



# Formation Devotional

*March 24, 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**

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. (Psalm 90:17)

## **Opening Prayer**

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 814)

## **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 119:25-48**

*Daleth*

<sup>25</sup>My soul clings to the dust;

give me life according to your word!

<sup>26</sup>When I told of my ways, you answered me;

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teach me your statutes!

<sup>27</sup>Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

<sup>28</sup>My soul melts away for sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word!

<sup>29</sup>Put false ways far from me  
and graciously teach me your law!

<sup>30</sup>I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your rules before me.

<sup>31</sup>I cling to your testimonies, O LORD;  
let me not be put to shame!

<sup>32</sup>I will run in the way of your commandments  
when you enlarge my heart!

*He*

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes;  
and I will keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.

<sup>36</sup>Incline my heart to your testimonies,  
and not to selfish gain!

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;  
and give me life in your ways.

<sup>38</sup>Confirm to your servant your promise,

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that you may be feared.

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,

for your rules are good.

<sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your precepts;

in your righteousness give me life!

*Waw*

<sup>41</sup>Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,

your salvation according to your promise;

<sup>42</sup>then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me,

for I trust in your word.

<sup>43</sup>And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,

for my hope is in your rules.

<sup>44</sup>I will keep your law continually,

forever and ever,

<sup>45</sup>and I shall walk in a wide place,

for I have sought your precepts.

<sup>46</sup>I will also speak of your testimonies before kings

and shall not be put to shame,

<sup>47</sup>for I find my delight in your commandments,

which I love.

<sup>48</sup>I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love,

and I will meditate on your statutes.

## 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

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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 10**

### **The Eighth Plague: Locusts**

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, <sup>2</sup>and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>3</sup>So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. <sup>4</sup>For if you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, <sup>5</sup>and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field, <sup>6</sup>and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.’” Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

<sup>7</sup>Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet understand that Egypt is ruined?” <sup>8</sup>So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, “Go, serve the LORD your God. But which ones are to go?” <sup>9</sup>Moses said, “We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds, for we must hold a feast to the LORD.” <sup>10</sup>But he said to them, “The LORD be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind. <sup>11</sup>No! Go, the men among you, and serve the LORD, for that is what you are asking.” And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

<sup>12</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts. <sup>14</sup>The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. <sup>15</sup>They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt. <sup>16</sup>Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. <sup>17</sup>Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the LORD your God only to remove this death from me.” <sup>18</sup>So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the LORD. <sup>19</sup>And the LORD turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which

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lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt. <sup>20</sup>But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go.

### **The Ninth Plague: Darkness**

<sup>21</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." <sup>22</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. <sup>23</sup>They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived. <sup>24</sup>Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; your little ones also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind." <sup>25</sup>But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. <sup>26</sup>Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the LORD our God, and we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there." <sup>27</sup>But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. <sup>28</sup>Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me; take care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die." <sup>29</sup>Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again."

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving**

### **Gospel Identity**

- Thank God that he cares about us and listens to our worry, fear, sadness, and anger.
- Thank God that we can cast all of our cares on him and experience Christ's love that sustains us even in the midst of our trials.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 816)

### **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.*

*For a handy guide to the devotional elements and an archive of past issues, visit [ccotc.org/devotional](http://ccotc.org/devotional).*