**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 Maggie Irby at mirby@cfcbirmingham.org.

4/16/23

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

***Tanzania Team Wish List***

A CFC team has just returned from Tumaini Jipya school in Tanzania where Rachel Hagues and her family are living for the semester. They have compiled an Amazon wish list of things the girls could use based on their observations on the trip. You can find that list of items in your midweek email. If you feel led to purchase something from the list, a second team is departing 4/25 and will be bringing supplies with them. (Please ensure that the delivery date is listed as 4/24 or earlier so that you can get the item to church on 4/24 before the team departs.)

***Membership Matters Class – Sunday, April 30th at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, April 30 at 2:00pm. Attending this class is an important part of the process of becoming a member of Christ Fellowship Church. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/membership-matters, or email Nick Murray at nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org with any questions.

***Equip Classes Continue Tonight***

The Spring Semester of our Sunday evening Equip classes continue tonight! Dinner is served starting at 4:45pm. We’ll dismiss to classes around 5:30pm. The meal tonight is Mr. Chen’s for adults and pizza for kids.

***VBS Registration Now Open! (June 26-29)***

******We are so excited about VBS this summer! Participant registration is now open for children ages 4 (by September 1, 2023) through 5th grade completed. Children at Twists and Turns will play their way through VBS in fun locations such as the Bible Study Game Room, Wild Card Crafts, Multiplayer Missions, and Skip Ahead Snacks. But more importantly, they’ll see Jesus through the eyes of one of His closest friends and discover that trusting Jesus as Savior and following Him changes the game entirely! Sign up today with this QR code or the Church Center app.

***VBS Volunteers Still Needed***

Whether it's crafts, Bible study, rec time, or missions there's a place for you to serve this year at Vacation Bible School! VBS will take place June 26-29 from 9:00am-noon. Please visit [cfcbirmingham.org/vbsvolunteer](http://cfcbirmingham.org/vbsvolunteer) to sign up to volunteer. The number of volunteers we have signed up directly affects the number of children we can have register for VBS. If you have any questions you can email Sarah Beth Shepard at sb@cfcbirminhgam.org.

***Spring Held Gathering – Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00pm***

Ladies, join us on Tuesday, May 2, at 6:00pm for an evening of fellowship and encouragement as we discuss discipleship and godly friendship between women! For more details go to [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).

***Medical Church Planting Trip to Brazil in September 2023***

CFC is planning to send a team to Rio de Janeiro from August 30-September 7 to assist pastors planting new churches in "favelas." The goal is to connect with and evangelize people in underprivileged communities through short term medical and dental clinics. Medical experience is helpful but in no way necessary. In fact, it is just as crucial to have non-medical Christian brothers and sisters to support the work of the clinic and to spend focused time establishing relationships with local Brazilians and sharing with them the love of Christ. Please pray and consider joining the team. If interested, visit cfcbirmingham.org/brazil23 or contact Michael Dumas at dumasms@gmail.com

**Sunday, April 16th, 2023**

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

“God, Your Everlasting Light” Cowper & Smith

**Welcome** Bart Box

**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**

*9But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* (1 Peter 2:9-10)

“Christ Is Risen” Fieldes & Maher

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder” Newton

**The Apostles’ Creed** Billy Shepard

**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** Roman Brasfield

*11In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.* (Colossians 2:11-14)

“In Christ Alone” Getty & Townend

“Man of Sorrows” Kottas & Bliss

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “How to Die in Your Sins”

John 8:12-30

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Jesus, Strong and Kind” Buchanan, Farren, Robinson, & Thompson

**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** Ralph Parrish

**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**

*19The sun shall be no more*

 *your light by day,*

*nor for brightness shall the moon*

 *give you light;*

*but the LORD will be your everlasting light,*

 *and your God will be your glory.* (Isaiah 60:19)

“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 church, that God would mark us as a people who are constantly repenting from sin in our lives, that we would not grow complacent with areas of rebellion in our own lives, that we would bear increased fruit by God’s Spirit, and that we would continually turn toward Christ to receive mercy and pardon.

***For Our City***

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

***For Our Nation***

For president Joe Biden and all other elected officials, that they would use authority for the benefit of others; that they would act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly; and that they would exercise discernment and wisdom in governing our cities, states, and nation.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Libya, that followers of Christ would count it worth to suffer for Christ rather than deny him, for peace and stability in the country for the sake of the spread of the gospel and for the good of all citizens, and that religious persecution would end and that the government would enact fair and just laws.



