**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.

9/10/23

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

***Members' Meeting & Dinner – Tonight at 5:00pm***

All members are invited to join us for a fellowship meal and members' meeting tonight at 5:00pm. We will first gather for dinner, which will be provided by CFC, and then begin the members' meeting afterward. Childcare will be offered after the meal. To help us order the correct amount of food and have enough rooms for childcare, please RSVP with the QR code to the left.

***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 Options***

Ladies, please join us for one of 2 studies this fall. Paige Herr will lead us in an inductive Bible study of 1 Kings on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:15am. Melissa Gazi and Lauren Mosteller will facilitate a Monday evening book discussion on Paul Miller’s *A Praying Life.* Sign up at cfcbirmingham.org/women.

***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. Now is the time to register. If you are interested, please contact Jared Jones at jjones@cfcbirmingham.org.

***Men’s Regional Lunch Meetings***

Regional lunches are starting back this month for the men of CFC to meet up and connect during a lunch break. We hope this will give men at CFC the chance to fellowship in a space close to their home or work.  If you have not already and are interested in joining one of these groups please or contact Dennis Schauer at schauer.dennis@gmail.com or (205) 527-6845 and he can connect you to your regional point person.

***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.

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

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

“Rock of Ages” Hastings & Toplady

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*19Open to me the gates of righteousness,*

 *that I may enter through them*

 *and give thanks to the LORD.*

*20This is the gate of the LORD;*

 *the righteous shall enter through it.*

*21I thank you that you have answered me*

 *and have become my salvation.*

*22The stone that the builders rejected*

 *has become the cornerstone.*

*23This is the LORD’s doing;*

 *it is marvelous in our eyes.*

*24This is the day that the LORD has made;*

 *let us rejoice and be glad in it.* (Psalm 118:19-24)

**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)

“Nothing but the Blood” Lowry

“Jesus, Strong and Kind” Buchanan, Robinson, Farren, & Thompson

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Psalm 22

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

*3He was despised and rejected by men,*

 *a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;*

*and as one from whom men hide their faces*

 *he was despised, and we esteemed him not…*

*6All we like sheep have gone astray;*

 *we have turned—every one—to his own way;*

*and the LORD has laid on him*

 *the iniquity of us all.* (Isaiah 53:3, 6)

*10And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn…1On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.* (Zechariah 12:10; 13:1)

**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” Mapes & Bliss

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Mason & Watts

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “What a Difference a Day Makes”

John 19:16b-42

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Jesus Paid It All” Grape, Hall, & Nifong

**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** Nick Murray

**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**

*24The LORD bless you and keep you;*

*25the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;*

*26the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.* (Numbers 6:24-26)

“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 the 21 new members that we will add to covenant membership this evening, that we would faithfully fulfill our covenantal obligations to one another: spurring one another on to love and good deeds, meeting together consistently, praying for one another regularly, sharing in each other’s joys, bearing each other’s burdens, and serving one another selflessly, for our good and God’s glory.

***For Our City***

For Briarwood Presbyterian Church, their elders, staff, and congregation, as they seek their next pastor.

***For Our Nation***

For the many in our country battling with mental health issues: that God would regard with tender compassion those suffering from anxiety, depression, or other mental illnesses; for the close family members of those struggling who are trying to help and to understand; and for counselors and health care providers seeking to provide treatment to the suffering.

***For Our World***

For the nation of North Korea: for the perseverance of persecuted Christians who are in labor camps, that God would uphold their faith and empower their witness; that more opportunities would be available for gospel workers to enter the country and make Jesus known; and that God would replace the unjust government of North Korea for the sake of the gospel and the good of all citizens.



