



# Formation Devotional

*March 13, 2020 Evening*

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

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*Lay your worries down to God and simply enjoy being with him. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.*

## **Call to Prayer**

On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. (Psalm 63:6-7)

## **Opening Prayer**

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 840)

## **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 106**

#### **Give Thanks to the LORD, for He Is Good**

Praise the LORD!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever!

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<sup>2</sup>Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,  
or declare all his praise?

<sup>3</sup>Blessed are they who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times!

<sup>4</sup>Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people;  
help me when you save them,

<sup>5</sup>that I may look upon the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
that I may glory with your inheritance.

<sup>6</sup>Both we and our fathers have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness.

<sup>7</sup>Our fathers, when they were in Egypt,  
did not consider your wondrous works;  
they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love,  
but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea.

<sup>8</sup>Yet he saved them for his name's sake,  
that he might make known his mighty power.

<sup>9</sup>He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry,  
and he led them through the deep as through a desert.

<sup>10</sup>So he saved them from the hand of the foe  
and redeemed them from the power of the enemy.

<sup>11</sup>And the waters covered their adversaries;  
not one of them was left.

<sup>12</sup>Then they believed his words;  
they sang his praise.

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<sup>13</sup>But they soon forgot his works;  
they did not wait for his counsel.

<sup>14</sup>But they had a wanton craving in the wilderness,  
and put God to the test in the desert;

<sup>15</sup>he gave them what they asked,  
but sent a wasting disease among them.

<sup>16</sup>When men in the camp were jealous of Moses  
and Aaron, the holy one of the LORD,

<sup>17</sup>the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan,  
and covered the company of Abiram.

<sup>18</sup>Fire also broke out in their company;  
the flame burned up the wicked.

<sup>19</sup>They made a calf in Horeb  
and worshiped a metal image.

<sup>20</sup>They exchanged the glory of God  
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

<sup>21</sup>They forgot God, their Savior,  
who had done great things in Egypt,

<sup>22</sup>wondrous works in the land of Ham,  
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

<sup>23</sup>Therefore he said he would destroy them—  
had not Moses, his chosen one,  
stood in the breach before him,  
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

<sup>24</sup>Then they despised the pleasant land,

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having no faith in his promise.

<sup>25</sup>They murmured in their tents,

and did not obey the voice of the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>Therefore he raised his hand and swore to them

that he would make them fall in the wilderness,

<sup>27</sup>and would make their offspring fall among the nations,

scattering them among the lands.

<sup>28</sup>Then they yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor,

and ate sacrifices offered to the dead;

<sup>29</sup>they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds,

and a plague broke out among them.

<sup>30</sup>Then Phinehas stood up and intervened,

and the plague was stayed.

<sup>31</sup>And that was counted to him as righteousness

from generation to generation forever.

<sup>32</sup>They angered him at the waters of Meribah,

and it went ill with Moses on their account,

<sup>33</sup>for they made his spirit bitter,

and he spoke rashly with his lips.

<sup>34</sup>They did not destroy the peoples,

as the LORD commanded them,

<sup>35</sup>but they mixed with the nations

and learned to do as they did.

<sup>36</sup>They served their idols,

which became a snare to them.

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<sup>37</sup>They sacrificed their sons  
and their daughters to the demons;  
<sup>38</sup>they poured out innocent blood,  
the blood of their sons and daughters,  
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,  
and the land was polluted with blood.  
<sup>39</sup>Thus they became unclean by their acts,  
and played the whore in their deeds.  
<sup>40</sup>Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people,  
and he abhorred his heritage;  
<sup>41</sup>he gave them into the hand of the nations,  
so that those who hated them ruled over them.  
<sup>42</sup>Their enemies oppressed them,  
and they were brought into subjection under their power.  
<sup>43</sup>Many times he delivered them,  
but they were rebellious in their purposes  
and were brought low through their iniquity.  
<sup>44</sup>Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress,  
when he heard their cry.  
<sup>45</sup>For their sake he remembered his covenant,  
and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
<sup>46</sup>He caused them to be pitied  
by all those who held them captive.  
<sup>47</sup>Save us, O LORD our God,  
and gather us from among the nations,

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that we may give thanks to your holy name  
and glory in your praise.

<sup>48</sup>Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting!

And let all the people say, "Amen!"

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 3

#### The Burning Bush

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>He

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said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. <sup>16</sup>Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, <sup>17</sup>and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" <sup>18</sup>And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' <sup>19</sup>But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. <sup>20</sup>So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. <sup>21</sup>And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, <sup>22</sup> but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Neighborhood

- Thank God for the churches in each neighborhood that are engaged with the local residents.
- Thank him for calling Christians to share their lives with their neighbors and seek their flourishing.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 69)

### 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.*

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