



# Formation Devotional

April 8, 2020 Morning

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

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*Enter into this time expectantly, knowing that God delights to reveal himself to you. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 59:16)

## Opening Prayer

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 215)

## Confession of Sin

Lord Jesus Christ, though being in very nature God, when you came to redeem us you humbled yourself and made yourself nothing. Though you were rich, for our sakes you became poor, so that through your poverty we might become rich. We confess how unlike you we are in our attitudes and actions. We strive for recognition from others, and we sulk and become bitter if we do not get it. We attend to our own needs and concerns yet fail to care for others except when it serves our purposes. Forgive us our sin and renew our hearts. Grant us to realize that we only achieve greatness and gain our lives by giving them away. Work in us by the power of your Spirit so that we become more like you and so bring glory to our Father in heaven. Amen.

*Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and give thanks for his assurance of pardon through the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord...Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith." (Philippians 3:1, 8-9)

## Praying the Psalms

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*Read the psalm prayerfully back to God by faith in Christ.*

## **Psalm 135**

### **Your Name, O LORD, Endures Forever**

Praise the LORD!

Praise the name of the LORD,

give praise, O servants of the LORD,

<sup>2</sup>who stand in the house of the LORD,

in the courts of the house of our God!

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;

sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

<sup>4</sup>For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself,

Israel as his own possession.

<sup>5</sup>For I know that the LORD is great,

and that our Lord is above all gods.

<sup>6</sup>Whatever the LORD pleases, he does,

in heaven and on earth,

in the seas and all deeps.

<sup>7</sup>He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth,

who makes lightnings for the rain

and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

<sup>8</sup>He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,

both of man and of beast;

<sup>9</sup>who in your midst, O Egypt,

sent signs and wonders

against Pharaoh and all his servants;

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<sup>10</sup>who struck down many nations  
and killed mighty kings,  
<sup>11</sup>Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
and Og, king of Bashan,  
and all the kingdoms of Canaan,  
<sup>12</sup>and gave their land as a heritage,  
a heritage to his people Israel.  
<sup>13</sup>Your name, O LORD, endures forever,  
your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.  
<sup>14</sup>For the LORD will vindicate his people  
and have compassion on his servants.  
<sup>15</sup>The idols of the nations are silver and gold,  
the work of human hands.  
<sup>16</sup>They have mouths, but do not speak;  
they have eyes, but do not see;  
<sup>17</sup>they have ears, but do not hear,  
nor is there any breath in their mouths.  
<sup>18</sup>Those who make them become like them,  
so do all who trust in them.  
<sup>19</sup>O house of Israel, bless the LORD!  
O house of Aaron, bless the LORD!  
<sup>20</sup>O house of Levi, bless the LORD!  
You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!  
<sup>21</sup>Blessed be the LORD from Zion,  
he who dwells in Jerusalem!

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Praise the LORD!

## New Testament Reading

John's gospel is reflective and geared for the Greek reader. The famous first line, "In the beginning was the Word . . ." sets the stage for an account that not only reveals that Jesus is the Son of God but also refutes the pagan mystery religions that were beginning to flourish around him. John exhorts his readers from the beginning that Jesus is the lens through which to see all of creation, and he ends his gospel by saying that even creation could not contain all of the things that Jesus did.

*Meditate on the passage, noting a few words or a phrase that stood out or a promise to meditate on today. Take them to God in prayer.*

### John 4

#### Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup>(although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), <sup>3</sup>he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. <sup>4</sup>And he had to pass through Samaria. <sup>5</sup>So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

<sup>7</sup>A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is

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coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”<sup>28</sup> So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”<sup>30</sup> They went out of the town and were coming to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.<sup>36</sup> Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

<sup>43</sup>After the two days he departed for Galilee.<sup>44</sup> (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own hometown.)<sup>45</sup> So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, having seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the feast. For they too had gone to the feast.

## **Jesus Heals an Official's Son**

<sup>46</sup>So he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. And at Capernaum there was an official whose son was ill.<sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.<sup>48</sup> So Jesus said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.”<sup>49</sup> The official said to him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.”<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, “Go; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went on his way.<sup>51</sup> As he was going down, his servants met him and told him that his son was recovering.<sup>52</sup> So he asked them the hour when he began to get better, and they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”<sup>53</sup> The father knew that was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” And he himself believed, and all his household.<sup>54</sup> This was now the second sign that Jesus did when he had come from Judea to Galilee.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **Church Community**

- Pray that relationships of genuine accountability would be cultivated in our Shepherding & Growth Groups.

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- Pray for the global church, especially for Christians in Australia: for churches facing stagnant growth, individualistic spirituality, and negative views toward Christians' perceived intolerance.
  - Pray for the church in Columbia: ask God to show you how he is calling you to serve your church at this time. Ask God to help his people discover and use their spiritual gifts.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Benediction**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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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).*