



Formation Devotional

July 14, 2020 Morning

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

As you read and pray this morning, remember you are in God's presence. Trust in the Holy Spirit to guide you and direct your thoughts. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. (Isaiah 58:8-9)

Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (BCP 832)

Confession of Sin

Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes and our happiness than to your will.
We have eaten without a thought for the hungry.
We have spoken without an effort to understand others.
We have kept silent instead of telling the truth.
We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge.
We have acted in accordance with our desires rather than according to your commands.
Within the church we have been slow to practice love of our neighbors.
And in the world we have not been your faithful servants.
Father, forgive us and help us to live as followers of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Take a moment to confess your sins, knowing that he hears you, and give thanks for his assurance of pardon through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:6-8)

Praying the Psalms

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

Psalm 119:97-128

Mem

⁹⁷Oh how I love your law!

It is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,

for it is ever with me.

⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers,

for your testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰I understand more than the aged,^[a]

for I keep your precepts.

¹⁰¹I hold back my feet from every evil way,

in order to keep your word.

¹⁰²I do not turn aside from your rules,

for you have taught me.

¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste,

sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴Through your precepts I get understanding;

therefore I hate every false way.

Nun

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet

and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,

to keep your righteous rules.

¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted;

give me life, O LORD, according to your word!

¹⁰⁸ Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD,
and teach me your rules.

¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.

¹¹¹ Your testimonies are my heritage forever,
for they are the joy of my heart.

¹¹² I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.^[a]

Samekh

¹¹³ I hate the double-minded,
but I love your law.

¹¹⁴ You are my hiding place and my shield;
I hope in your word.

¹¹⁵ Depart from me, you evildoers,
that I may keep the commandments of my God.

¹¹⁶ Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,
and let me not be put to shame in my hope!

¹¹⁷ Hold me up, that I may be safe
and have regard for your statutes continually!

¹¹⁸ You spurn all who go astray from your statutes,
for their cunning is in vain.

¹¹⁹ All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross,
therefore I love your testimonies.

¹²⁰My flesh trembles for fear of you,
and I am afraid of your judgments.

Ayin

¹²¹I have done what is just and right;
do not leave me to my oppressors.

¹²²Give your servant a pledge of good;
let not the insolent oppress me.

¹²³My eyes long for your salvation
and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise.

¹²⁴Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love,
and teach me your statutes.

¹²⁵I am your servant; give me understanding,
that I may know your testimonies!

¹²⁶It is time for the LORD to act,
for your law has been broken.

¹²⁷Therefore I love your commandments
above gold, above fine gold.

¹²⁸Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right;
I hate every false way.

New Testament Reading

One of Paul's earliest epistles, 1 Corinthians was addressed to a church struggling with serious doctrinal and practical theology issues. From adulterous relationships and unnatural gender roles to infighting and misuse of miraculous spiritual gifts, the church in Corinth seemed to be falling apart. Yet Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was able to thank God for them and lovingly correct their faults—even when he had to exercise church discipline. This epistle can help us be better church members, keeping watch over our own hearts and the health of our church family.

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.

1 Corinthians 8

Food Offered to Idols

Now concerning^{1a} food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.^{1b}

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating^{1a} in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged,^{1a} if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers^{1a} and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Prayers of Intercession

Gospel Identity

- Ask God to deepen your devotional life. Pray that God would meet you in your daily prayer and speak to you through his Word.
- Pray that God would help you to be prayerful and attentive to him throughout your day, paying attention to his love for you and how he is sending you to love others.
- Pray that you would experience him more fully in the liturgy of Sunday worship, the Lord's Supper, and in the preaching of his Word.

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.