**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.

12/17/23

**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 17, 2023**

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

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Rettino

**Welcome** Brian G.

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*2The people who walked in darkness*

 *have seen a great light;*

*those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,*

 *on them has light shone…*

*6For to us a child is born,*

 *to us a son is given;*

*and the government shall be upon his shoulder,*

 *and his name shall be called*

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*

 *Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7Of the increase of his government and of peace*

 *there will be no end,*

*on the throne of David and over his kingdom,*

 *to establish it and to uphold it*

*with justice and with righteousness*

 *from this time forth and forevermore.*

*The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.* (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.* (Ephesians 2:13)

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” van Dyke, Beethoven

“Joy to the World” Handel & Watts

**The Apostles’ Creed** Nick Murray

**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** Blessy Joseph, Mike Casement, & Ezra Ytterberg

*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)

“Amen, Amen” Robins & Watts

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Oakley & Wade

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 Christ Over All: “The Perfect Gift”

Colossians 1:21-29

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” Boswell, Papa, & Bleecker

**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**

*18All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20a)

“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 our culture as a church, that as we grow in size, that our relationships with one another in this body would be increasingly marked by a transparency that does not fear asking hard questions or telling honest truths about ourselves, that we would find it natural to regularly encourage one another with the Scriptures, and that we would continue to understand that maintaining important relationships within our church is part of what it means to be a Christian.

***For Our City***

For Christ the King Anglican Church, pastor Michael Novotney, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For police officers, firefighters, and first responders, that the Lord would help them to look after the good of others as they serve and protect; that they would be consistent in maintaining peace and just order; and that God would protect them as they serve in dangerous situations.

***For Our World***

For CFC members C & D who are preparing to move to the Middle East: that as they prepare to leave, they would abide in Christ daily and be refreshed in His Word; that they would have endurance in learning language and culture, and that they would be ready to share hope as opportunities arise; that their unreached neighbors and others in their community to receive the gospel.



