



Formation Devotional

July 6, 2020 Morning

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

As you enter into his presence this morning, remember that God is with you and for you, because he loves you. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. (Psalm 5:3)

Opening Prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 832)

Confession of Sin

Pardon our sins, merciful Lord. We have been hasty and short in prayer, and this first sin of the day leads to so many others. Keep us from robbing you of the true worship which your glory requires and which our hearts so urgently need. Wipe out our sins, known and unknown, felt and unfelt, remembered and forgotten. Enable us to remember the blood that cleanses from all sin, and the grace which overwhelms all evil, in Jesus' name, 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.

"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." (Proverbs 28:13)

Praying the Psalms

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

Psalm 110

Sit at My Right Hand

A Psalm of David.

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

²The LORD sends forth from Zion

your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

³Your people will offer themselves freely

on the day of your power,^[a]

in holy garments;^[a]

from the womb of the morning,

the dew of your youth will be yours.^[a]

⁴The LORD has sworn

and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest forever

after the order of Melchizedek.”

⁵The Lord is at your right hand;

he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

⁶He will execute judgment among the nations,

filling them with corpses;

he will shatter chiefs^[a]

over the wide earth.

⁷He will drink from the brook by the way;

therefore he will lift up his head.

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 2

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

And I, when I came to you, brothers,^{1a} did not come proclaiming to you the testimony^{1a} of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men^{1a} but in the power of God.

Wisdom from the Spirit

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the heart of man imagined,

what God has prepared for those who love him” —

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.^{1a}

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

Work / Calling

- Pray for the Christians in your industry and workplace by name, that they would work as those sent by God into a sacred vocation. Ask God how you might encourage them today.
- Ask for God's forgiveness for how you tend to look to your work for self-glory and self-promotion. Ask God to transform your relationship to your work so that you might seek his glory, not your own.
- Pray that God would renew your vision for your work, that you are able to see the ways he is making his glory manifest through your work.

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.