



# Formation Devotional

*March 25, 2020 Evening*

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

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*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**

I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure. (Psalm 16:8-9)

## **Opening Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this church family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the repentant. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 817)

## **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 119:73-96**

*Yodh*

<sup>73</sup>Your hands have made and fashioned me;

give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.

<sup>74</sup>Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,

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because I have hoped in your word.

<sup>75</sup>I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous,  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

<sup>76</sup>Let your steadfast love comfort me  
according to your promise to your servant.

<sup>77</sup>Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;  
for your law is my delight.

<sup>78</sup>Let the insolent be put to shame,  
because they have wronged me with falsehood;  
as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.

<sup>79</sup>Let those who fear you turn to me,  
that they may know your testimonies.

<sup>80</sup>May my heart be blameless in your statutes,  
that I may not be put to shame!

*Kaph*

<sup>81</sup>My soul longs for your salvation;  
I hope in your word.

<sup>82</sup>My eyes long for your promise;  
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

<sup>83</sup>For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,  
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.

<sup>84</sup>How long must your servant endure?  
When will you judge those who persecute me?

<sup>85</sup>The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;  
they do not live according to your law.

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<sup>86</sup>All your commandments are sure;  
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!

<sup>87</sup>They have almost made an end of me on earth,  
but I have not forsaken your precepts.

<sup>88</sup>In your steadfast love give me life,  
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

*Lamedh*

<sup>89</sup>Forever, O LORD, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.

<sup>90</sup>Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

<sup>91</sup>By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.

<sup>92</sup>If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.

<sup>93</sup>I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.

<sup>94</sup>I am yours; save me,  
for I have sought your precepts.

<sup>95</sup>The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,  
but I consider your testimonies.

<sup>96</sup>I have seen a limit to all perfection,  
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

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## 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 11

#### A Final Plague Threatened

The LORD said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. <sup>2</sup>Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry." <sup>3</sup>And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

<sup>4</sup>So Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, <sup>5</sup>and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle. <sup>6</sup>There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again. <sup>7</sup>But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.' <sup>8</sup>And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

<sup>10</sup>Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Church Community

- Thank God for appointing elders into servant-leadership; thank him for their faithful oversight and spiritual care for the congregation.
- Thank God for giving Christians around the world boldness to share their faith amidst potentially life-threatening circumstances.
- Thank God for all the churches in your neighborhood. For blessing their ministries and using each one uniquely for the good of our city and to his glory.

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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).*