



# Formation Devotional

January 28, 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

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. (Psalm 90:17)

## Opening Prayer

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 814)

## 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 40

#### My Help and My Deliverer

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.*

I waited patiently for the LORD;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

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<sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed is the man who makes  
the LORD his trust,  
who does not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after a lie!

<sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
none can compare with you!

I will proclaim and tell of them,  
yet they are more than can be told.

<sup>6</sup>In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,  
but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering  
you have not required.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Behold, I have come;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup>I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart."

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<sup>9</sup>I have told the glad news of deliverance

in the great congregation;

behold, I have not restrained my lips,

as you know, O LORD.

<sup>10</sup>I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness

from the great congregation.

<sup>11</sup>As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain

your mercy from me;

your steadfast love and your faithfulness will

ever preserve me!

<sup>12</sup>For evils have encompassed me

beyond number;

my iniquities have overtaken me,

and I cannot see;

they are more than the hairs of my head;

my heart fails me.

<sup>13</sup>Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me!

O LORD, make haste to help me!

<sup>14</sup>Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether

who seek to snatch away my life;

let those be turned back and brought to dishonor

who delight in my hurt!

<sup>15</sup>Let those be appalled because of their shame

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who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

<sup>16</sup>But may all who seek you

rejoice and be glad in you;

may those who love your salvation

say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

<sup>17</sup>As for me, I am poor and needy,

but the Lord takes thought for me.

You are my help and my deliverer;

do not delay, O my God!

## 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 20

### Abraham and Abimelech

From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. <sup>2</sup>And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. <sup>3</sup>But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." <sup>4</sup>Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people? <sup>5</sup>Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." <sup>6</sup>Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. <sup>7</sup>Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

<sup>8</sup>So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. <sup>9</sup>Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have

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you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”<sup>10</sup> And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you see, that you did this thing?”<sup>11</sup> Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’<sup>12</sup> Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.<sup>13</sup> And when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, I said to her, ‘This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”

<sup>14</sup>Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him.<sup>15</sup> And Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you.”<sup>16</sup> To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated.”<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.<sup>18</sup> For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Gospel Identity

- Thank God for giving us his only son, so that we may have the living hope found only in Jesus Christ.
- Praise him that he is a missional God who sends us out to love the world, our city, and our neighborhoods.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 816)

### 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).*