



# Formation Devotional

July 21, 2020 Morning

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

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*As you read and pray this morning, remember you are in God's presence. Trust in the Holy Spirit to guide you and direct your thoughts. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

## Opening Prayer

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in 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 216)

## Confession of Sin

O Lord, no day of our lives passes that does not prove us guilty in your sight. Our best services are filthy rags. All things in us call for our rejection. However, all things in Christ plead our acceptance. Grant us to hear your voice assuring us that by your wounds we are healed, that you were bruised for our iniquities, that you became sin for us that we might become righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness we may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and give thanks for his assurance of pardon through the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

"Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." (Acts 13:38-39)

## Praying the Psalms

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

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## Psalm 127

### Unless the LORD Builds the House

*A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon.*

Unless the LORD builds the house,

those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city,

the watchman stays awake in vain.

<sup>2</sup>It is in vain that you rise up early

and go late to rest,

eating the bread of anxious toil;

for he gives to his beloved sleep.

<sup>3</sup>Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,

the fruit of the womb a reward.

<sup>4</sup>Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

are the children of one's youth.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed is the man

who fills his quiver with them!

He shall not be put to shame

when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

## New Testament Reading

One of Paul's earliest epistles, 1 Corinthians was addressed to a church struggling with serious doctrinal and practical theology issues. From adulterous relationships and unnatural gender roles to infighting and misuse of miraculous spiritual gifts, the church in Corinth seemed to be falling apart. Yet Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was able to thank God for them and lovingly correct

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their faults—even when he had to exercise church discipline. This epistle can help us be better church members, keeping watch over our own hearts and the health of our church family.

*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.*

## 1 Corinthians 13

### The Way of Love

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

<sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

### Prayers of Intercession

#### Gospel Identity

- Pray that Christians at Christ Covenant would be formed more and more into Christ's image through the practices of devotion, worship, accountability, hospitality, and rest.
- Pray that God would make you ready to share the reason for your hope within with those around you.

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.

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## **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).*