



Formation Devotional

July 27, 2020 Evening

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

As you come before him this evening, rest in the assurance of his great love. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. (Psalm 141:2)

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 261)

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 136

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²Give thanks to the God of gods,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

³Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁴to him who alone does great wonders,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁵to him who by understanding made the heavens,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁶to him who spread out the earth above the waters,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁷to him who made the great lights,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁸the sun to rule over the day,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

⁹the moon and stars to rule over the night,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁰to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹¹and brought Israel out from among them,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹²with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹³to him who divided the Red Sea in two,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁴and made Israel pass through the midst of it,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁵but overthrew^a Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁶to him who led his people through the wilderness,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁷to him who struck down great kings,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁸and killed mighty kings,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

¹⁹Sihon, king of the Amorites,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁰and Og, king of Bashan,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²¹and gave their land as a heritage,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²²a heritage to Israel his servant,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²³It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁴and rescued us from our foes,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁵he who gives food to all flesh,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²⁶Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Old Testament Reading

Numbers describes the preparations the Jews undertook to enter the land that God promised them. They come to the border of that land and send in spies, who are overwhelmed by the obstacles they see and bring back a report that the Jews won't survive there. God then forbids this generation of Jews to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief, and forty years of wandering in the wilderness ensues.

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

Numbers 32

Reuben and Gad Settle in Gilead

Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock. ²So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation, ³“Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, ⁴the land that the LORD struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.” ⁵And they said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan.”

⁶But Moses said to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben, “Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here? ⁷Why will you discourage the heart of the people of Israel from going over into the land that the LORD has given them? ⁸Your fathers did this, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land. ⁹For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the people of Israel from going into the land that the LORD had given them. ¹⁰And the LORD's anger was kindled on that day, and he swore, saying, ¹¹‘Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, because they have not wholly followed me, ¹²none except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.’ ¹³And the LORD's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone. ¹⁴And behold, you have risen in your fathers' place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the LORD against Israel! ¹⁵For if you turn away from following him, he will again abandon them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all this people.”

¹⁶Then they came near to him and said, “We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, ¹⁷but we will take up arms, ready to go before the people of Israel, until we have brought them to their place. And our little ones shall live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land. ¹⁸We will not return to our homes until each of the people of Israel has gained his inheritance. ¹⁹For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has come to us on this side of the Jordan to the east.” ²⁰So Moses said to them, “If you will do this, if you will take up arms to go before the LORD for the war, ²¹and every armed man

of you will pass over the Jordan before the LORD, until he has driven out his enemies from before him²² and the land is subdued before the LORD; then after that you shall return and be free of obligation to the LORD and to Israel, and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.²³ But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.²⁴ Build cities for your little ones and folds for your sheep, and do what you have promised.”²⁵ And the people of Gad and the people of Reuben said to Moses, “Your servants will do as my lord commands.²⁶ Our little ones, our wives, our livestock, and all our cattle shall remain there in the cities of Gilead,²⁷ but your servants will pass over, every man who is armed for war, before the LORD to battle, as my lord orders.”

²⁸ So Moses gave command concerning them to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua the son of Nun and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel.²⁹ And Moses said to them, “If the people of Gad and the people of Reuben, every man who is armed to battle before the LORD, will pass with you over the Jordan and the land shall be subdued before you, then you shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession.³⁰ However, if they will not pass over with you armed, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan.”³¹ And the people of Gad and the people of Reuben answered, “What the LORD has said to your servants, we will do.³² We will pass over armed before the LORD into the land of Canaan, and the possession of our inheritance shall remain with us beyond the Jordan.”

³³ And Moses gave to them, to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben and to the half-tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land and its cities with their territories, the cities of the land throughout the country.³⁴ And the people of Gad built Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer,³⁵ Atroth-shophan, Jazer, Jogbehah,³⁶ Beth-nimrah and Beth-haran, fortified cities, and folds for sheep.³⁷ And the people of Reuben built Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim,³⁸ Nebo, and Baal-meon (their names were changed), and Sibmah. And they gave other names to the cities that they built.³⁹ And the sons of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead and captured it, and dispossessed the Amorites who were in it.⁴⁰ And Moses gave Gilead to Machir the son of Manasseh, and he settled in it.⁴¹ And Jair the son of Manasseh went and captured their villages, and called them Havvoth-jair.⁴² And Nobah went and captured Kenath and its villages, and called it Nobah, after his own name.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Work / Calling

- Think back to the three colleagues you prayed for this morning. How did you see God working in their lives today? How did God use you today? Thank him.
- Where did you see God at work in repairing that difficult work relationship? Thank him that the gospel is on display when Christians reconcile with others, even at great cost.
- Thank God for the opportunities he sent your way to be a witness for Christ in your workplace. Thank him for giving you the words and wisdom you needed in that moment.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. (BCP 134)

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.