**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.

7/30/23

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

***Membership Matters Class – Sunday, August 13 at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, August 13 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.

***CFC Kids Promotion Sunday is August 6***

Promotion Sunday for our CFC Kids is **August 6**. Beginning talking with your kids now that soon they will move up to a new classroom to help them prepare! On August 6 a new room and location will print on all check-in stickers. **New this year is that all elementary students also need to check in at an iPad station and wear a sticker to their classroom.**We can't wait to get the new year of CFC Kids started!

***Hospitality Volunteers Needed***

We are in need of more volunteers for the hospitality team. Ways to serve include greeting, handing out worship guides, making coffee and more. Please email Mandy Hewitt at mandyrhewitt@gmail.com to get involved.

***Youth Group Meets Tonight***

Youth will meet from 5:00-6:30 every remaining Sunday in July. All students entering 6th-12th grade are welcome to attend. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please direct any questions to Billy Shepard at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org.

***Friendship Partners Sign-Up***

If you'd like to get to know an international student in Birmingham, Friendship Partners is a great way to begin! The program is a 9-month commitment to meet up once a month with an international student. Orientations will be held Aug. 2 and Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Briarwood. Contact Dennis Schauer at 205-527-6845 or schauer.dennis@gmail.com if you're interested!

***LAST Spots to Fill in CFC Kids for 2023-2024-WE ARE CLOSE!***

Thank you to those who have already signed up to volunteer in CFC Kids! Volunteer roles still available are 3rd grade assistants, Kindergarten teachers and assistants, Orange assistants, and Nursery/Red assistants. Please talk to Sarah Beth today if you are interested!

***CFC Kids Volunteer Training Tonight at 4:00pm***

There is one more CFC Kids Volunteer Training Meeting tonight at 4:00pm. Attending one CFC Kids Volunteer training session is required to ensure that all volunteers are updated on current CFC Kids practices to keep our classrooms a safe and fun environment. (\*If you are serving with a spouse, only one person per household is required to attend—no childcare provided during these meetings.)

***Adoptive & Foster Mom Group – Sunday, August 6 at 9:00am***

The adoptive and foster mom group will meet again next Sunday, August 6, at 9:00am. All adoptive and foster moms are invited!

***Fall EQUIP Registration Is Coming***

EQUIP will return this fall on September 17. There will be some changes to the format this Fall, but we will continue to serve dinner and offer classes for all kids and youth. Be on the lookout for registration information in the coming weeks!

**Sunday, July 30, 2023**

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

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Robinson & Wyeth

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1I love the LORD, because he has heard*

 *my voice and my pleas for mercy.*

*2Because he inclined his ear to me,*

 *therefore I will call on him as long as I live.*

*3The snares of death encompassed me;*

 *the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;*

 *I suffered distress and anguish.*

*4Then I called on the name of the LORD:*

 *“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”*

*5Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;*

 *our God is merciful.*

*6The LORD preserves the simple;*

 *when I was brought low, he saved me.*

*7Return, O my soul, to your rest;*

 *for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.*

*8For you have delivered my soul from death,*

 *my eyes from tears,*

 *my feet from stumbling;*

*9I will walk before the LORD*

 *in the land of the living…*

*15Precious in the sight of the LORD*

 *is the death of his saints.*

*16O LORD, I am your servant;*

 *I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.*

 *You have loosed my bonds.*

*17I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving*

 *and call on the name of the LORD.*

*18I will pay my vows to the LORD*

 *in the presence of all his people,*

*19in the courts of the house of the LORD,*

 *in your midst, O Jerusalem.*

*Praise the LORD!* (Psalm 116:1-9, 15-19)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*28Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* (Matthew 11:28-30)

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks I Stand” Stennett & White

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

**Public Reading of Scripture** – 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Bart Box

*19For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.* (1 Peter 2:19-23)

*15The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 17To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.* (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

**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]

“Man of Sorrows” Kottas & Bliss

“Christ Is Mine Forevermore” Robinson & Thompson

**Prayer for Illumination** Dom Johnson

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Billy Shepard

 “The Gospel According to John: “Harm and Hatred for His Name”

John 15:18–16:4a

**The Lord’s Supper**

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

**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** Dennis Schauer

**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**

*19Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.* (1 Peter 4:19)

“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.

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church: that we would live good and godly lives in this world in order to magnify the truth about Jesus to an unbelieving world; that we would hold fast to the clear teachings of Jesus regardless of any cultural opposition or social pressure that challenges those teachings; and that we would look to Jesus as our example in all things—including suffering for righteousness’ sake.

***For Our City***

For Redeemer Community Church, pastor Joel Brooks, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For the preservation of religious liberty as the culture and laws of our nation continue to change, so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way (1 Tim. 2:2); and that God would strengthen and purify the American church so that would remain faithful to the Great Commission even if those liberties are taken away.

***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).



