



Formation Devotional

March 12, 2020 Evening

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

Take a moment to slow down and turn your thoughts to God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. (Revelation 21:23-24)

Opening Prayer

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 829)

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 104

O LORD My God, You Are Very Great

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, you are very great!

You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

² covering yourself with light as with a garment,
stretching out the heavens like a tent.

³He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;

he makes the clouds his chariot;

he rides on the wings of the wind;

⁴he makes his messengers winds,

his ministers a flaming fire.

⁵He set the earth on its foundations,

so that it should never be moved.

⁶You covered it with the deep as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷At your rebuke they fled;

at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.

⁸The mountains rose, the valleys sank down

to the place that you appointed for them.

⁹You set a boundary that they may not pass,

so that they might not again cover the earth.

¹⁰You make springs gush forth in the valleys;

they flow between the hills;

¹¹they give drink to every beast of the field;

the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹²Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;

they sing among the branches.

¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains;

the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
¹⁵ and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

¹⁶The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.

¹⁸The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

¹⁹He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.

²⁰You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.

²¹The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

²²When the sun rises, they steal away
and lie down in their dens.

²³Man goes out to his work
and to his labor until the evening.

²⁴O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.

²⁶There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.

²⁷These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

²⁸When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

³⁰When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works,

³²who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!

³³I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

³⁴May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.

³⁵Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more!

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Praise the LORD!

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 2

The Birth of Moses

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Moses Flees to Midian

¹¹One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹²He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" ¹⁴He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." ¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

¹⁶Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and

saved them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” ¹⁹They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” ²⁰He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” ²¹And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. ²²She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

God Hears Israel's Groaning

²³During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Relationships

- Thank God for your family and other loving relationships that reflect his fatherly love.
- Thank him for hearing your prayers for those in your family who do not know Christ.

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.