



Formation Devotional

June 12, 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

O Lord, we have not longed for your coming and your kingdom as we ought. We have not denied ourselves, taken up the cross and followed you. Instead, clinging to the things of this world and counting them dear, we have grown callous to the needs of the poor, the lonely and the suffering. We have not cried out for justice nor cared about those who are without Christ and without hope in this world. Lord, forgive us for our offenses and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we might live in light of your coming again. 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.

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Praying the Psalms

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

Psalm 78:32-72

In spite of all this, they still sinned;

despite his wonders, they did not believe.

³³So he made their days vanish like^(a) a breath,^(b)

and their years in terror.

³⁴When he killed them, they sought him;

they repented and sought God earnestly.

³⁵They remembered that God was their rock,

the Most High God their redeemer.

³⁶But they flattered him with their mouths;

they lied to him with their tongues.

³⁷Their heart was not steadfast toward him;

they were not faithful to his covenant.

³⁸Yet he, being compassionate,

atoned for their iniquity

and did not destroy them;

he restrained his anger often

and did not stir up all his wrath.

³⁹He remembered that they were but flesh,

a wind that passes and comes not again.

⁴⁰How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness

and grieved him in the desert!

⁴¹They tested God again and again
and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

⁴²They did not remember his power^(a)
or the day when he redeemed them from the foe,

⁴³when he performed his signs in Egypt
and his marvels in the fields of Zoan.

⁴⁴He turned their rivers to blood,
so that they could not drink of their streams.

⁴⁵He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them,
and frogs, which destroyed them.

⁴⁶He gave their crops to the destroying locust
and the fruit of their labor to the locust.

⁴⁷He destroyed their vines with hail
and their sycamores with frost.

⁴⁸He gave over their cattle to the hail
and their flocks to thunderbolts.

⁴⁹He let loose on them his burning anger,
wrath, indignation, and distress,
a company of destroying angels.

⁵⁰He made a path for his anger;
he did not spare them from death,
but gave their lives over to the plague.

⁵¹He struck down every firstborn in Egypt,
the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.

⁵²Then he led out his people like sheep
and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

⁵³He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid,
but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

⁵⁴And he brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had won.

⁵⁵He drove out nations before them;
he apportioned them for a possession
and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

⁵⁶Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God
and did not keep his testimonies,
⁵⁷but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers;
they twisted like a deceitful bow.

⁵⁸For they provoked him to anger with their high places;
they moved him to jealousy with their idols.

⁵⁹When God heard, he was full of wrath,
and he utterly rejected Israel.

⁶⁰He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh,
the tent where he dwelt among mankind,
⁶¹and delivered his power to captivity,
his glory to the hand of the foe.

⁶²He gave his people over to the sword

and vented his wrath on his heritage.

⁶³Fire devoured their young men,
and their young women had no marriage song.

⁶⁴Their priests fell by the sword,
and their widows made no lamentation.

⁶⁵Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
like a strong man shouting because of wine.

⁶⁶And he put his adversaries to rout;
he put them to everlasting shame.

⁶⁷He rejected the tent of Joseph;
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,

⁶⁸but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loves.

⁶⁹He built his sanctuary like the high heavens,
like the earth, which he has founded forever.

⁷⁰He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;

⁷¹from following the nursing ewes he brought him
to shepherd Jacob his people,
Israel his inheritance.

⁷²With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand.

New Testament Reading

Romans—The most systematic of Paul’s epistles. This letter explains the plan of salvation for the Gentiles and the Jews. The Apostle Paul wrote it roughly about 56-57 A.D. Paul wrote the letter to the believers in Rome, hence the name “Romans”. He wrote it to give them a concrete theological foundation on which to construct their faith and to live for and serve God effectively. The Book of Romans is primarily a work of doctrine and can be divided into four sections: righteousness needed, 1:18–3:20; righteousness provided, 3:21–8:39; righteousness vindicated, 9:1–11:36; righteousness practiced, 12:1–15:13. The main theme of this letter is obvious of course—righteousness.

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.

Romans 2

God's Righteous Judgment

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ²We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

⁶He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸but for those who are self-seeking^a and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹For God shows no partiality.

God's Judgment and the Law

¹²For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

¹⁷But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God ¹⁸and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹and if you are sure that you yourself are a

guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— ²¹you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? ²²You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. ²⁴For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

²⁵For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded^[a] as circumcision? ²⁷Then he who is physically^[a] uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code^[a] and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Prayers of Intercession

Community

- Pray that Christians would be faithful in obeying Jesus’ command to love our neighbors especially through hospitality, kindness and gospel witness.
- Pray that those who are caught in human trafficking would find safety from their abusers. Pray that they would find emotional, physical, and spiritual healing.
- Pray that women facing unexpected pregnancies would find loving care. Pray that they would ultimately choose life for the child and be hopeful about their future after giving birth.
- Pray for spiritual thirst that would draw people to churches in their neighborhood. Pray that many new people would become followers of Jesus.

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.