**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.

12/10/23

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

***Christmas Eve Service – Sunday, December 24th at 10:30am***

Our Christmas Eve service this year will take place during our normal Sunday morning worship time on December 24th. Join us at 10:30am. All children will be in service with us. We will have activity sheets available for all children.

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

The Spring semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes begins on January 21 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.

***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." We will hear from Jen Wilkin, Courtney Reissig, and Jackie Hill Perry via recorded session. In addition to the talks, we will worship together and set aside time to share in small group settings what was most valuable as we grow together in our understanding of the whole story of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Early bird registration ends January 7! Sign up at [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).

***Women’s Winter Bible Study***

Ladies, join other CFC women in a study of God's Word as Paige Herr leads a study of 2 Kings on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:15am, starting January 10. Go to [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women) to sign up.

***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. If you plan to register more than one student, please contact Billy for a discount code. You can register for Winter Retreat on the Church Center app.

***Year End Giving***

As we approach the end of the year, we want to begin by giving God thanks for the way he has provided for our church through your faithful giving. The Lord is good, and we are grateful that we have been able to support church ministries, give to local initiatives, and provide for our global partners. If you would like to give in the year 2023, you can either: 1) deposit your gift in the offering basket on December 31 (final Sunday of the year), 2) give online by December 31, or 3) mail a check to 76 Green Springs Hwy, Birmingham, AL 35209, postmarked by December 31.

***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.

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

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

“All Things Together” Peterson

**Welcome** Billy Shepard

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.* (Colossians 1:15-20)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*7Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.* (Romans 15:7)

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Barnes & Chadwick

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent” Moultrie

**Public Reading of Scripture** – John 1:1-18

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

*18And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.* (Colossians 1:18)

*19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.* (Colossians 1:19-20)

**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]

“Amen, Amen” Robins & Watts

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

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 Christ Over All: “None Greater”

Colossians 1:15-20

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Mendelssohn & Wesley

**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**

**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**

*17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* (Colossians 1:17)

“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 the 35 new members that we added to covenant membership this past Sunday, that we would faithfully fulfill our covenantal obligations to one another: spurring one another on to love and good deeds, meeting together consistently, praying for one another regularly, sharing in each other’s joys, bearing each other’s burdens, and serving one another selflessly, for our good and God’s glory.

***For Our City***

For Mountain Brook Community Church, pastor Tim Kallam, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For an end to gun violence in our country, that mass shootings would cease forever, that our swords would be beat into plowshares, that the underlying sin which ultimately leads to these horrible instances would be confronted with the gospel, and that our elected and appointed officials would work wisely to create solutions to this devastating issue.

***For Our World***

For the ongoing situation in Gaza, for the preservation of innocent lives on both sides of the conflict, for necessary resources to reach those who desperately need them, for the freeing of all hostages, that God would bring a prevailing peace between Israel and Palestine, and that Christ would ultimately be known as Lord as God fulfills his purposes for Israel.



