**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.

8/6/23

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

***CFC Kids Promotion Sunday is Today!***

Promotion Sunday for our CFC Kids is **today!** You should notice the location of their new classroom on their check-in sticker. **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!

***Membership Matters Class – Next Sunday, August 13th 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.

**Sunday, August 6, 2023**

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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Wesley

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1“But now hear, O Jacob my servant,*

 *Israel whom I have chosen!*

*2Thus says the LORD who made you,*

 *who formed you from the womb and will help you:*

*Fear not, O Jacob my servant,*

 *Jeshurun whom I have chosen.*

*3For I will pour water on the thirsty land,*

 *and streams on the dry ground;*

*I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,*

 *and my blessing on your descendants.*

*4They shall spring up among the grass*

 *like willows by flowing streams.*

*5This one will say, ‘I am the LORD’s,’*

 *another will call on the name of Jacob,*

*and another will write on his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’*

 *and name himself by the name of Israel.”*

*6Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel*

 *and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:*

*“I am the first and I am the last;*

 *besides me there is no god.*

*7Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.*

 *Let him declare and set it before me,*

*since I appointed an ancient people.*

 *Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.*

*8Fear not, nor be afraid;*

 *have I not told you from of old and declared it?*

 *And you are my witnesses!*

*Is there a God besides me?*

 *There is no Rock; I know not any.”* (Isaiah 44:1-8)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*22In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.* (Ephesians 2:22)

“Holy, Holy, Holy” Dykes & Heber

“What a Beautiful Name” Ligertwood & Fielding

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Acts 2:14-39

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

*6Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.* (Zechariah 4:6)

*25I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.* (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

**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

“Is He Worthy?” Peterson & Shive

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

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

 “The Gospel According to John: “A Primer on the Paraclete”

John 15:16:4b-16

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death” Kauflin, Getty, Boswell, & Merker

**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** Billy Shepard

**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**

*14The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* (2 Corinthians 13:14)

“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 CFC’s high school graduates who are heading off to college this month, that God would use the discipling work of their families and of other members of this church to propel them into a lifetime of following Jesus, that they would quickly join another healthy local church where they can serve and grow, and that God would supply them with rich biblical community wherever they go.

***For Our City***

For Urban Hope Community Church, pastor Alton Hardy, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For an increase in healthy churches in every city across our country: that these churches would be known for their gospel proclamation, their love of neighbor, and their commitment to the truth; that God would supply them with faithful pastors, elders, and church members; and that God would close the doors of churches that confuse the world by editing the truths of the Bible or by maligning the character of God.

***For Our World***

For the many nations that will move to the city of Birmingham this semester in the form of international students who are pursuing higher education: that as they move here, they would encounter many Christians who show them the love of Jesus; that they would encounter the truths of the gospel; that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to see the glories of Christ; and that God would use organizations like the Navigators, people like Dennis and Melynda Schauer, Haven Fox, and churches like CFC to make disciples of all nations even here in our city.



