**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.

12/24/23

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

***Activity Packs for Kids Available***

Since all kids are with us in the service today, we have some activity packs available for you to utilize in the service. Grab one in the commons if you didn’t get any on your way in this morning.

***Fellowship Hall Livestream Available***

During the service this morning, we will have the livestream feed of the service playing in the fellowship hall. If you need to walk a child out of the worship room for a moment but would still like to follow along with the service, please make use of it at any point.

***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.

***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 24, 2023**

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

“Who Would Have Dreamed” Hansen & Kauflun

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Call to Worship**

*4But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*(Galatians 4:4-7)

**Corporate Prayer of Adoration**

O SOURCE OF ALL GOOD,

What shall I render to You for the Gift of gifts,
      your own dear Son, begotten, not created,
  my Redeemer, proxy, surety, substitute,
  his self-emptying incomprehensible,
  his infinity of love beyond the heart’s grasp.
Herein is wonder of wonders:
  he came below to raise me above,
  was born like me that I might become like him.
**Herein is love;
  when I cannot rise to him he draws near on
    wings of grace,
  to raise me to himself.**
Herein is power;
  when Deity and humanity were infinitely apart
  he united them in inseparable unity,
    the uncreated and the created.
**Herein is wisdom;
  when I was undone, with no will to return to him,
  and no intellect to devise recovery,
  he came, God-incarnate, to save me
    to the uttermost,
  as man to die my death,
  to shed satisfying blood on my behalf,
  to work out a perfect righteousness for me.**
O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds,
    and enlarge my mind;
  let me hear good tidings of great joy,
    and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,
    my conscience at rest in an ocean of peace,
    my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father.

**Place me with ox, camel, sheep, and goat,
    to look with them upon my Redeemer’s face,
    and in him account myself delivered from sin.**
  Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child
    to my heart,
  embrace him with undying faith,
  exulting that he is mine and I am his.
**In him you have given me so much
    that heaven can give no more.**

**We give thanks and pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

(from the *Valley of Vision*, “Gift of Gifts”)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Oakley & Wade

“O Holy Night”Adam, Cappeau, & White

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Luke 2:1-21

**Recitation of the Nicene Creed**  Billy Shepard

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,**

**Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and of all things visible and invisible.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the only-begotten Son of God,**

**begotten of the Father before all worlds,**

**Light of Light,**

**very God of very God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**being of one substance with the Father;**

**by whom all things were made;**

**who for us and for our salvation,**

**came down from heaven,**

**and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit**

**and the Virgin Mary,**

**and was made man;**

**he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,**

**and suffered,**

**and was buried,**

**and the third day he rose again,**

**according to the Scriptures,**

**and ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

**and he shall come again in glory**

**to judge the living and the dead;**

**whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and Giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son**

**together is worshipped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church;**

**we acknowledge one baptism**

**for the forgiveness of sins;**

**we look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

[\*that is the true Christian church of all times and all places]

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Mendelssohn & Wesley

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” Hughes & Wesley

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Nick Murray

 “See His Love Forever Proved”

1 John 4:9-10

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Joy to the World” Handel & Watts

**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)

**Corporate Prayer of Anticipation**

As we prepare for the coming of Christmas Day,

 we would also prepare our hearts for the returning Christ.
**You came once for your people,
O Lord, and you will come for us again.**

Though there was no room at the inn to receive you upon

 your first arrival,

**We would prepare you room in our hearts and**

 **in our homes, Lord Christ.**

As we decorate and celebrate, we do so to mark the memory

 of your redemptive movement into our broken world, O God.

Our glittering ornaments and Christmas trees,

 our festive carols, our sumptuous feasts—

**By these small tokens we affirm
 that something amazing has happened in time and space—**

that God, on a particular night,

in a particular place, so many years ago,
 was born to us, an infant King, our Prince of Peace.

Our wreaths and ribbons and colored lights, our giving of gifts,

 our parties with friends— these have never been ends in themselves.

**They are but small ways in which we repeat that sounding joy**

 **first proclaimed by angels in the skies near Bethlehem.**

In view of such great tidings of love announced to us, and to all people,

 how can we not be moved to praise and celebration

 in this Christmas season?

**As we decorate our tree, and as we feast and laugh**

 **and sing together, we are rehearsing our coming joy!**We are making ready to receive the one
 who has already, with open arms, received us!

**We would prepare you room in our hearts
 and in our homes, Lord Christ.**

Now we celebrate your first coming, Immanuel,

 even as we long for your return.
**O Prince of Peace, our elder brother, return soon.**

 **Come Lord Jesus! Amen.**

(From *Every Moment Holy*, “A Liturgy to Mark the Start of the Christmas Season”)

**Benediction**

*16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* (John 3:16-17)

“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.



