

SPACE FOR GOD

Chapman University Leadership Retreat 2020



OPENING PRAYER

Ah dearest Lord! I cannot pray,
My fancy is not free;
Unmannerly distractions come,
And force my thoughts from Thee.

The world that looks so dull all day
Glow's bright on me at prayer,
And plans that ask no thought but then
Wake up and meet me there.

Sweet Jesus! Teach me how to prize
These tedious hours when I,
Foolish and mute before Thy Face,
In helpless worship lie.

Prayer was not meant for luxury,
Or selfish pastime sweet;
It is the prostrate creature's place
At his Creator's Feet.

- **Frederick William Faber, 1814-1863**

Getting Settled

Find a space that is restful to you. Turn off your phone & other distractions. Consider taking a walk or sitting at a park. Take some deep breaths and be still before God. Allow your soul to quiet and enjoy being with your creator.

Reflection: Looking Back

Spend some time looking back at your calendar. What's happened these past few months (or month)? What has occupied your heart and mind? How has God been present to you? What are you thankful for? What has been troubling you? Journal some of your thoughts and emotions.

Scripture Study

Read Psalm 33 (on the back of this page) a few times and highlight what sticks out to you. Use the included questions to guide your reflection. How is God speaking to you?

Benediction

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. - Romans 11:33, 36

Psalm 33:16-22

- 16 Kings aren't saved by the strength of their armies; warriors aren't rescued by how much power they have.
- 17 A warhorse is a bad bet for victory; it can't save despite its great strength.
- 18 But look here: the Lord's eyes watch all who honor him, all who wait for his faithful love,
- 19 to deliver their lives from death and keep them alive during a famine.
- 20 We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.
- 21 Our heart rejoices in God because we trust his holy name.
- 22 Lord, let your faithful love surround us because we wait for you.
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Reflection Questions

1. The Psalmist writes that relying on the strength of armies and horses is not enough to ensure victory. What strengths within yourself or strengths of Intersivity have you been tempted to rely on in this season?
2. In seasons of crisis, our strengths shift into overdrive. We may work harder, empathize more deeply, create more rapidly, think more intensely...and yet even when we are using all of our strengths, we still do not have control over our circumstances. As you think about the various crises of the past few months, how can you relate to the Psalmist's conviction that even the things we consider "great strengths" cannot save us? What does Jesus want to say to the parts of you that feel fatigued from being in overdrive?
3. The Psalmist encourages us to "hope in the Lord." What happens for you internally when you consider hoping in the Lord and not in your own strength? How does your expectancy change when you focus on God's power rather than your own?
4. God's "faithful love" in verses 18 and 22 can also be described as "fierce loyalty, devotion, unchanging love." How does God want to assure you of his fierce loyalty to you, to his purposes, and to his own character? Spend some time remembering who God is and how he cannot be unfaithful to his name. Consider meditating on a word, scripture, song, or picture that portrays God's character and his posture towards you.
5. Spend some time telling God what you are waiting for and hoping for in this season. Listen for his response back to you.