**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.

10/15/23

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

***Equip Meets Tonight***

The Fall semester of Equip continues tonight. Dinner is Moe’s BBQ and will be served beginning at 4:45pm. Classes will begin at 5:35pm, sharp. Kid classroom locations will be on their check-in sticker. The youth group meets in the youth room. And all adults will meet in the worship room. All classes will conclude at 6:25pm.

***Membership Matters Class – Monday, November 6 at 6:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Monday, November 6 at 6:00pm. 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.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***Men's Preaching Opportunity at Brother Bryan Mission***

CFC partners with an excellent recovery ministry in downtown Birmingham, Brother Bryan Mission. Members of CFC preach their chapel service every Monday at 6:30pm, and we are in need of more men willing to preach. This is an excellent opportunity to grow in teaching God's Word, while helping men in need. Direct any questions to Billy at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org.

***CFC Kids Equip Teachers***

As we get ready to swap over to the second teaching quarter of Equip, we need **THREE** more preschool Equip teachers and **TWO**more 1st grade Equip teachers. The dates for this second quarter are October 29, November 5, November 12, and November 19...just four weeks and the lessons are prepared for you in advance. Please email Sarah Beth if you are able to serve in this way!

**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Wesley

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*14For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*20Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* (Ephesians 3:14-21)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*15“Can a woman forget her nursing child,*

 *that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?*

*Even these may forget,*

 *yet I will not forget you.*

*16Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.*

(Isaiah 49:15-16a)

“Revive Us Again” Adler, Husband, & MacKay

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

**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]

**Baptisms** Varun Rajak & Lane Scott

*4We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* (Romans 6:4-5)

“His Mercy Is More” Boswell & Papa

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” Townend

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Book of Malachi: “What Have You Done for Me Lately?”

Malachi 1:1-5

**The Lord’s Supper**

“I Stand Amazed” Gabriel

**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** Billy Shepard

**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 our culture as a church, that as we grow, we would all see that part of being a Christian means that we grow in being providers and not just consumers, that we would work against a spirit of entitlement and instead work toward a spirit of every-member service to the body.

***For Our City***

For Immanuel Church, pastor Austin Baker, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For President Biden, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and all of the advisers who are responsible for directing our national response to the war in Israel, that God would supply wisdom to all of these as they make consequential decisions.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Israel in light of the war that has broken out this week: that God would restore peace within the borders of the land, that innocent lives would be protected within Israel, for swift justice to be brought down upon terrorists, for Christians within Israel to be emboldened to be a light in the darkness, and that Christ would ultimately be known as God fulfills His purposes for Israel.



