**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.

12/31/23

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

***Prayer Meeting & Fellowship Meal Next Sunday, January 7 at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for our monthly fellowship meal and prayer meeting next Sunday at 5:00pm. There will be no Equip classes for kids or adults (they start on January 21), but we will have childcare for kids. Dinner is free, and we’ll be serving Maya. The best way to RSVP is through the Equip registration link at the QR code below.

***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.

***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.

***Year End Giving Concludes Today***

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. If you would like to give in the year 2023, you can either: 1) deposit your gift in the offering basket today (final Sunday of the year), 2) give online today, or 3) mail a check to 76 Green Springs Hwy, Birmingham, AL 35209, postmarked by December 31.

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

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

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

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1Come, everyone who thirsts,*

 *come to the waters;*

*and he who has no money,*

 *come, buy and eat!*

*Come, buy wine and milk*

 *without money and without price.*

*2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,*

 *and your labor for that which does not satisfy?*

*Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,*

 *and delight yourselves in rich food.*

*3Incline your ear, and come to me;*

 *hear, that your soul may live;*

*and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,*

 *my steadfast, sure love for David.* (Isaiah 55:1-3)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

To all who are weary and need rest,

To all who mourn and long for comfort,

To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares,

To all who fail and desire strength,

To all who sin and need a Savior,

This church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ,

the Ally of his enemies, the Defender of the guilty,

the Justifier of the inexcusable, the Friend of sinners.

Welcome!

“Revive Us Again” Adler, Husband, & MacKay

“All Glory Be to Christ” Kensrue

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Psalm 127

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Bart Box

*6Seek the LORD while he may be found;*

 *call upon him while he is near;*

*7let the wicked forsake his way,*

 *and the unrighteous man his thoughts;*

*let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,*

 *and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.* (Isaiah 55:6-7)

*8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,*

 *neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.*

*9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,*

 *so are my ways higher than your ways*

 *and my thoughts than your thoughts.* (Isaiah 55:8-9)

**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]

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion” McCracken

“Amazing Grace” Arne & Newton

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

*10For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven*

 *and do not return there but water the earth,*

*making it bring forth and sprout,*

 *giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,*

*11so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;*

 *it shall not return to me empty,*

*but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,*

 *and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.* (Isaiah 55:10-11)

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Billy Shepard

 Christ Over All: “The Glory in the Grind”

Colossians 2:1-5

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Be Thou My Vision” Byrne & Hull

**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** Brian G.

**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**

*12For you shall go out in joy*

 *and be led forth in peace;*

*the mountains and the hills before you*

 *shall break forth into singing,*

 *and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

*13Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;*

 *instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;*

*and it shall make a name for the LORD,*

 *an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.* (Isaiah 55:12-13)

“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.

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church as we enter this new year, that we would be faithful to our mission of making disciples of Christ who love God and love their neighbor; and that each passing week would bring us more in line with our vision of seeing the gospel spread more deeply into every corner of our lives and more fully unto every corner of the world; and that this year we would all grow in greater spiritual maturity and conformity to Christ.

***For Our City***

For Hunter Street Baptist Church, pastor Buddy Gray, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation, that God would bring true spiritual revival, that people would grow dissatisfied with their sin and long for the truth of the gospel, and that healthy churches would display the glory of God and the hope of the gospel to those around them.

***For Our World***

For the Cross Conference happening this week: that this focus on missions would have an impact on the nations for the gospel; for the presenters to clearly articulate the truth and for those who attend to grow in a deeper understanding and application of the truth they hear; and specifically for our members who are attending the conference this week, that God would use this week in eternally significant ways in their lives.



