**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.

4/9/23

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

***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.

***No Equip Tonight***

There will be no Equip classes tonight. We will resume again next Sunday, and will meet each Sunday night through the rest of April.

***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.

***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.

***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

**Easter Sunday, April 9th, 2023**

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

“Christ Is Risen” Fieldes & Maher

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*13But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*4Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.* (Revelation 1:4b-5a)

“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death” Kauflin, Getty, Boswell, & Merker

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” Boswell, Papa, & Bleecker

**The Apostles’ Creed** Nick Murray

**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** Dawn Lee, Iris Gibson, Isaiah Davis, & Nico Davis

*4We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* (Romans 6:4-5)

“Jesus Paid It All” Grape, Nifong, & Hall

“Amazing Grace” Arne & Newton

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “Life at the End of a Dead-End Search”

Luke 24:1-12

**The Lord’s Supper**

“O Praise the Name” Sampson, Hastings, & Ussher

**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** Billy Shepard

**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**

*3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” 5And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”* (Revelation 21:3-5)

“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!

***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, our lives would be marked by the resurrection life of Jesus, that we wight live with confidence under the living and reigning Christ, that we would be a people who overflow with gospel hope, and that we would make much of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

***For Our City***

For all gospel-preaching churches in our city, that they would clearly proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our only hope in life and death, and that those hearing the gospel proclaimed might trust in Christ and give their lives to follow him.

***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 persecuted church around the world, that they would know that even though they are persecuted, they are not forsaken; that though perplexed, they wouldn’t be driven to despair; that they would endure for the sake of fruit they could never plan for; and that the life of Christ would be manifested even as they suffer for his sake (2 Corinthians 4:8-11).



