



# Formation Devotional

*March 10, 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 100**

#### **His Steadfast Love Endures Forever**

*A Psalm for giving thanks.*

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

- <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

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<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

<sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis gives the account of creation, and the reason why it is so amazing and so corrupt at the same time. The original intent of God for mankind is revealed: God creates the earth for mankind, and mankind for God. Though things go wrong in the beginning, God promises the nomad Abraham that there would be a people who would know Him and walk in His ways in the midst of a broken and rebellious world. The rest of Genesis unfolds in the way God forms this people in the ancient world.*

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

### Genesis 50

Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. <sup>2</sup>And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. <sup>3</sup>Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

<sup>4</sup>And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, <sup>5</sup>'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.'" <sup>6</sup>And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear." <sup>7</sup>So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, <sup>8</sup>as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. <sup>9</sup>And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company. <sup>10</sup>When they

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came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days. <sup>11</sup>When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan. <sup>12</sup>Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them, <sup>13</sup>for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. <sup>14</sup>After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

### **God's Good Purposes**

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, 'Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

### **The Death of Joseph**

<sup>22</sup>So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. <sup>23</sup>And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. <sup>24</sup>And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." <sup>25</sup>Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." <sup>26</sup>So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

### **Gospel Identity**

- Thank God for encouraging you through fellowship among other believers.
- Thank God for actively working in your relationships and groups right now.
- Thank God for giving us his son, the foundation of the church and the cornerstone that holds us together as one body.

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)

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## **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

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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).*