



# Formation Devotional

July 29, 2020 Evening

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

*Cling to Jesus and rest in him this evening, knowing that the Father sees you and loves you like his only Son. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. (Psalm 121:2-4)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this church family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the repentant. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 817)

## 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 140

#### Deliver Me, O LORD, from Evil Men

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.*

Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men;

preserve me from violent men,

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<sup>2</sup>who plan evil things in their heart  
and stir up wars continually.

<sup>3</sup>They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's,  
and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah

<sup>4</sup>Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;  
preserve me from violent men,  
who have planned to trip up my feet.

<sup>5</sup>The arrogant have hidden a trap for me,  
and with cords they have spread a net;<sup>a</sup>  
beside the way they have set snares for me. Selah

<sup>6</sup>I say to the LORD, You are my God;  
give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, O LORD!

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, my Lord, the strength of my salvation,  
you have covered my head in the day of battle.

<sup>8</sup>Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;  
do not further their<sup>b</sup> evil plot, or they will be exalted! Selah

<sup>9</sup>As for the head of those who surround me,  
let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them!

<sup>10</sup>Let burning coals fall upon them!  
Let them be cast into fire,  
into miry pits, no more to rise!

<sup>11</sup>Let not the slanderer be established in the land;  
let evil hunt down the violent man speedily!

<sup>12</sup>I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted,  
and will execute justice for the needy.

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<sup>13</sup>Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name;  
the upright shall dwell in your presence.

## Old Testament Reading

Numbers describes the preparations the Jews undertook to enter the land that God promised them. They come to the border of that land and send in spies, who are overwhelmed by the obstacles they see and bring back a report that the Jews won't survive there. God then forbids this generation of Jews to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief, and forty years of wandering in the wilderness ensues.

*As you read and reflect on this passage, prayerfully consider how God might be revealing himself to you this evening.*

## Numbers 34

### Boundaries of the Land

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Command the people of Israel, and say to them, When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders), <sup>3</sup>your south side shall be from the wilderness of Zin alongside Edom, and your southern border shall run from the end of the Salt Sea on the east. <sup>4</sup>And your border shall turn south of the ascent of Akkrabbim, and cross to Zin, and its limit shall be south of Kadesh-barnea. Then it shall go on to Hazar-addar, and pass along to Azmon. <sup>5</sup>And the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and its limit shall be at the sea.

<sup>6</sup>“For the western border, you shall have the Great Sea and its<sup>10</sup> coast. This shall be your western border.

<sup>7</sup>“This shall be your northern border: from the Great Sea you shall draw a line to Mount Hor. <sup>8</sup>From Mount Hor you shall draw a line to Lebo-hamath, and the limit of the border shall be at Zedad. <sup>9</sup>Then the border shall extend to Ziphron, and its limit shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your northern border.

<sup>10</sup>“You shall draw a line for your eastern border from Hazar-enan to Shepham. <sup>11</sup>And the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain. And the border shall go down and reach to the shoulder of the Sea of Chinnereth on the east. <sup>12</sup>And the border shall go down to the Jordan, and its limit shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land as defined by its borders all around.”

<sup>13</sup>Moses commanded the people of Israel, saying, “This is the land that you shall inherit by lot, which the LORD has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe. <sup>14</sup>For the tribe of the people of Reuben by fathers' houses and the tribe of the people of Gad by their fathers' houses have received their inheritance, and also the half-tribe of Manasseh. <sup>15</sup>The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, toward the sunrise.”

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## List of Tribal Chiefs

<sup>16</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>17</sup>“These are the names of the men who shall divide the land to you for inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun. <sup>18</sup>You shall take one chief from every tribe to divide the land for inheritance. <sup>19</sup>These are the names of the men: Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh. <sup>20</sup>Of the tribe of the people of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud. <sup>21</sup>Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon. <sup>22</sup>Of the tribe of the people of Dan a chief, Bukki the son of Jogli. <sup>23</sup>Of the people of Joseph: of the tribe of the people of Manasseh a chief, Hanniel the son of Ephod. <sup>24</sup>And of the tribe of the people of Ephraim a chief, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan. <sup>25</sup>Of the tribe of the people of Zebulun a chief, Elizaphan the son of Parnach. <sup>26</sup>Of the tribe of the people of Issachar a chief, Paltiel the son of Azzan. <sup>27</sup>And of the tribe of the people of Asher a chief, Ahihud the son of Shelomi. <sup>28</sup>Of the tribe of the people of Naphtali a chief, Pedahel the son of Ammihud.” <sup>29</sup>These are the men whom the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance for the people of Israel in the land of Canaan.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Church Community

- Thank God for Christ Covenant’s youth and children’s ministry leaders; thank him for the leaders who are teaching our future generation to know and apply the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Thank God that he knows every believer—past, present and future—by name.

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

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).*