**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.

9/3/23

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

***Members' Meeting & Dinner – Next Sunday, September 10th at 5:00pm***

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Description automatically generatedAll members are invited to join us for a fellowship meal and members' meeting next Sunday 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!***

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Description automatically generatedUse 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 3, 2023**

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

“Take My Life” Giglio, Havergal, Malan, & Tomlin

**Welcome** Billy Shepard

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*12But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;*

*you are remembered throughout all generations.*

*13You will arise and have pity on Zion;*

*it is the time to favor her;*

*the appointed time has come.*

*14For your servants hold her stones dear*

*and have pity on her dust.*

*15Nations will fear the name of the LORD,*

*and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.*

*16For the LORD builds up Zion;*

*he appears in his glory;*

*17he regards the prayer of the destitute*

*and does not despise their prayer.*

*18Let this be recorded for a generation to come,*

*so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:*

*19that he looked down from his holy height;*

*from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,*

*20to hear the groans of the prisoners,*

*to set free those who were doomed to die,*

*21that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD,*

*and in Jerusalem his praise,*

*22when peoples gather together,*

*and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.* (Psalm 102:12-22)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*4Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.* (Revelation 1:4b-5a)

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” Bridges, Elvey, & Thring

“Jerusalem” Robinson, Thompson, & Kleyn

**Public Reading of Scripture** – 1 Samuel 8:1-9

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

*1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 2And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.* (Genesis 3:1-7)

*10Now therefore, O kings, be wise;*

*be warned, O rulers of the earth.*

*11Serve the LORD with fear,*

*and rejoice with trembling.*

*12Kiss the Son,*

*lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,*

*for his wrath is quickly kindled.*

*Blessed are all who take refuge in him.* (Psalm 2:10-12)

**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]

“The Power of the Cross” Getty & Townend

“Be Thou My Vision” Byrne & Hull

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

“The Gospel According to John: “What Do You See?”

John 19:1-16a

**The Lord’s Supper**

“In Christ Alone” 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** Jonathan 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**

*14They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”* (Revelation 17:14)

“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.

**This Week We’re Praying…**

***For Our Church***

For our church: that as we promise to do in our church covenant, that we would more faithfully seek the salvation of our friends, family, and neighbors through our godly living, faithful gospel proclamation, and intercessory prayer; and that both collectively and individually, we would submit every area of our lives to the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth.

***For Our City***

For Christ the King Anglican Church, pastor Michael Novotney, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation, that God would bring true spiritual revival, that people would grow dissatisfied with their sin and long for the truth of the gospel, and that healthy churches would display the glory of God and the hope of the gospel to those around them.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Sudan: that violence perpetrated by the government would end and that God would sustain the faith of Sudanese believers facing persecution; for churches in Sudan to reach out to refugees with the hope of the gospel; and that basic freedoms and food would be provided for all citizens.

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