



# Formation Devotional

*May 6, 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**

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 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 26**

#### **I Will Bless the LORD**

*Of David.*

Vindicate me, O LORD,

for I have walked in my integrity,

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and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

<sup>2</sup>Prove me, O LORD, and try me;

test my heart and my mind.

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes,

and I walk in your faithfulness.

<sup>4</sup>I do not sit with men of falsehood,

nor do I consort with hypocrites.

<sup>5</sup>I hate the assembly of evildoers,

and I will not sit with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>I wash my hands in innocence

and go around your altar, O LORD,

<sup>7</sup>proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,

and telling all your wondrous deeds.

<sup>8</sup>O LORD, I love the habitation of your house

and the place where your glory dwells.

<sup>9</sup>Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,

nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

<sup>10</sup>in whose hands are evil devices,

and whose right hands are full of bribes.

<sup>11</sup>But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;

redeem me, and be gracious to me.

<sup>12</sup>My foot stands on level ground;

in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

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## Old Testament Reading

Leviticus establishes Jewish identity through the priesthood and festivals. With the number of commands concerning cleanliness and dedication to God, living a life that is pleasing to God becomes a daunting task. Yet Leviticus is filled with gems of wisdom when seen through the work of Christ.

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

### Leviticus 1

#### Laws for Burnt Offerings

The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.

<sup>3</sup>“If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. <sup>4</sup>He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. <sup>5</sup> Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>6</sup>Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces, <sup>7</sup>and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. <sup>8</sup>And Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; <sup>9</sup>but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>“If his gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the sheep or goats, he shall bring a male without blemish, <sup>11</sup>and he shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar. <sup>12</sup>And he shall cut it into pieces, with its head and its fat, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar, <sup>13</sup>but the entrails and the legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

<sup>14</sup>“If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or pigeons. <sup>15</sup>And the priest shall bring it to the altar and wring off its head and burn it on the altar. Its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar. <sup>16</sup>He shall remove its crop with its contents and cast it beside the altar on the east side, in the place for ashes. <sup>17</sup>He shall tear it open by its wings, but shall not sever it completely. And the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

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## Prayers of Thanksgiving

### Church Community

- Thank God for the caring spirit displayed in the deacons at Christ Covenant as they come alongside congregants in times of hardship.
- Thank God for sending his church to make disciples of all nations. Thank him for the faith and courage with which Christians suffer persecution.
- Thank God for his gospel movement among us and other churches. Thank him for being the author and perfecter of our faith and for the spiritual renewal he can bring to our lives and churches.

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)

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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).*