**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.

10/1/23

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

***Prayer Meeting & Fellowship Meal Tonight at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for a prayer meeting and fellowship meal tonight at 5:00pm. All adults will attend the prayer meeting. But we will teach all our kids Equip classes. Dinner is free!

***Fall Women’s Bible Study Options***

Ladies, please join us for one of 2 studies this fall. Paige Herr will lead us in an inductive Bible study of 1 Kings on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am. Melissa Gazi and Lauren Mosteller will facilitate a Monday evening book discussion on Paul Miller’s *A Praying Life.* Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Two Men's Bible Study Options***

Starting the first week of October, the men's ministry will offer a morning and a lunch Bible study. Steve Killough will lead the morning Bible study on Tuesdays from 6:45-7:30am at the church, studying the Servant Songs in Isaiah. Billy Shepard will lead the lunch Bible Study on Thursdays from noon-12:45pm at the church, studying the book of 1 John. Register on the church center app.

***CrossCon 24 - January 3-5, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky***

Cross is designed for college and grad-school students as well as young professionals who want to engage with others and hear from speakers such as John Piper, David Platt, Trip Lee, Rosaria Butterfield, emphasizing the gospel, the local church, and the nations. Now is the time to register. If you are interested, please contact Jared Jones at jjones@cfcbirmingham.org.

***Women’s Fall Held Event***

Join us at 6:00pm on Thursday, October 19, to hear Dr. Rachel Hagues, CFC member and associate professor of Samford University's Department of Social Work, discuss her work with young women in Tanzania. In addition, we'll hear about ways we can serve both abroad and at home. Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Spiritual Disciplines Conference with Donald Whitney at Brook Hills***

Do you want to grow in prayer and Bible reading? Respected author and teacher Dr. Don Whitney will be leading a conference called “Spiritual Disciplines for Real People” at the Church at Brook Hills. If you are interested in attending, there is a link in the mid-week announcements or you can go to the front page of Brook Hill’s website, [www.brookhills.org](http://www.brookhills.org).

***Hosting an International Student Thanksgiving Meal***

The days leading up to American Thanksgiving are a great opportunity to practice hospitality and invite international students to your home for a meal. We can offer ideas for a menu and conversation starters too! If you would like to host a small group of international students for a Thanksgiving meal on any of the dates of November 17-19 or 22-24, contact Keri Westbrook at kwestbrook@cfcbirmingham.org or Dennis Schauer at Schauer.dennis@gmail.com. There will be an informational training for those interested on Sunday afternoon October 29.

**Sunday, October 1, 2023**

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

“I Love You, Lord” Klein

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*14Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* (Hebrews 4:14-16)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Philippians 1:2)

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Robinson & Wyeth

“Shine into Our Night” Sczebel

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Matthew 4:18-22

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Nick Murray

*23And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.* (Luke 9:23-24)

*27My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.* (John 10:27-28)

**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]

“All I Have Is Christ” Kauflin

“Christ Is Mine Forevermore” Robinson & Thompson

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “The God of All Grace”

John 21:1-19

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Jesus, Strong & Kind” Buchanan, Robinson, Farren, & 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** Keith Pearson

**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**

*10And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.* (1 Peter 5:10-11)

“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 be faithful in discipling one another; that our Growth Groups would be places of growth in godliness and accountability; and that we would help each other as we grow together in following Jesus’ calling upon our individual and collective lives.

***For Our City***

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

***For Our Nation***

For our nation's judicial system, that judges from the Supreme Court to traffic court would give right judgments, and that that those looking for justice would look to God as the final and never-failing Judge.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Indonesia: for the gospel to be proclaimed broadly and for the church to take root deeply throughout the country; for an end to human trafficking, for relief from diseases related to poor nutritional, and for freedom from opioid addictions which are high in the country; also, for justice to prevail throughout local governments across the nation.



