**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 Maggie Irby at mirby@cfcbirmingham.org.

1/22/23

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

***Membership Matters Class – Sunday, January 29th at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, January 29th at 2:00pm. Attending this class is an important part of the process of becoming a member of Christ Fellowship Church. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/membership-matters, or email Nick Murray at nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org with any questions.

***Equip Classes Begin Tonight***

The Spring Semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes begins tonight! Classes will meet most Sunday nights throughout the semester, with the exception of the first Sunday of the month Prayer or Members’ Meetings. Dinner is served starting at 4:45pm. We’ll dismiss to classes around 5:30pm. The meal tonight is Chinese food (with pizza for kids).

***Volunteer Need: International Student Rides to Church***

We are looking for drivers to give rides to international students to and from church on Sunday mornings.  The students live in the downtown Birmingham/5 Points area and are typically a 5-10 minute drive from CFC.  If you are interested in being a driver (even if you can't commit every week), please contact Dennis Schauer ([schauer.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:schauer.dennis@gmail.com) or 205-527-6845).

***Friendship Partners for Spring 2023***

The Friendship Partners program is a great opportunity to get to know an international student or scholar while they are studying in Birmingham! To sign up, email Caroline Brown at [cbrown@briarwood.org](mailto:cbrown@briarwood.org). If you have any questions, you can contact Dennis Schauer at 205-527-6845 or [schauer.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:schauer.dennis@gmail.com).

***Held Together Dinner – Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00pm***

Ladies, join us at 6:00pm on Tuesday, February 7, to hear from our own Rebekah Head as she speaks about sharing the gospel. In addition, we'll enjoy a catered dinner and hear about the work of and a special opportunity coming up with Sav-A-Life! Register at [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women) today and invite a friend!

***New Hope Sponsorships and Tanzania Trip***

CFC is hoping to send several members to visit New Hope Girls School and Rachel Hagues in Tanzania this spring. If you are interested in learning more, please email Will Johnston at [wdjohnston1014@gmail.com](mailto:wdjohnston1014@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list. Additionally, there is still opportunity to support scholarships for New Hope students at either the $50 or $25 per month level. Questions can be directed to Rachel Hagues at [rachjoy@gmail.com](mailto:rachjoy@gmail.com).

***Visiting Philadelphia Baptist Church***

As the proposed partnership between CFC and Philadelphia Baptist Church moves forward, we would encourage members who are considering moving their membership to visit PBC in the coming weeks or months. Ryan will be preaching there January 8-29, but you are welcome to visit anytime! If you have young children, it would be helpful for them to know you are coming so they can recruit additional volunteers.

**Sunday, January22nd, 2023**

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

“The Love of God” Cowper & Smith

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*5Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,*

*your faithfulness to the clouds.*

*6Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;*

*your judgments are like the great deep;*

*man and beast you save, O LORD.*

*7How precious is your steadfast love, O God!*

*The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

*8They feast on the abundance of your house,*

*and you give them drink from the river of your delights.*

*9For with you is the fountain of life;*

*in your light do we see light.* (Psalm 36:5-9)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*28Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* (Matthew 11:28-30)

“His Mercy Is More” Papa & Boswell

“Shine Into Our Night” Sczebel

**The Apostles’ Creed** Jason Kirk

**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]

**Baptisms** Kat Martin & Jacob Hurdle

*25I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.* (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

“Before the Throne of God Above” Bancroft & Cook

“Man of Sorrows” Kottas & Bliss

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage** Chrystal Kelly

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

The Gospel According to John: “The ABC’s of the Good News”

John 3:16-21

**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** Nick Murray

**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**

*14The 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)

“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**

***Baptism***

Baptism is a visual of the gospel story and a powerful reminder to the church of their identity with the crucified and risen Christ. The sacrificial death of Jesus and His victorious, bodily resurrection from the dead form the backdrop to baptism as believers are symbolically united to their Redeemer. Baptism in no way saves us, but it does call attention to the One who has saved us. If you know Jesus as Savior but have never been baptized, please speak with an elder after the service. If you are a baptized believer, rejoice today as you are reminded of your salvation in and through Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

***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 this semester’s upcoming Sunday night Equip classes, that God would use this intentional time to grow our church members and our children in the knowledge of him, for God to prepare and lead those who will be teaching the various classes, and that God would help the staff work through all the necessary logistics as we prepare to start.

***For Our City***

For Altadena Valley Presbyterian Church, pastor Brad Allison, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation, in light of the overturning of Roe v. Wade: that this ruling would allow more innocent children to live; that more states would limit or prohibit abortions; that churches would lead the way in creating a culture of life that cares for moms, dads, and babies, especially those who face difficult and desperate situations; and that legislators would wisely create laws and practices that will allow human flourishing for all.

***For Our World***

For the nation of China: that Chinese believers would persevere in the face of persecution; that churches in China would be willing to take the gospel to the unreached parts of the country; that the government would end its abuse of the rights of citizens; and that God would remove leaders to seek to stop the spread of the gospel and bring harm on their people.

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