



Formation Devotional

June 30, 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 God, who has revealed to his Church his eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in Trinity of Persons: Give us grace to continue steadfast in the confession of this faith, and constant in our worship of you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; for you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen. (BCP 199)

Confession of Sin

O most merciful God, who pardons all who truly repent and turn to you: we humbly confess our sins. We have not loved you with a pure heart. Neither have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justly, nor loved mercy, nor walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to your loving-kindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our iniquity. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of our salvation and uphold us with your Spirit. We ask this 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.

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:5-7)

Praying the Psalms

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

Psalm 102

Do Not Hide Your Face from Me

A Prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the LORD.

Hear my prayer, O LORD;

let my cry come to you!

²Do not hide your face from me

in the day of my distress!

Incline your ear to me;

answer me speedily in the day when I call!

³For my days pass away like smoke,

and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴My heart is struck down like grass and has withered;

I forget to eat my bread.

⁵Because of my loud groaning

my bones cling to my flesh.

⁶I am like a desert owl of the wilderness,

like an owl¹⁰ of the waste places;

⁷I lie awake;

I am like a lonely sparrow on the housetop.

⁸All the day my enemies taunt me;

those who deride me use my name for a curse.

⁹For I eat ashes like bread

and mingle tears with my drink,

¹⁰because of your indignation and anger;

for you have taken me up and thrown me down.

¹¹My days are like an evening shadow;
I wither away like grass.

¹²But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;
you are remembered throughout all generations.

¹³You will arise and have pity on Zion;
it is the time to favor her;
the appointed time has come.

¹⁴For your servants hold her stones dear
and have pity on her dust.

¹⁵Nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.

¹⁶For the LORD builds up Zion;
he appears in his glory;

¹⁷he regards the prayer of the destitute
and does not despise their prayer.

¹⁸Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:

¹⁹that he looked down from his holy height;
from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,
²⁰to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die,
²¹that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,
and in Jerusalem his praise,
²²when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.

²³He has broken my strength in midcourse;
he has shortened my days.

²⁴“O my God,” I say, “take me not away
in the midst of my days—
you whose years endure
throughout all generations!”

²⁵Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶They will perish, but you will remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,

²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

²⁸The children of your servants shall dwell secure;
their offspring shall be established before you.

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 14

Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats,

for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Do Not Cause Another to Stumble

¹³Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. ¹⁴I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. ¹⁵For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

²⁰Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. ²¹It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. ²²The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. ²³But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Prayers of Intercession

Gospel Identity

- Pray that as Christians go out into their communities this morning, they would enter into their neighborhood, work, and relationships as those called to be ambassadors of Christ.
- Pray that Christians in our communities would be so renewed in their faith they would share their faith freely with others, and that those who don't believe would be made open to the gospel.

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.