



# Formation Devotional

*April 27, 2020 Evening*

*Forming Worship, Life, and Ministry Together at Christ Covenant Church*

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*As you come before him this evening, rest in the assurance of his great love. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## **Call to Prayer**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

## **Opening Prayer**

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 825)

## **Prayer of Examine**

Turn your attention to Christ who is present with you now. With him, review the ordinary events and emotions of your day with gratitude.

1. Where did you move with or feel close to Jesus today?
2. Where did you resist or feel far from Jesus today?
3. Where is Jesus leading you tomorrow? Ask for joy as you follow him.

## **Praying the Psalms**

*Prayerfully read the psalm back to God through faith in Jesus Christ.*

### **Psalm 12**

#### **The Faithful Have Vanished**

*To the choirmaster: according to The Sheminith. A Psalm of David.*

Save, O LORD, for the godly one is gone;

for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man.

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<sup>2</sup>Everyone utters lies to his neighbor;  
with flattering lips and a double heart they speak.

<sup>3</sup>May the LORD cut off all flattering lips,  
the tongue that makes great boasts,

<sup>4</sup>those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail,  
our lips are with us; who is master over us?"

<sup>5</sup>"Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan,  
I will now arise," says the LORD;  
"I will place him in the safety for which he longs."

<sup>6</sup>The words of the LORD are pure words,  
like silver refined in a furnace on the ground,  
purified seven times.

<sup>7</sup>You, O LORD, will keep them;  
you will guard us from this generation forever.

<sup>8</sup>On every side the wicked prowl,  
as vileness is exalted among the children of man.

## Old Testament Reading

Exodus tells the story of the enslavement of God's people by the Egyptians. God raises up a deliverer named Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, but the Egyptians resist, and God answers with the ten plagues. Exodus also contains the Ten Commandments and instructions for a tent where God would meet His people. This was called the tent of Moses, or the tabernacle.

*As you read and reflect on this passage, prayerfully consider how God might be revealing himself to you this evening.*

## Exodus 34

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## Moses Makes New Tablets

The LORD said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. <sup>2</sup>Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. <sup>3</sup>No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain.” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. <sup>5</sup>The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” <sup>8</sup>And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshipped. <sup>9</sup>And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

## The Covenant Renewed

<sup>10</sup>And he said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

<sup>11</sup>“Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>12</sup>Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. <sup>13</sup>You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim <sup>14</sup>(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), <sup>15</sup>lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, <sup>16</sup>and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not make for yourself any gods of cast metal.

<sup>18</sup>“You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Abib, for in the month Abib you came out from Egypt. <sup>19</sup>All that open the womb are mine, all your male livestock, the firstborn of cow and sheep. <sup>20</sup>The firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before me empty-handed.

<sup>21</sup>“Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest. <sup>22</sup>You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end. <sup>23</sup>Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the LORD

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God, the God of Israel. <sup>24</sup>For I will cast out nations before you and enlarge your borders; no one shall covet your land, when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year.

<sup>25</sup>“You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with anything leavened, or let the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover remain until the morning. <sup>26</sup>The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.”

<sup>27</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” <sup>28</sup>So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

### **The Shining Face of Moses**

<sup>29</sup>When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. <sup>30</sup>Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup>But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

<sup>34</sup>Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, <sup>35</sup>the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

### **Work**

- Thank God that we can come before him empty-handed and confess the futility of our efforts. Thank him that he is the one who gives us work and blesses the fruit of our labor.
- Look back over the past week and praise God for the ways you may have glimpsed tangible expressions of his glory in your daily work.

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illuminate this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 133)

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## **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

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*Wonder what your next step in spiritual formation is? Consider getting involved in a Growth Group.*

*For a handy guide to the devotional elements and an archive of past issues, visit [ccotc.org/devotional](http://ccotc.org/devotional).*