**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.

4/2/23

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

***Prayer Meeting & Kids Equip Classes – Tonight at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for a prayer meeting and fellowship meal tonight at 5:00pm. No adult Equip classes will meet, as all adults will attend the prayer meeting. But we will teach all of our kids Equip classes. Dinner is free, and we’ll be serving Maya Mexican.

***Preschool Equip Classes Singing in April 2nd Prayer Meeting***

During a portion of our prayer meeting, the preschool kids Equip choir classes will sing some of the songs they have been learning this semester. These are all 3–4 year-olds in the Terrific Turtles, Happy Hippos, Gentle Giraffes, and Little Lions classes.

***Good Friday Service – This Friday, April 7 at 6:30pm***

We would love for you to make plans to attend! The service will last about an hour. Pray about someone you could invite.

***Good Friday Childcare Registration***

CFC Kids will be offered during our Good Friday service for preschool children. We do ask that any children registered for this service be sitting unassisted and crawling. Registration will close on Tuesday, April 4 so we can arrange the correct number of childcare workers. We will open as many classes as necessary to accommodate everyone who registers by this deadline. Register in the Church Center app or at the link in your midweek email.

***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

***Beat the Clock and Sign Up to Volunteer for VBS!***

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. Volunteer children can sign up now with a link that comes to your email after you sign up. Child registration for everyone else will begin in April. If you have any questions you can email Sarah Beth Shepard at [sb@cfcbirminhgam.org](mailto:sb@cfcbirminhgam.org).

***Ladies Spring Bible Studies***

Ladies, join us on Wednesdays at 9:30am for one of two six-week studies: one of Psalms: Real Help for Real Life by Ray Ortlund, and the other a study of Jesus Through the Eyes of Women by Rebecca McLaughlin, starting on April 12, and ending on May 17. Childcare is available by reservation only, so please be sure to sign up both yourself and your little one/s! Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

**Sunday, April 2nd, 2023**

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

“This Is My Father’s World” Babcock & Murray

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” 4This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,*

*5“Say to the daughter of Zion,*

*‘Behold, your king is coming to you,*

*humble, and mounted on a donkey,*

*on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”*

*6The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting,* ***“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”*** *10And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” 11And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”* (Matthew 21:1-11)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*1Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”* (Luke 15:1-2)

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Montgomery & Copes

“Revelation Song” Riddle

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Leviticus 23:33-44

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Billy Shepard

*1As a deer pants for flowing streams,*

*so pants my soul for you, O God.*

*2My soul thirsts for God,*

*for the living God.*

*When shall I come and appear before God?* (Psalm 42:1-2)

*13Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* (John 4:13-14)

**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]

“Jerusalem” Robinson, Thompson, & Kleyn

“Here Is Love Vast as the Ocean” Edwards, Lowry, & Rees

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

The Gospel According to John: “A Source of Confusion”

John 7:1-52

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Christ Is Mine Forevermore” 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** Will Johnston

**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**

*26Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!*

*We bless you from the house of the LORD.*

*27The LORD is God,*

*and he has made his light to shine upon us.* (Psalm 118:26-27a)

“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.

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church, that we would develop evangelistic friendships with friends, family, and neighbors who do not know the Lord; that we would have discernment and boldness in knowing how to best reach them with the gospel; that the Lord would be pleased to draw people to himself through our faithful witness; and that this week especially, we would make the best of the opportunities that we have to share about the death and resurrection of Christ.

***For Our City***

For Shades Mountain Baptist Church, pastor George Wright, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For an end to gun violence in our country, that mass shootings would cease forever, that our swords would be beat into plowshares, that the underlying sin which ultimately leads to these horrible instances would be confronted with the gospel, and that our elected and appointed officials would work wisely to create solutions to this devastating issue.

***For Our World***

For the CFC members who have been serving in Tanzania: for the Hagues family who is there all semester and the team that has been with them this week, that God would continue to bless their efforts to serve vulnerable girls at the New Hope Secondary School, and that God would continue to supply for all the school’s ongoing needs.

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