**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.

5/7/23

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

***Prayer Meeting – Tonight 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, and we’ll be serving Moe’s BBQ.

***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.

***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.

**Sunday, May 7th, 2023**

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

“Christ the True and Better” Boswell & Papa

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.*

*He leads me beside still waters.*

*3 He restores my soul.*

*He leads me in paths of righteousness*

 *for his name’s sake.*

*4Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

 *I will fear no evil,*

*for you are with me;*

 *your rod and your staff,*

 *they comfort me.*

*5You prepare a table before me*

 *in the presence of my enemies;*

*you anoint my head with oil;*

 *my cup overflows.*

*6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me*

 *all the days of my life,*

*and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD*

 *forever.* (Psalm 23)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*3Know that the LORD, he is God!*

 *It is he who made us, and we are his;*

 *we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.* (Psalm 100:3)

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” Luther

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion” McCracken

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Ezekiel 34:1-16

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

*8Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!*

 *O Israel, if you would but listen to me!*

*9There shall be no strange god among you;*

 *you shall not bow down to a foreign god.*

*10I am the LORD your God,*

 *who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*

 *Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.*

*11“But my people did not listen to my voice;*

 *Israel would not submit to me.* (Psalm 81:8-11)

*24He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.* (1 Peter 2:24-25)

**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]

“Yet Not I but through Christ in Me” Robinson, Thompson, & Farren

“Psalm 23” David

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Nick Murray

 “The Gospel According to John: “Spiritual Truths from a Sheepfold”

John 10:1-21

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Jesus, Strong and Kind” Buchanan, Robinson, Farren, & 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** Bart Box

**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**

*20Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.* (Hebrews 13:20-21)

“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 the elders of our church, that these men would all care for this body by teaching the Word of Christ to us and by modeling the character of Christ before us, that they would guard and promote unity in our congregation, and that as a body we would support and submit to their leadership.

***For Our City***

For Christ the King Anglican Church, pastor Michael Novotney, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For churches in our country to faithfully proclaim God’s Word in all of its fullness; that there would be a recovery of the centrality of the gospel, especially among churches and denominations that have turned from it; and that God would remove the lampstand of churches that proclaim false teachings in the name of Christ.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Afghanistan: that even as many gospel workers were forced to flee in recent months, God would send more to this country and that he would protect those that go; that God would sustain the faith and strengthen the witness of Afghan believers and churches; and that for the good of the Afghan people, God would put an end to terrorism and violence there.



