



# Formation Devotional

January 13, 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

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. (Psalm 141:2)

## 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 18

### The LORD Is My Rock and My Fortress

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:*

**1** I love you, O LORD, my strength.

**2** The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

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my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
and I am saved from my enemies.

4 The cords of death encompassed me;  
the torrents of destruction assailed me;

5 the cords of Sheol entangled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

6 In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears.

7 Then the earth reeled and rocked;  
the foundations also of the mountains trembled  
and quaked, because he was angry.

8 Smoke went up from his nostrils,  
and devouring fire from his mouth;  
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

9 He bowed the heavens and came down;  
thick darkness was under his feet.

10 He rode on a cherub and flew;  
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,  
thick clouds dark with water.

12 Out of the brightness before him

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hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

**13** The LORD also thundered in the heavens,

and the Most High uttered his voice,

hailstones and coals of fire.

**14** And he sent out his arrows and scattered them;

he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.

**15** Then the channels of the sea were seen,

and the foundations of the world were laid bare

at your rebuke, O LORD,

at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

**16** He sent from on high, he took me;

he drew me out of many waters.

**17** He rescued me from my strong enemy

and from those who hated me,

for they were too mighty for me.

**18** They confronted me in the day of my calamity,

but the LORD was my support.

**19** He brought me out into a broad place;

he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

**20** The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness;

according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.

**21** For I have kept the ways of the LORD,

and have not wickedly departed from my God.

**22** For all his rules were before me,

and his statutes I did not put away from me.

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23 I was blameless before him,  
and I kept myself from my guilt.

24 So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness,  
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

25 With the merciful you show yourself merciful;  
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;

26 with the purified you show yourself pure;  
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.

27 For you save a humble people,  
but the haughty eyes you bring down.

28 For it is you who light my lamp;  
the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

29 For by you I can run against a troop,  
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

30 This God—his way is perfect;  
the word of the LORD proves true;  
he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

31 For who is God, but the LORD?  
And who is a rock, except our God?—

32 the God who equipped me with strength  
and made my way blameless.

33 He made my feet like the feet of a deer  
and set me secure on the heights.

34 He trains my hands for war,  
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

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35 You have given me the shield of your salvation,  
and your right hand supported me,  
and your gentleness made me great.

36 You gave a wide place for my steps under me,  
and my feet did not slip.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them,  
and did not turn back till they were consumed.

38 I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise;  
they fell under my feet.

39 For you equipped me with strength for the battle;  
you made those who rise against me sink under me.

40 You made my enemies turn their backs to me,  
and those who hated me I destroyed.

41 They cried for help, but there was none to save;  
they cried to the LORD, but he did not answer them.

42 I beat them fine as dust before the wind;  
I cast them out like the mire of the streets.

43 You delivered me from strife with the people;  
you made me the head of the nations;  
people whom I had not known served me.

44 As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me;  
foreigners came cringing to me.

45 Foreigners lost heart  
and came trembling out of their fortresses.

46 The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock,

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and exalted be the God of my salvation—

**47** the God who gave me vengeance

and subdued peoples under me,

**48** who rescued me from my enemies;

yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me;

you delivered me from the man of violence.

**49** For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,

and sing to your name.

**50** Great salvation he brings to his king,

and shows steadfast love to his anointed,

to David and his offspring forever.

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis gives the account of creation, and the reason why it is so amazing and so corrupt at the same time. The original intent of God for mankind is revealed: God creates the earth for mankind, and mankind for God. Though things go wrong in the beginning, God promises the nomad Abraham that there would be a people who would know Him and walk in His ways in the midst of a broken and rebellious world. The rest of Genesis unfolds in the way God forms this people in the ancient world.*

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

## Genesis 9

**1** And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. **2** The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. **3** Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. **4** But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. **5** And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

**6** “Whoever sheds the blood of man,

by man shall his blood be shed,

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for God made man in his own image.

7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

### **Noah's Descendants**

18 The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) 19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.

20 Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. 21 He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. 24 When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, 25 he said,

“Cursed be Canaan;

a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”

26 He also said,

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;

and let Canaan be his servant.

27 May God enlarge Japheth,

and let him dwell in the tents of Shem,

and let Canaan be his servant.”

28 After the flood Noah lived 350 years. 29 All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

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## 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.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are weary from the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 133)

### Benediction

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

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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).*