



Formation Devotional

March 11, 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 Father, grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP 255)

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 102

Do Not Hide Your Face from Me

A Prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the LORD.

Hear my prayer, O LORD;

let my cry come to you!

²Do not hide your face from me

in the day of my distress!

Incline your ear to me;

answer me speedily in the day when I call!

³For my days pass away like smoke,

and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴My heart is struck down like grass and has withered;

I forget to eat my bread.

⁵Because of my loud groaning

my bones cling to my flesh.

⁶I am like a desert owl of the wilderness,

like an owl of the waste places;

⁷I lie awake;

I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.

⁸All the day my enemies taunt me;

those who deride me use my name for a curse.

⁹For I eat ashes like bread

and mingle tears with my drink,

¹⁰because of your indignation and anger;

for you have taken me up and thrown me down.

¹¹My days are like an evening shadow;

I wither away like grass.

¹²But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;

you are remembered throughout all generations.

¹³You will arise and have pity on Zion;

it is the time to favor her;

the appointed time has come.

¹⁴For your servants hold her stones dear

and have pity on her dust.

¹⁵Nations will fear the name of the LORD,

and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.

¹⁶For the LORD builds up Zion;

he appears in his glory;

¹⁷he regards the prayer of the destitute

and does not despise their prayer.

¹⁸Let this be recorded for a generation to come,

so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:

¹⁹that he looked down from his holy height;

from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,

²⁰to hear the groans of the prisoners,

to set free those who were doomed to die,

²¹that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,

and in Jerusalem his praise,

²²when peoples gather together,

and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.

²³He has broken my strength in midcourse;

he has shortened my days.

²⁴“O my God,” I say, “take me not away

in the midst of my days—

you whose years endure

throughout all generations!”

²⁵Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶They will perish, but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,

²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

²⁸The children of your servants shall dwell secure;
their offspring shall be established before you.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus tells the story of the enslavement of God’s people by the Egyptians. God raises up a deliverer named Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, but the Egyptians resist, and God answers with the ten plagues. Exodus also contains the Ten Commandments and instructions for a tent where God would meet His people. This was called the tent of Moses, or the tabernacle.

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

Exodus 1

Israel Increases Greatly in Egypt

These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah, ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin, ⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher. ⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Pharaoh Oppresses Israel

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.

¹³So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

¹⁵Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” ¹⁷But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²²Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

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.

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

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)

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.