



# Formation Devotional

January 23, 2020 Evening

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

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*Take a moment to slow down and turn your thoughts to God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

## Opening Prayer

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 830)

## 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 34

#### Taste and See That the LORD Is Good

*Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.*

I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

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let the humble hear and be glad.

<sup>3</sup>Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

and let us exalt his name together!

<sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, and he answered me

and delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup>Those who look to him are radiant,

and their faces shall never be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup>This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him

and saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps

around those who fear him, and delivers them.

<sup>8</sup>Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

<sup>9</sup>Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints,

for those who fear him have no lack!

<sup>10</sup>The young lions suffer want and hunger;

but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

<sup>11</sup>Come, O children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>What man is there who desires life

and loves many days, that he may see good?

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil

and your lips from speaking deceit.

<sup>14</sup>Turn away from evil and do good;

seek peace and pursue it.

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- <sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous  
and his ears toward their cry.
- <sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- <sup>17</sup>When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears  
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves the crushed in spirit.
- <sup>19</sup>Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- <sup>20</sup>He keeps all his bones;  
not one of them is broken.
- <sup>21</sup>Affliction will slay the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- <sup>22</sup>The LORD redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

## 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.*

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## Genesis 17

### Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup>And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

<sup>9</sup>And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. <sup>10</sup>This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. <sup>11</sup>You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. <sup>12</sup>He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, <sup>13</sup>both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup>Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

### Isaac's Birth Promised

<sup>15</sup>And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” <sup>18</sup>And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” <sup>19</sup>God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>20</sup>As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

<sup>22</sup>When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very day, as God had said to him. <sup>24</sup>Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. <sup>25</sup>And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. <sup>26</sup>That very day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised. <sup>27</sup>And all the men of his house, those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

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## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Relationships

- Thank God that we are his adopted children through Jesus Christ and co-heirs to his kingdom. Thank him that our children can rest in his love even when their earthly parents fall short.
- Thank God for the staff and volunteers at the Children's and Youth Ministries at Christ Covenant. For faithfully teaching our young ones the glorious deeds of the Lord so that they would set their hope in God.

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).*