering, mourning or fearful.

These can be generic prayers for all those experiencing these things worldwide or for specific people who are on your heart. Ask God to scoop them up in an all-encompassing embrace, bringing peace, healing, comfort and a hope for the future.

4. Spend time in silence, drawing close to Jesus, listening to the still small voice.
   You might want to say this prayer in preparation:

Loving God,
I seek your presence in the silence beyond words
looking to you for comfort, strength, protection and reassurance
breathing with gratitude, holding on to hope, trusting with faith
that you are still God
in the midst of the turmoil
and that your love reaches to the ends of the earth.
Be present with me now.
(Silence)
Amen.