



Formation Devotional

May 21, 2020 Evening

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

Take a moment to slow down and turn your thoughts to God. Use this email as you are able, in whole or in part.

Call to Prayer

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2)

Opening Prayer

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. (BCP 836)

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 48

Zion, the City of Our God

A Song. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised

in the city of our God!

His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,

is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
³Within her citadels God
has made himself known as a fortress.
⁴For behold, the kings assembled;
they came on together.
⁵As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic; they took to flight.
⁶Trembling took hold of them there,
anguish as of a woman in labor.
⁷By the east wind you shattered
the ships of Tarshish.
⁸As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God will establish forever. Selah
⁹We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
¹⁰As your name, O God,
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with righteousness.
¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad!
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments!

¹² Walk about Zion, go around her,

number her towers,

¹³ consider well her ramparts,

go through her citadels,

that you may tell the next generation

¹⁴ that this is God,

our God forever and ever.

He will guide us forever.

Old Testament Reading

Leviticus establishes Jewish identity through the priesthood and festivals. With the number of commands concerning cleanliness and dedication to God, living a life that is pleasing to God becomes a daunting task. Yet Leviticus is filled with gems of wisdom when seen through the work of Christ.

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

Leviticus 12

Purification After Childbirth

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If a woman conceives and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days. As at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean. ³And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. ⁴Then she shall continue for thirty-three days in the blood of her purifying. She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed. ⁵But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her menstruation. And she shall continue in the blood of her purifying for sixty-six days.

⁶“And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering, ⁷and he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her. Then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female. ⁸And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean.”

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Relationships

- Thank God for your family and other loving relationships that reflect his fatherly love.
- Thank him for hearing your prayers for those in your family who do not know Christ.

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 816)

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

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.