**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.

8/13/23

**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 on Sunday, August 13th 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.

***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.

***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!

***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!

***International Student Furniture Giveaway – Saturday, August 26***

With the start of the semester, many international students are relocating to Birmingham. One very tangible way to serve them is by providing furniture to help furnish their apartments. The Schauers have helped to organize a day to distribute furniture to students. We need 20-25 volunteers on Saturday, Aug. 26 starting at 8am in the CFC parking lot. Work will include loading furniture into vehicles in the parking lot, and driving vehicles to apartments to help them move in their furniture. Trucks, trailers or SUVs are a huge help for any that have them. The entire giveaway should last from 8am-2pm. If you’d like to donate furniture, contact Dennis Schauer at 205-527-6845. Most needed items for students are: desks, chairs, tables, beds, small apartment furniture.

***Sign Up Now for Women’s Discipleship***

Registration is open now for CFC's mentorship program, “Growing Together.” To find out more, and to sign up to be a mentor or find a mentor, go to cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***Newly Restocked Bookstall!***

We’ve refreshed and restocked the bookstall in the Commons with helpful titles on a range of topics and interests. You can use Venmo or pay cash. See the signage on the bookstall for instructions.

**Sunday, August 13, 2023**

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

“We’re Redeemed Hooten & Heine

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*10“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,*

 *and declare it in the coastlands far away;*

*say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,*

 *and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’*

*11For the LORD has ransomed Jacob*

 *and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.*

*12They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,*

 *and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,*

*over the grain, the wine, and the oil,*

 *and over the young of the flock and the herd;*

*their life shall be like a watered garden,*

 *and they shall languish no more.*

*13Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,*

 *and the young men and the old shall be merry.*

*I will turn their mourning into joy;*

 *I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.*

*14I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,*

 *and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,*

 *declares the LORD.”* (Jeremiah 31:10-14)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*16Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* (Hebrews 4:16)

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Beethoven & van Dyke

“All Sufficient Merit” Barnard & Fowler

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Psalm 30 Lauren Mosteller

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

*4One thing have I asked of the LORD,*

 *that will I seek after:*

*that I may dwell in the house of the LORD*

 *all the days of my life,*

*to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD*

 *and to inquire in his temple…*

*8You have said, “Seek my face.”*

*My heart says to you,*

 *“Your face, LORD, do I seek.”* (Psalm 27:4, 8)

*14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.* (Romans 8:14-17)

**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]

“Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor” Boswell & Papa

“It Is Well with My Soul” Bliss & Spafford

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage** Vanessa Kynes

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

 “The Gospel According to John: “A Little While”

John 16:16-33

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Christ Is Mine Forevermore” Robinson & 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** James Finch

**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**

*33I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)

“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 members of our church who are currently enduring trials and suffering of various kinds: that God would draw near to them, hold them fast, and strengthen their faith during this time; that their fellow church members would join in sharing their burdens; that they would grow in their faith in God’s promises; and that God would providentially work these trials for the good of those that suffer and for God’s glory.

***For Our City***

For Shades Mountain Baptist Church, pastor George Wright, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For school teachers and administrators across the country who have started back to school this week, that God would give them wisdom for how to best instruct and care for their students, that He would guide them into truth and away from error, and that He would sustain them with endurance and stamina as they do the hard and important work of shaping young minds.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Yemen: for an end to fighting and for gospel workers to find opportunities to serve within the country; for the relatively few believers in country to hold fast to the gospel; that God would make Scripture more readily available to Christians and non-Christians; and that a sufficient amount of food, water, and medicine would be made available for the health and flourishing of all Yemeni people.



