



Formation Devotional

July 30, 2020 Morning

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

Rejoice and be glad, for your father invites you into his loving presence. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has set the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so kindle love among us all, that we may be kind to one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 828)

Confession of Sin

O Lord, no day of my life has passed that has not proved me guilty in your sight. Prayers have been uttered from a prayerless heart; praise has often been praiseless sound. My best services are filthy rags. All things in me call for my rejection. However, all things in Christ plead my acceptance. Grant me to hear your voice assuring me; that by your stripes I am healed, that you were bruised for my iniquities, that you have been made sin for me that I might be righteous in you. Grant that by resting in your righteousness I may hereafter walk in newness of life and run hard after your commandments. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

“And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:21-22)

Praying the Psalms

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

Psalm 141

Give Ear to My Voice

A Psalm of David.

O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!

Give ear to my voice when I call to you!

²Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

³Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
keep watch over the door of my lips!

⁴Do not let my heart incline to any evil,
to busy myself with wicked deeds
in company with men who work iniquity,
and let me not eat of their delicacies!

⁵Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness;
let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head;
let my head not refuse it.

Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.

⁶When their judges are thrown over the cliff,^[a]
then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.

⁷As when one plows and breaks up the earth,
so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.^[b]

⁸But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord;
in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!^[c]

⁹Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me
and from the snares of evildoers!

¹⁰Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
while I pass by safely.

New Testament Reading

The church in Corinth struggled early and often in church history. They chased after sinful practices and heresies, but Paul, even though he was often downtrodden, continued to pray for and minister to the Corinthians. One important theme in 2 Corinthians that we can apply to our church is how God uses sinful, powerless people like us to further his Kingdom on earth by doing Gospel ministry.

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.

2 Corinthians 4

The Light of the Gospel

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God,^{1a} we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice^{3a} cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants^{6a} for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Treasure in Jars of Clay

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self^{17a} is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all

comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Prayers of Intercession

Relationships

- Pray for those in your immediate family. For what do they need prayer? If any do not know Christ, pray that they would come to know him.
- Ask God to reveal to you if there are members of your family whom you can come alongside and encourage in their faith. If so, pray that God would reveal them to you and give you the words, wisdom and compassion to share.

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.