**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.

5/28/23

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

***Members' Meeting and Dinner – Next Sunday, June 4th at 5:00pm***

All members are invited to join us for a fellowship meal and members' meeting on Sunday, June 4th at 5:00pm. We will first gather for dinner, which will be provided by CFC, and then begin the members' meeting afterward. Important items on the agenda include the reception of new members, removal of members, a vote on a staff pastor, vote on deacon/deaconesses, and other important matters. Childcare will be offered after the meal. Dinner is free, but please RSVP with this QR code to help us with food ordering.

***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.

***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

***Summer Ladies’ Bible Studies***

Ladies, join us on Wednesday mornings in June and July to study "Promises Kept" by Courtney Reissig. We have chosen this study because we think it will lend itself to easy participation even if group members can only attend part of the time. We will provide childcare. For more details and to sign up, go to cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Urgent Volunteer Needs for CFC Kids***

CFC Kids is in need of additional volunteers throughout May! We are looking for members who do not regularly serve in CFC Kids to help out with these open spots. If you do serve in CFC Kids, you are welcome to take an additional week in May if you are interested. Thank you for considering helping out so we can cover these open spots. Email Sarah Beth at sb@cfcbirmingham.org if you are interested.

***VBS Updates! The Clock Is Ticking…***

Soon we will start sharing about our VBS week with the community! Be sure your family is registered so we know what space is still available. Sign up your child(ren) with this QR code or the Church Center app. Classes will fill up and we want to make sure everyone who is planning to attend has a spot!

**Sunday, May 28th, 2023**

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

“His Mercy Is More” Boswell & Papa

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1Why do the nations rage*

 *and the peoples plot in vain?*

*2The kings of the earth set themselves,*

 *and the rulers take counsel together,*

 *against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,*

*3“Let us burst their bonds apart*

 *and cast away their cords from us.”*

*4He who sits in the heavens laughs;*

 *the Lord holds them in derision.*

*5Then he will speak to them in his wrath,*

 *and terrify them in his fury, saying,*

*6“As for me, I have set my King*

 *on Zion, my holy hill.”*

*7I will tell of the decree:*

*The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;*

 *today I have begotten you.*

*8Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,*

 *and the ends of the earth your possession.*

*9You shall break them with a rod of iron*

 *and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”*

*10Now therefore, O kings, be wise;*

 *be warned, O rulers of the earth.*

*11Serve the LORD with fear,*

 *and rejoice with trembling.*

*12Kiss the Son,*

 *lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,*

 *for his wrath is quickly kindled.*

*Blessed are all who take refuge in him.* (Psalm 2)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.* (Ephesians 2:13)

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” Myrin & Redman

“All Creatures of Our God and King” Draper & Francis

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Genesis 50:15-21

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

*23And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? 26For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.* (Luke 9:23-26)

*6For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—8but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:6-8)

**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

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

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “What Caiaphas Meant for Evil…”

John 11:45-57

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Before the Throne of God Above” Bancroft & Cook

**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**

*28And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28)

“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***

That our relationships inside the church would be marked by gospel humility and godly sincerity (2 Cor. 1:12), that we would be honest about our failures, that we would resist the tendency to deceive one another, that our level of commitment to one another would make it difficult for anyone to be lonely in this church, and that we would consistently point one another to the sufficiency of Christ.

***For Our City***

For Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church, pastor Bob Flayhart, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For the men and women serving in the armed forces, that they would strive to maintain peace and order in the places they are serving, that the Lord would comfort and preserve the families of those who are deployed, and that we would faithfully give thanks to God for these men and women.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Turkey, that God would open the hearts of many Muslims in Turkey to receive the gospel and that those who do would have the strength to withstand opposition for the sake of Christ, that churches would minister to those who are discriminated against or neglected due to their ethnicity or social status, and that God would put an end to the government’s violent actions toward its own citizens.



