**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.

12/3/23

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

***ABCH Christmas Gifts***

Each year, we have the opportunity to support children and moms who are in the care of one of our local partners, the Alabama Baptist Children's Home, by providing Christmas gifts for children who are in care. All of the gifts have already been claimed and you can refer to that list in your midweek email. Gifts need to be unwrapped, with a post-it note or sticker with the recipient's name somewhere on the gift and brought to church and dropped off at the table in the commons TODAY. If you have questions, you can email Keri Westbrook at kwestbrook@cfcbirmingham.org.

***Members’ Meeting & Fellowship Meal – Tonight***

All members are invited to join us for a fellowship meal and members' meeting on Sunday, December 3rd at 5:00pm. We will first gather for dinner, which will be provided by CFC, and then begin the members' meeting afterward. Childcare will be offered after the meal. To help us order the correct amount of food and have enough rooms for childcare, please RSVP at this QR code. The meal will be Taziki’s for adults and pizza for kids, so plan accordingly. We will also have special Christmas activities for ages 2 and up they will not want to miss!

***Directory Updates***

For all members of CFC, if you would like to update anything in the church directory, please email those updates to Keri Westbrook at kwestbrook@cfcbirmingham.org.

***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.

***Adoptive & Foster Mom Group – Next Sunday, December 10***

The adoptive and foster mom group will meet Sunday, December 10, at 9:00am at the church. All adoptive and foster moms are invited! For more information, contact Kim Currie at kimcurrie1234@gmail.com.

***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 reach out to Keri or Billy for a discount code. You can register for Winter Retreat 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 emphasizing the gospel, the local church, and the nations. We will be putting together a group to attend and now is the time to register. If you are interested, please contact Jared Jones at jjones@cfcbirmingham.org.

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

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

“All Things Together” Peterson

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*5Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:5-11)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*23“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,*

 *and they shall call his name Immanuel”*

*(which means, God with us).* (Matthew 1:23)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Coffin, Helmore, & Neale

“Joy to the World” Handel & Watts

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Ephesians 4:11-16

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Brian G.

*22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.* (Galatians 5:22-25)

*20I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* (Galatians 2:20)

**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]

“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** Bart Box

 Christ Over All: “Cosmic Praying”

Colossians 1:1-14

**The Lord’s Supper**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Oakley & Wade

**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** Brad Lowe

**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**

*23Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.* (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

“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 filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, that we would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, that we would bear fruit in every good work and increase in the knowledge of God, and that we would be strengthened with God’s glorious power for endurance and patience with joy in Christ.

***For Our City***

For Faith Presbyterian Church, pastor Jason Sterling, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For an increase in healthy churches in every city across our country: that these churches would be known for their gospel proclamation, their love of neighbor, and their commitment to the truth; that God would supply them with faithful pastors, elders, and church members; and that God would close the doors of churches that confuse the world by editing the truths of the Bible or by maligning the character of God.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Pakistan, specifically for the Baloch people: for gospel seeds that have been sown among these people to take root and grow; for God to pour out His grace and mercy on the Baloch people, so that they may have the opportunity to hear the gospel with opened ears and see the gospel with opened eyes.



