



# Formation Devotional

January 21, 2020 Evening

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

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*Come into this time just as you are, like a child who runs to his father's arms. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.  
(Psalm 42:8)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 235)

## 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 30

#### Joy Comes with the Morning

*A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the temple.*

1 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up

and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

2 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,

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and you have healed me.

**3** O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;

you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

**4** Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,

and give thanks to his holy name.

**5** For his anger is but for a moment,

and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

**6** As for me, I said in my prosperity,

“I shall never be moved.”

**7** By your favor, O LORD,

you made my mountain stand strong;

you hid your face;

I was dismayed.

**8** To you, O LORD, I cry,

and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

**9** “What profit is there in my death,

if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**10** Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!

O LORD, be my helper!”

**11** You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

you have loosed my sackcloth

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and clothed me with gladness,

**12** that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you 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 15

### God's Covenant with Abram

**1** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." **2** But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" **3** And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." **4** And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." **5** And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." **6** And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

**7** And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." **8** But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" **9** He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." **10** And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. **11** And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

**12** As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. **13** Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. **14** But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. **15** As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. **16** And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

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17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Gospel Identity

- Thank God for forming the desire in your heart to seek him.
- Thank him for meeting you in daily prayer and speaking to you through his Word.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. (BCP 134)

### 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).*