



# Formation Devotional

June 11, 2020 Morning

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

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*Rejoice and be glad, for your father invites you into his loving presence. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress. (Isaiah 33:2)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 831)

## Confession of Sin

O Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. We have not denied ourselves, taken up the cross and followed you. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to the needs of the poor, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice nor cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. Lord, forgive us for our offenses and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we might live in light of your coming again. 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.*

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7)

## Praying the Psalms

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

## Psalm 77

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## **In the Day of Trouble I Seek the Lord**

*To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.*

I cry aloud to God,

aloud to God, and he will hear me.

<sup>2</sup>In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;

in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;

my soul refuses to be comforted.

<sup>3</sup>When I remember God, I moan;

when I meditate, my spirit faints. Selah

<sup>4</sup>You hold my eyelids open;

I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

<sup>5</sup>I consider the days of old,

the years long ago.

<sup>6</sup>I said,<sup>(a)</sup> "Let me remember my song in the night;

let me meditate in my heart."

Then my spirit made a diligent search:

<sup>7</sup>"Will the Lord spurn forever,

and never again be favorable?

<sup>8</sup>Has his steadfast love forever ceased?

Are his promises at an end for all time?

<sup>9</sup>Has God forgotten to be gracious?

Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah

<sup>10</sup>Then I said, "I will appeal to this,

to the years of the right hand of the Most High."<sup>(b)</sup>

<sup>11</sup>I will remember the deeds of the LORD;

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yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup>I will ponder all your work,  
and meditate on your mighty deeds.

<sup>13</sup>Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is great like our God?

<sup>14</sup>You are the God who works wonders;  
you have made known your might among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup>You with your arm redeemed your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

<sup>16</sup>When the waters saw you, O God,  
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
indeed, the deep trembled.

<sup>17</sup>The clouds poured out water;  
the skies gave forth thunder;  
your arrows flashed on every side.

<sup>18</sup>The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;  
your lightnings lighted up the world;  
the earth trembled and shook.

<sup>19</sup>Your way was through the sea,  
your path through the great waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>20</sup>You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

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## New Testament Reading

Romans—The most systematic of Paul’s epistles. This letter explains the plan of salvation for the Gentiles and the Jews. The Apostle Paul wrote it roughly about 56-57 A.D. Paul wrote the letter to the believers in Rome, hence the name “Romans”. He wrote it to give them a concrete theological foundation on which to construct their faith and to live for and serve God effectively. The Book of Romans is primarily a work of doctrine and can be divided into four sections: righteousness needed, 1:18–3:20; righteousness provided, 3:21–8:39; righteousness vindicated, 9:1–11:36; righteousness practiced, 12:1–15:13. The main theme of this letter is obvious of course—righteousness.

*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.*

### Romans 1

#### Greeting

Paul, a servant<sup>1</sup> of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David<sup>4</sup> according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Longing to Go to Rome

<sup>8</sup>First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. <sup>9</sup>For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup>always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup>For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— <sup>12</sup>that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers,<sup>14</sup> that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup>I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians,<sup>15</sup> both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup>So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

#### The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,<sup>18</sup> as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”<sup>19</sup>

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## God's Wrath on Unrighteousness

<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup>And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup>They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

## Prayers of Intercession

### Relationships

- Pray for the children and youth in our community. Pray that God would help each of them to know and experience their identity as beloved children of God.
- Pray for the orphans of our community and the world. Pray that each of them would know the love of their Heavenly Father and find a home both in an adoptive family and the family of the Church.
- Pray for the Children's Ministry at CCC. Pray that the volunteers would have the wisdom and discernment to serve the children well and pray that the children would learn to become joyful followers of Jesus.

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).*