



Formation Devotional

February 11, 2020 Evening

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

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

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. (Isaiah 26:8-9)

Opening Prayer

O God, grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 832)

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 60

He Will Tread Down Our Foes

To the choirmaster: according to Shushan Eduth. A Miktam of David; for instruction; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.

O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses;

you have been angry; oh, restore us.

²You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;
repair its breaches, for it totters.

³You have made your people see hard things;
you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.

⁴You have set up a banner for those who fear you,
that they may flee to it from the bow. Selah

⁵That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!

⁶God has spoken in his holiness:
“With exultation I will divide up Shechem
and portion out the Vale of Succoth.

⁷Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet;
Judah is my scepter.

⁸Moab is my washbasin;
upon Edom I cast my shoe;
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”

⁹Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?

¹⁰Have you not rejected us, O God?
You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.

¹¹Oh, grant us help against the foe,
for vain is the salvation of man!

¹²With God we shall do valiantly;
it is he who will tread down our foes.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis gives the account of creation, and the reason why it is so amazing and so corrupt at the same time. The original intent of God for mankind is revealed: God creates the earth for mankind, and mankind for God. Though things go wrong in the beginning, God promises the nomad Abraham that there would be a people who would know Him and walk in His ways in the midst of a broken and rebellious world. The rest of Genesis unfolds in the way God forms this people in the ancient world.

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

Genesis 30

When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!"² Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"³ Then she said, "Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her."⁴ So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.⁵ And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.⁶ Then Rachel said, "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan.⁷ Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.⁸ Then Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

⁹When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.¹⁰ Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son.¹¹ And Leah said, "Good fortune has come!" so she called his name Gad.¹² Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.¹³ And Leah said, "Happy am I! For women have called me happy." So she called his name Asher.

¹⁴In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."¹⁵ But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" Rachel said, "Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes."¹⁶ When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night.¹⁷ And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.¹⁸ Leah said, "God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar.

¹⁹And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son.²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.²¹ Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah.

²²Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.²³ She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach."²⁴ And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Jacob's Prosperity

²⁵As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. ²⁶Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you." ²⁷But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you. ²⁸Name your wages, and I will give it." ²⁹Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. ³⁰For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?" ³¹He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it: ³²let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. ³³So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen." ³⁴Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said." ³⁵But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. ³⁶And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

³⁷Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. ³⁸He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, ³⁹the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. ⁴⁰And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. ⁴¹Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, ⁴²but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. ⁴³Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Gospel Identity

- Thank God for being a God we can depend on; praise him for all the ways he has shown you his love and faithfulness today.
- Thank God that because he loved you first, you can love and serve the people in your life. Thank Him for these people.
- Thank God for his promise to make all things new.

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen. (BCP 70)

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)

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.