**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.

1/8/23

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

***Prayer Meeting – Tonight at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for our monthly fellowship meal and prayer meeting tonight at 5:00pm. There will be no Equip classes for kids or adults (they start on January 22), but we will have childcare for kids. Dinner is free! We’ll have Taziki’s for adults and pizza for kids.

***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.

***Register Now for Spring Semester Equip Classes***

The Spring semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes begins on January 22nd. Almost every Sunday evening, we will teach discipleship classes to adults and kids of all ages. 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 bring your own dinner or simply join us for the discipleship classes. You can find out more about Equip and register with the QR code on the screens or in the church center app.

***Women’s Winter Bible Studies***

We’re excited to offer four different bible study options this semester to the ladies of CFC. Sign up at [cfcbirmingham.com/women](http://cfcbirmingham.com/women).

* Monday Evenings—Starting January 9, Rebecca Osteen and Donna LeFebvre will lead a study of *Every Good Endeavor* by Timothy Keller.
* Wednesday Mornings—Starting January 11, we will offer two inductive Bible studies, with childcare available: Leviticus with Brittany Mann, and 2 Samuel with Paige Herr
* Starting in February, Janet Thorn is leading an evening study of Proverbs. Email her (janetthorn7@gmail.com) for more information.

***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 or 205-527-6845).

***Youth Capture the Flag Event – Next Sunday, 1/15***

On Sunday 1/15, CFC Youth will host our 3rd annual Capture the Flag game here at the church. The event will last from 5:00-7:00, and dinner will be provided. All students in 6th-12th grades are encouraged to attend and to use this opportunity to invite a friend who might not have a church home. While the event is free, help us plan ahead by registering your student for the event. The registration link can be found in the spring semester youth kickoff email, midweek announcement email or the church center app.

***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. If you have any questions, you can contact Dennis Schauer at 205-527-6845 or schauer.dennis@gmail.com

**Sunday, January8th, 2023**

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

“God, Your Everlasting Light” Cowper & Smith

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1How lovely is your dwelling place,*

 *O LORD of hosts!*

*2My soul longs, yes, faints*

 *for the courts of the LORD;*

*my heart and flesh sing for joy*

 *to the living God.*

*3Even the sparrow finds a home,*

 *and the swallow a nest for herself,*

 *where she may lay her young,*

*at your altars, O LORD of hosts,*

 *my King and my God.*

*4Blessed are those who dwell in your house,*

 *ever singing your praise!*

*5Blessed are those whose strength is in you,*

 *in whose heart are the highways to Zion…*

*10For a day in your courts is better*

 *than a thousand elsewhere.*

*I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God*

 *than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

*11For the LORD God is a sun and shield;*

 *the LORD bestows favor and honor.*

*No good thing does he withhold*

 *from those who walk uprightly.*

*12O LORD of hosts,*

 *blessed is the one who trusts in you!* (Psalm 84:1-5, 10-12)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*4Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,*

 *to dwell in your courts!*

*We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,*

 *the holiness of your temple!* (Psalm 65:4)

“Christ Is Risen” Fieldes & Maher

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Wesley

**The Apostles’ Creed** Bart Box

**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** Margaret Anne Forester & Julia Hufford

*3For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.* (Titus 3:3-7)

“Here Is Love Vast as the Ocean” Rees, Giles, Rives, & Lowry

“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death” Kauflin, Getty, Papa, & Merker

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage** Alex LaGanke

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 The Gospel According to John: “Why We Should Love an Angry Christ”

John 2:13-25

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Only a Holy God” Farren, Robinson, Smith, Thompson

**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** Brad Lowe

**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**

*22And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.* (Revelation 21:22-23)

“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!

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For the elders of our church, that these men would all care for this body by teaching the Word of Christ to us and by modeling the character of Christ before us, that they would guard and promote unity in our congregation, and that as a body we would support and submit to their leadership.

***For Our City***

For Valleydale Church, pastor Mac Brunson, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For the abolition of human trafficking in our country, that God would intervene and break the power of the wicked perpetrators of these actions, that the full measure of justice would be brought upon those guilty of these crimes, and that victims would be rescued and rehabilitated to the dignity they deserve as God’s image bearers.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Myanmar: that churches and Christians there would have an effective gospel witness despite lack of religious freedom; that Christians, churches, and organizations would minister to the spiritual and physical needs of refugees and other displaced persons; and that the government of Myanmar would rule for the good of all citizens, providing them with equal protection under the law.



