**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.

9/17/23

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

***Equip Meets Tonight***

The Fall semester of Equip begins tonight. Dinner is served beginning at 4:45pm. We will wrap up dinner around 5:35pm and begin to make our ways to classes. Kid classroom locations will be on their check-in sticker. The youth group meets in the youth room. And all adults will meet in the worship room. All classes will conclude at 6:30pm.

***Equip Volunteers Needed***

At this point, we are still a few key volunteers short for the kids’ side of Equip for the first part of this semester. In particular, we need 2-3 volunteers who are willing to teach the New City Catechism classes to kids in the Kindergarten to 2nd grade age range. If you are interested in doing that for the next 5 weeks, please let Sarah Beth Shepard know at sb@cfcbirmingham.org.

***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.

***CFC Kids Buddies***

As more people visit CFC, we would like to add more volunteers to our Buddy group so we are ready to take care of visitors whenever needed. This would require you to serve one Sunday morning a month and spend time with one specific child who would be helped by having one to one attention inside the classroom. \*\*If you are already serving as a CFC Kids volunteer, but would like to serve in this way once every 8 weeks, that is welcome as well! Please email Sarah Beth at sb@cfcbirmingham.org. if you would like to be added to this team!

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

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

“I Stand Amazed” Gabriel

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* (1 Peter 1:3-9)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.* (Ephesians 2:13)

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

“Christ Is Risen” Fieldes & Maher

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Psalm 3

**Prayer of Lament & Promise of Restoration** Billy Shepard

 *16He has made my teeth grind on gravel,*

 *and made me cower in ashes;*

 *17my soul is bereft of peace;*

 *I have forgotten what happiness is;*

 *18so I say, “My endurance has perished;*

 *so has my hope from the LORD.”*

 *19Remember my affliction and my wanderings,*

 *the wormwood and the gall!*

 *20My soul continually remembers it*

 *and is bowed down within me.* (Lamentations 3:16-20)

 *21But this I call to mind,*

 *and therefore I have hope:*

 *22The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;*

 *his mercies never come to an end;*

 *23they are new every morning;*

 *great is your faithfulness.*

 *24“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,*

 *“therefore I will hope in him.”*

 *25The LORD is good to those who wait for him,*

 *to the soul who seeks him.* (Lamentations 3:21-25)

**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]

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

“What a Beautiful Name” Ligertwood & Fielding

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “The Gospel According to John: “Receiving & Retelling”

John 20:1-23

**The Lord’s Supper**

“O Church Arise” Getty & Townend

**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** Bart Box

**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**

*21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”* (John 20:21)

“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 our church, that we would develop evangelistic friendships with friends, family, and neighbors who do not know the Lord; that we would have discernment and boldness in knowing how to best reach them with the gospel; and that the Lord would be pleased to draw people to himself through our faithful witness.

***For Our City***

For Hunter Street Baptist Church, pastor Buddy Gray, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For President Joe Biden, Governor Kay Ivey, Mayors Patrick McClusky and Randall Woodfin, and all who are in high positions, that they would lead and govern justly, that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way.

***For Our World***

For our Sent Partners already living overseas and for those who are about to go: that the nations and communities where they live would be blessed through them, that their neighbors would be drawn to the gospel they proclaim and the Christian community they have with other believers where they live, and for local churches to be strengthened and multiplied.



