



# Formation Devotional

January 22, 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

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP 225)

## Confession of Sin

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Amen.

*Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and respond in gratitude according to the assurance of grace.*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(Titus 3:4-7)

## Praying the Psalms

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

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## Psalm 31

### Into Your Hand I Commit My Spirit

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.*

1 In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame;

in your righteousness deliver me!

2 Incline your ear to me;

rescue me speedily!

Be a rock of refuge for me,

a strong fortress to save me!

3 For you are my rock and my fortress;

and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;

4 you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,

for you are my refuge.

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;

you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

6 I hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,

but I trust in the LORD.

7 I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,

because you have seen my affliction;

you have known the distress of my soul,

8 and you have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;

you have set my feet in a broad place.

9 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;

my eye is wasted from grief;

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my soul and my body also.

**10** For my life is spent with sorrow,

and my years with sighing;

my strength fails because of my iniquity,

and my bones waste away.

**11** Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,

especially to my neighbors,

and an object of dread to my acquaintances;

those who see me in the street flee from me.

**12** I have been forgotten like one who is dead;

I have become like a broken vessel.

**13** For I hear the whispering of many —

terror on every side! —

as they scheme together against me,

as they plot to take my life.

**14** But I trust in you, O LORD;

I say, “You are my God.”

**15** My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

**16** Make your face shine on your servant;

save me in your steadfast love!

**17** O LORD, let me not be put to shame,

for I call upon you;

let the wicked be put to shame;

let them go silently to Sheol.

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**18** Let the lying lips be mute,

which speak insolently against the righteous  
in pride and contempt.

**19** Oh, how abundant is your goodness,

which you have stored up for those who fear you  
and worked for those who take refuge in you,  
in the sight of the children of mankind!

**20** In the cover of your presence you hide them

from the plots of men;  
you store them in your shelter  
from the strife of tongues.

**21** Blessed be the LORD,

for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me  
when I was in a besieged city.

**22** I had said in my alarm,

“I am cut off from your sight.”

But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy

when I cried to you for help.

**23** Love the LORD, all you his saints!

The LORD preserves the faithful  
but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

**24** Be strong, and let your heart take courage,

all you who wait for the LORD!

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## New Testament Reading

*Matthew was written for a Jewish audience. That's why he starts his gospel with a genealogy. Tracing the lineage of Jesus back to David would be significant to a Hebrew who was wondering if Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. In that light, Matthew's references to the Old Testament reminds us that Jesus is God's fulfillment of the Jewish law and the prophets. The Sermon on the Mount becomes the new identity for the people of God.*

*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.*

### Matthew 16

#### The Pharisees and Sadducees Demand Signs

**1** And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. **2** He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' **3** And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. **4** An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." So he left them and departed.

#### The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

**5** When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. **6** Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." **7** And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, "We brought no bread." **8** But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? **9** Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? **10** Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? **11** How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." **12** Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

#### Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

**13** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." **20** Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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## Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

**21** From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. **22** And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." **23** But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

## Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

**24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? **27** For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. **28** Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

## Prayers of Intercession

### Church Community

- Pray for Christ Covenants deacons: for perseverance, compassion, and courage as they serve the church and city.
- Pray for the global church, especially for those in Africa facing ethnic conflicts, famine, and corrupt leaders.
- Pray for evangelistic efforts throughout Columbia: that the whole body of believers would experience personal gospel renewal and that many others would also come to know Christ.

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).*