



# Formation Devotional

June 30, 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

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. (Isaiah 26:8-9)

## Opening Prayer

O God, grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 832)

## 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 103

#### Bless the LORD, O My Soul

*Of David.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and all that is within me,

bless his holy name!

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<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup>He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
<sup>13</sup>As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.  
<sup>14</sup>For he knows our frame;<sup>[a]</sup>

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he remembers that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup>As for man, his days are like grass;

he flourishes like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup>for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

and its place knows it no more.

<sup>17</sup>But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,

<sup>18</sup>to those who keep his covenant

and remember to do his commandments.

<sup>19</sup>The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

and his kingdom rules over all.

<sup>20</sup>Bless the LORD, O you his angels,

you mighty ones who do his word,

obeying the voice of his word!

<sup>21</sup>Bless the LORD, all his hosts,

his ministers, who do his will!

<sup>22</sup>Bless the LORD, all his works,

in all places of his dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

## **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.*

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## Numbers 13

### Spies Sent into Canaan

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them.” <sup>3</sup>So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And these were their names: From the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; <sup>5</sup>from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; <sup>6</sup>from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; <sup>7</sup>from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; <sup>8</sup>from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun; <sup>9</sup>from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu; <sup>10</sup>from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi; <sup>11</sup>from the tribe of Joseph (that is, from the tribe of Manasseh), Gaddi the son of Susi; <sup>12</sup>from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli; <sup>13</sup>from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael; <sup>14</sup>from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi; <sup>15</sup>from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. <sup>16</sup>These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua.

<sup>17</sup>Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, “Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country, <sup>18</sup>and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, <sup>19</sup>and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, <sup>20</sup>and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land.” Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

<sup>21</sup>So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. <sup>22</sup>They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) <sup>23</sup>And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup>That place was called the Valley of Eshcol,<sup>[a]</sup> because of the cluster that the people of Israel cut down from there.

### Report of the Spies

<sup>25</sup>At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. <sup>26</sup>And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup>And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. <sup>28</sup>However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup>The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.”

<sup>30</sup>But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” <sup>31</sup>Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” <sup>32</sup>So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it

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out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. <sup>33</sup> And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Gospel Identity

- Thank God for being a God we can depend on; praise him for all the ways he has shown you his love and faithfulness today.
- Thank God that because he loved you first, you can love and serve the people in your life. Thank Him for these people.
- Thank God for his promise to make all things new.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are weary from the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 133)

### 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.*

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