



Formation Devotional

February 7, 2020 Morning

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

Remind yourself that this morning marks another day to enjoy and glorify God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. (Psalm 143:8)

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 825)

Confession of Sin

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful in our relationship with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our relationship with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and respond in gratitude according to the assurance of grace.

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103:1-5)

Praying the Psalms

Read the psalm prayerfully back to God by faith in Christ.

Psalm 55

Cast Your Burden on the LORD

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David.

Give ear to my prayer, O God,

and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!

²Attend to me, and answer me;

I am restless in my complaint and I moan,

³because of the noise of the enemy,

because of the oppression of the wicked.

For they drop trouble upon me,

and in anger they bear a grudge against me.

⁴My heart is in anguish within me;

the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

⁵Fear and trembling come upon me,

and horror overwhelms me.

⁶And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!

I would fly away and be at rest;

⁷yes, I would wander far away;

I would lodge in the wilderness; Selah

⁸I would hurry to find a shelter

from the raging wind and tempest."

⁹Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues;
for I see violence and strife in the city.

¹⁰Day and night they go around it
on its walls,
and iniquity and trouble are within it;

¹¹ruin is in its midst;
oppression and fraud
do not depart from its marketplace.

¹²For it is not an enemy who taunts me—
then I could bear it;
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—
then I could hide from him.

¹³But it is you, a man, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend.

¹⁴We used to take sweet counsel together;
within God's house we walked in the throng.

¹⁵Let death steal over them;
let them go down to Sheol alive;
for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.

¹⁶But I call to God,
and the LORD will save me.

¹⁷Evening and morning and at noon
I utter my complaint and moan,
and he hears my voice.

¹⁸He redeems my soul in safety

from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.

¹⁹God will give ear and humble them,
he who is enthroned from of old, Selah
because they do not change
and do not fear God.

²⁰My companion stretched out his hand against his friends;
he violated his covenant.

²¹His speech was smooth as butter,
yet war was in his heart;
his words were softer than oil,
yet they were drawn swords.

²²Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved.

²³But you, O God, will cast them down
into the pit of destruction;
men of blood and treachery
shall not live out half their days.

But I will trust in you.

New Testament Reading

Matthew was written for a Jewish audience. That's why he starts his gospel with a genealogy. Tracing the lineage of Jesus back to David would be significant to a Hebrew who was wondering if Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. In that light, Matthew's references to the Old Testament reminds us that Jesus is God's fulfillment of the Jewish law and the prophets. The Sermon on the Mount becomes the new identity for the people of God.

Meditate on the passage, noting a few words or a phrase that stood out or a promise to meditate on today. Take them to God in prayer.

Matthew 28

The Resurrection

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

The Report of the Guard

¹¹While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. ¹²And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers ¹³and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

The Great Commission

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Prayers of Intercession

Neighborhood

- Pray for Christians in Columbia, that they would work in unity to spend themselves on behalf of the poor, hungry, and oppressed.
- Pray for families in crisis or struggling to make ends meet, that they would find the support from local church communities and the services from local organizations they need to thrive.

-
- Pray for our elderly neighbors who are living by themselves, without family close by, and experiencing the difficulties of aging in our community.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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.