



# Formation Devotional

June 22, 2020 Morning

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

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*As you enter into his presence this morning, remember that God is with you and for you, because he loves you. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## Call to Prayer

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. (Psalm 5:3)

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who declares his glory and shows forth his handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work which you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one that serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 210)

## Confession of Sin

Almighty God, you are generous in abundance. You have given to us gifts that we do not deserve. You have called us from death to life, granted us forgiveness through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, given us the Holy Spirit, and made us your children.

You have provided for us, both spiritually and materially. Yet we have failed to be thankful and to rejoice in your goodness. We have ignored you and neglected to give you the praise that is due your name.

Forgive us for our ingratitude. Give us eyes that see your hand at work in all areas of our life. Enable us to realize that every good thing comes from you. And deepen our gratitude so that we might serve you with undivided and joyful hearts. In the name of 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.*

“‘Yet even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” (Joel 2:12-13)

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## Praying the Psalms

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

### Psalm 90

#### Book Four

#### From Everlasting to Everlasting

*A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.*

Lord, you have been our dwelling place<sup>1a</sup>

in all generations.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

<sup>3</sup>You return man to dust

and say, "Return, O children of man!"<sup>1b</sup>

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight

are but as yesterday when it is past,

or as a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup>You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,

like grass that is renewed in the morning:

<sup>6</sup>in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

in the evening it fades and withers.

<sup>7</sup>For we are brought to an end by your anger;

by your wrath we are dismayed.

<sup>8</sup>You have set our iniquities before you,

our secret sins in the light of your presence.

<sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath;

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we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>The years of our life are seventy,

or even by reason of strength eighty;

yet their span<sup>a</sup> is but toil and trouble;

they are soon gone, and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup>Who considers the power of your anger,

and your wrath according to the fear of you?

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days

that we may get a heart of wisdom.

<sup>13</sup>Return, O LORD! How long?

Have pity on your servants!

<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup>Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,

and for as many years as we have seen evil.

<sup>16</sup>Let your work be shown to your servants,

and your glorious power to their children.

<sup>17</sup>Let the favor<sup>a</sup> of the Lord our God be upon us,

and establish the work of our hands upon us;

yes, establish the work of our hands!

## **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,

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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 8**

### **Life in the Spirit**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.<sup>1</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you<sup>2</sup> free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin,<sup>4</sup> he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>5</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>7</sup>For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>8</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>9</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus<sup>12</sup> from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

### **Heirs with Christ**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers,<sup>13</sup> we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons<sup>15</sup> of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

### **Future Glory**

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For

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in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because <sup>28</sup>the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, <sup>29</sup>for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

## God's Everlasting Love

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be <sup>32</sup>against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Prayers of Intercession

### Work / Calling

- Pray for three colleagues by name. How can you encourage them today? If any do not know Christ, pray that they would come to know him through your witness.
- What workplace relationships need repair? Is there anyone you need to confess to? Forgive? Ask God how you might move toward that person in love.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to bear witness to his love in your life. Ask him to help you be attentive and prepared to give the reason for the hope you have (1 Peter 3:15).

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).*