**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.

4/30/23

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

***Membership Matters Class – Today at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class today 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.

***Last Equip of the Semester 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 pizza for all.

***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).

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

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Description automatically generated***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.

***Prayer Meeting – Next Sunday, May 7th 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, but we will have childcare for kids. Dinner is free!

***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](mailto:sb@cfcbirminhgam.org).

***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](mailto:dumasms@gmail.com)

**Sunday, April 30th, 2023**

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

“Grace Greater Than Our Sin” Johnston & Towner

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1Praise the LORD!*

*Praise the LORD, O my soul!*

*2I will praise the LORD as long as I live;*

*I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.*

*3Put not your trust in princes,*

*in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.*

*4When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;*

*on that very day his plans perish.*

*5Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,*

*whose hope is in the LORD his God,*

*6who made heaven and earth,*

*the sea, and all that is in them,*

*who keeps faith forever;*

*7 who executes justice for the oppressed,*

*who gives food to the hungry.*

*The LORD sets the prisoners free;*

*8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.*

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;*

*the LORD loves the righteous.*

*9The LORD watches over the sojourners;*

*he upholds the widow and the fatherless,*

*but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.*

*10The LORD will reign forever,*

*your God, O Zion, to all generations.*

*Praise the LORD!* (Psalm 146)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*4For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;*

*he adorns the humble with salvation.* (Psalm 149:4)

“Praise the Lord, the Almighty” Neander

“Shine into Our Night” Sczebel

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Psalm 139:1-16

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Jared Jones

*23Search me, O God, and know my heart!*

*Try me and know my thoughts!*

*24And see if there be any grievous way in me,*

*and lead me in the way everlasting!* (Psalm 139:23-24)

*6For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* (2 Corinthians 4:6)

**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]

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Chisolm, Runyan, & Piper

“Be Thou My Vision” Byrne & Hull

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

“The Gospel According to John: “Now I See”

John 9:1-41

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Amazing Grace” Arne & Newton

**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** Nick Murray

**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**

*24The LORD bless you and keep you;*

*25the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;*

*26the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

(Numbers 6:24-26)

“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 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.

***For Our City***

For Mountain Brook Community Church, pastor Tim Kallam, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For the many in our country battling with mental health issues: that God would regard with tender compassion those suffering from anxiety, depression, or other mental illnesses; for the close family members of those struggling who are trying to help and to understand; and for counselors and health care providers seeking to provide treatment to the suffering.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Nicaragua, for better political leadership to be established in the country, that God would either direct the nation’s president into more just governance or remove him from office, that the government would allow churches and other aid organizations to freely serve the communities they seek to help, and that God would sustain Nicaraguans as they wait for justice.

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