**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.

8/27/23

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

***Fall Semester Equip Registrations are Open Now!***

Use this QR code to register now for this semester of Equip! Equip runs from Sunday, September 17 through November 19th, with breaks for prayer meetings and Fall Break. Like last year, we will eat dinner from around 4:45pm-5:35pm, and then dismiss to classes. Dinner is free for kids, $3 for youth, and $6 for adults (with a max cost of $18 per family). Kids classes are the same as last year: Bible Ninjas for 3rd-5th grade, New City Catechism for K-2nd, Scripture & Songs for older preschoolers, and childcare for the youngest kids. See details below regarding the adult classes.

* One of the big changes is that all adults will go to the same class.
* For the first part of the semester, that class will be called “Teach Us to Pray,” and it will primarily be an emphasis on corporate prayer. Think of the class as a month of prayer meetings, where each class will essentially be a worship service of corporate prayer and song. Our hope is that these prayer gatherings will serve our body in reshaping how we pray together in our monthly prayer meetings in the future. This will last about 4 weeks.
* For the second part of the semester, our newest staff pastor, Brian G., will teach all the adults together in a class called “God’s Heart for the Nations.” We’ll trace this theme throughout Scripture and think about what it means for our church as a whole and our lives in particular.
* We believe both of these classes are so important that we want every adult in our church to be able to attend without having to choose between these or another great class.

***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.

***Fall Women’s Bible Study***

Ladies, please join us for a study of the rich theology and history of the Book of 1 Kings. Paige Herr will lead us in an inductive Bible study on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am. Childcare is available. Sign up at 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.

***Directory Updates***

For all members of CFC, if you have recently moved, added children to your family, or would like to update your email address or picture in the church directory, please email those updates to Keri Westbrook at kwestbrook@cfcbirmingham.org.

***CrossCon 24 - January 3-5, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky***

Cross is designed for college and grad-school students as well as young professionals who want to engage with others and hear from speakers such as John Piper, David Platt, Trip Lee, Rosaria Butterfield, emphasizing the gospel, the local church, and the nations. We will be putting together a group to attend and now is the time to register. If you are interested, please contact Jared Jones at jjones@cfcbirmingham.org.

**Sunday, August 27, 2023**

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

“Nothing but the Blood” Lowry

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause*

 *against an ungodly people,*

*from the deceitful and unjust man*

 *deliver me!*

*2For you are the God in whom I take refuge;*

 *why have you rejected me?*

*Why do I go about mourning*

 *because of the oppression of the enemy?*

*3Send out your light and your truth;*

 *let them lead me;*

*let them bring me to your holy hill*

 *and to your dwelling!*

*4Then I will go to the altar of God,*

 *to God my exceeding joy,*

*and I will praise you with the lyre,*

 *O God, my God.*

*5Why are you cast down, O my soul,*

 *and why are you in turmoil within me?*

*Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,*

 *my salvation and my God.* (Psalm 43)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* (John 14:6)

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Robinson & Wyeth

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

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Romans 1:18-23

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Nick Murray

*5This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.* (1 John 1:5-7)

*8If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:8-9)

**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]

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” Townend

“Speak, O Lord” Getty & Townend

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “The Truth Stands Alone”

John 18:1-40

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Jesus, Thank You” Sczebel

**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** Ralph Parrish

**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**

*3Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love.* (2 John 3)

“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.

If you are not a follower of Jesus, we invite you to spend this time in prayer reflecting on the Word that has been preached and the great offer of salvation in Jesus Christ. If you feel so inclined, we invite you to offer the following prayer to God:

“Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.”

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church members who are ministering in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil this week through medical missions, that God would help them faithfully display the mercy of Christ and clearly proclaim the gospel of Christ, and that the local church that they serve there would be better equipped to reach the lost around them as a result of the work this week.

***For Our City***

For Mountain Brook Community Church, pastor Tim Kallam, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For police officers, firefighters, and first responders, that the Lord would help them to look after the good of others as they serve and protect; that they would be consistent in maintaining peace and just order; and that God would protect them as they serve in dangerous situations.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for God to send more gospel workers who can plan churches among the Bosniak people, that followers of Jesus in Bosnia would remain faithful to the gospel and faithful to proclaim the gospel to those who have not heard, and that God would provide basic needs like clean drinking water and employment for those in need.



