**About Christ Fellowship Church**

**Our Mission:** We exist to make disciples of Christ who love God and love their neighbor.

**Our Vision:** To see the gospel spread into every corner of our lives and every corner of the globe.

**As we gather** each Sunday, our desire is to engage with the living God in authentic worship, giving him the praise he deserves, as we read, sing, pray, preach, and sit under the truth of God’s Word and respond in obedience. We look to give ourselves to bold prayer, to spend ourselves and our resources through joyful giving, and to create a culture of gracious hospitality among a diversely unified people.

**As we scatter** each week, we commit to give ourselves to one another in sanctifying community, to the lost through faithful evangelism in our spheres of influence, and to the suffering around us with Christ-like compassion, all in hopes of multiplying the witness of Christ in our city and around the world.

**CFC Kids:** As a congregation, we are deeply committed to next-generation discipleship. This church wants to come alongside parents as they raise their children in the Lord. To help toward that end on Sundays, we offer CFC Kids for children from birth through fifth grade. We offer CFC Kids throughout the entire length of the service for children pre-school and younger. Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade will attend the first part of the worship service and then exit for age-appropriate lessons during the sermon. Of course, you may keep your children with you throughout worship, if you like. If you have any questions about CFC Kids, please email Sarah Beth Shepard at sb@cfcbirmingham.org.

1/14/24

**What’s Happening at Christ Fellowship…**

***Registration Deadline is Today for Spring Semester Equip Classes***

The Spring semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes begins next Sunday and will run through March 17. This weekly teaching time will be paired with a fellowship meal, the cost of which is covered in your registration. And if you prefer not to purchase dinner, you are welcome to simply join us for the discipleship classes. Kids classes will continue in the same curriculum from last semester. The adult class offered this semester will be taught by local counselor Bill White, and the class will center around equipping Christians to help counsel, encourage, and instruct other people with God’s Word. Our staff and elders are very excited about this, and we hope you’ll plan to attend. You can find out more about Equip and register on this QR code.

***Spring Equip Teachers Needed***

As we get ready to start the next quarter of Equip, we are needing FOUR more teachers for our older preschool group. If you are interested, please email Sarah Beth at sb@cfcbirmingham.org and we can figure out the best fit. For this next quarter of Equip, you would be signing up to lead just four weeks: January 21, January 28, February 4, and February 11.

***CFC Women’s Winter Workshop***

Ladies, make plans to join us on January 26-27 as we gather to experience the Proclaiming Truth workshop "Knowing God's Word." Early bird registration ends January 7! Sign up at [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).

***Women’s Winter Bible Study Options***

Ladies, there are two Bible study options available this semester. Paige Herr will lead a study of 2 Kings on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:15am, starting January 10. There is also a Monday night study that will be led by Brittany Mann, the content of which is still being decided. To sign up for either, go to [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).

***Youth Winter Retreat – February 16-18***

This upcoming February our youth will embark on our first ever winter retreat! During the trip we will consider the implications of God making us new from Ephesians 2. The cost is $175 and that includes transportation and all meals. You can register for Winter Retreat on the Church Center app.

***CFC Hosting TIPS Foster Parent Training Class***

CFC is excited to host the foster parent training class in partnership with Alabama Baptist Children's Homes. The class will run on Thursday nights from February 1-April 25, from 5:30-8:00 here at CFC. Please reach out to Billy Shepard at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org to get further information and the registration form.

***Global Strategy Q&A – February 25th***

On Sunday, February 25th from 9:00am-10:00am, Brian G. will host a Q&A session to build upon last Fall’s Equip series. We will continue to unpack specifics regarding the most critical needs in Asia as well as other existing global strategies within the CFC family. The entire hour will be devoted to Q&A so come prepared. The training will take place in the CFC Fellowship Hall and light breakfast and coffee will be provided. Childcare will not be available. Please register in the Church Center app.

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**Pre-Service Music** (\*please remain seated)

“I’d Rather Have Jesus” Miller & Shea

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;*

 *my soul thirsts for you;*

*my flesh faints for you,*

 *as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

*2So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,*

 *beholding your power and glory.*

*3Because your steadfast love is better than life,*

 *my lips will praise you.*

*4So I will bless you as long as I live;*

 *in your name I will lift up my hands.*

*5My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,*

 *and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,*

*6when I remember you upon my bed,*

 *and meditate on you in the watches of the night;*

*7for you have been my help,*

 *and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.*

*8My soul clings to you;*

 *your right hand upholds me.* (Psalm 63:1-8)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*9As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.* (John 15:9)

“Nothing but the Blood” Lowry

“Not in Me” Schumacher & Ward

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Mark 7:1-23

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Jared Jones

*4Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.* (John 15:4-5)

*21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

 **Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic\* church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[\*that is the true Christian church of all times and all places]

“Rock of Ages” Hastings & Toplady

“Speak, O Lord” Getty & Townend

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Nick Murray

 Christ Over All: “Trading Technique for Treasure”

Colossians 2:16-23

**The Lord’s Supper**

“In Christ Alone” Getty & Townend

**Offering**

***9For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*** (2 Corinthians 8:9)

***7Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*** (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

**Prayer of Intercession** Caleb Schmidt

**The Lord’s Prayer**

***Our Father in heaven,***

 ***hallowed be your name.***

***Your kingdom come,***

 ***your will be done,***

 ***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread,***

 ***and forgive us our debts,***

 ***as we also have forgiven our debtors.***

***And lead us not into temptation,***

 ***but deliver us from evil.***

***For yours is the kingdom***

 ***and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**Benediction**

*23Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.* (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

“Doxology” Bourgeois & Ken

We are pleased that you have joined us for worship this morning.

Visitors and members alike are encouraged to fellowship with one another after the service. If you would like to speak with a pastor about a need in your life or for prayer, one will be available at the front of the room.

**Additional Explanatory Notes of Worship Elements**

*†* ***The Lord’s Supper***

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper every Lord’s Day as part of our worship and witness. The Lord’s Supper is an occasion for believers in Christ to be reminded of Jesus’ death in our place, to be strengthened by the promise of His coming, and to be renewed toward God and one another. All who have identified with Christ in baptism and who are in good standing with a local church that preaches the gospel are welcome at the Table.

If you are not a follower of Jesus, we invite you to spend this time in prayer reflecting on the Word that has been preached and the great offer of salvation in Jesus Christ. If you feel so inclined, we invite you to offer the following prayer to God:

“Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.”

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church, that we would faithfully do what we promise in our church covenant: that together we would draw near to God weekly in worship, that we would delight in the glory of God, depend on the presence of God, grow in the knowledge of God, and submit to the Word of God as the all-sufficient authority in our lives and in His church, as that as we do these things, we would grow in maturity in Christ.

***For Our City***

For Philadelphia Baptist Church, pastor Ryan Adams, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation, that God would heal our country of the sin of racism, that we would work to bring about significant change in areas where there is rampant social injustice, and that local churches around our nation would be diverse pictures of the reconciliation found in the gospel.

***For Our World***

For the missionaries serving throughout the Himalayas who have been at a retreat with some of our church members this week: that their time spent together would serve encourage and equip them for ongoing gospel and church planting work; that as they each return to their countries of service this week; that their ministries would be strengthened; that they’d have boldness and perseverance to proclaim the gospel among Tibetan Buddhists; and the would have the opportunity to lead others well with the things they learned at the training.



