**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.

3/31/24

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

***Membership Matters Class – Sunday, April 21 at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, April 21st 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.

***Prayer Meeting & Fellowship Meal Next Sunday at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for our monthly fellowship meal and prayer meeting next Sunday at 5:00pm. Though our semester’s Equip classes are over, we will have childcare for preschoolers and elementary aged kids. The youth group will also meet at this time. Dinner is free, but please RSVP with this QR code.

***VBS Volunteer Sign Ups***

Now is the time to sign up to volunteer at VBS! VBS will take place at CFC June 24-27 from 9 a.m.-noon. Kids ages 4 through completed 5th grade can participate in VBS. It takes many volunteers to pull off VBS each summer. Whether it's crafts, Bible study, rec time, or missions there's a place for all to serve this year at VBS! Sign up via this QR code. We hope to have all volunteers signed up by the end of March so that we can launch participant registration for VBS in April.

***Another Spring College Dinner***

All college students are invited to another free dinners this spring! It will be on **Sunday, April 14th at 6:00pm** at Brian G’s home. The address is 5256 Valleybrook Trace, Birmingham, AL 35244. Dinner is free and we encourage you to bring your friends! Contact Jonathan Shepard at (205) 792-6403 with any questions.

***Volunteers for the Communion Team***

We are in need of more volunteers to help prepare and distribute communion. If you are willing and able to help serve our church in this capacity, please contact our deacon of communion, Brad Tolbert (bradleytolbert24@gmail.com).

***Short-term Mission Opportunity in Tanzania***

CFC is sending a team to Ukerewe, Tanzania beginning May 24 and returning June 4. Beyond ministering to girls at Tumaini Jipya (New Hope) Secondary School, there are opportunities to teach and serve the local church and in the community. Please click the link in the midweek email if you are interested!

***Women’s Spring Bible Studies***

Ladies, join us for a 6-Week Study on the book of Colossians. April 10th -May 15th on Wednesday mornings at CFC from 9:30-11:15 am. You can register for that in the Church Center app. We are also offering a study of Matthew on Wednesday evenings starting on April 3, let by Janet Thorn. Email Janet at janetthorn7@gmail.comor more details.

**Sunday, March 31, 2024**

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

“Because He Lives” Gaither

**Welcome** Bart Box

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “****Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6He is not here, but has risen****. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” 8And they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.* (Luke 24:1-12)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*26Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”* (John 20:26-29)

“Christ Is Risen” Fieldes & Maher

“O Praise the Name” Sampson, Hastings, & Ussher

**Public Reading of Scripture** – 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

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

*2And the word of the LORD came to me: 3“Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces…6Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.”* (Ezekiel 14:2-3, 6)

*9Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* (Romans 10:9)

**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]

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

“Man of Sorrows” Kottas & Bliss

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

 “That You Should Seek Him”

Acts 17:16-34

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Amazing Grace” Arne & Newton

**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**

 *“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

 *55“O death, where is your victory?*

 *O death, where is your sting?”*

*56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

“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 our lives would be marked by the resurrection life of Jesus, that we wight live with confidence under the living and reigning Christ, that we would be a people who overflow with gospel hope, and that we would make much of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

***For Our City***

For all gospel-preaching churches in our city, that they would clearly proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our only hope in life and death, and that those hearing the gospel proclaimed might trust in Christ and give their lives to follow him.

***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 persecuted church around the world, that they would know that even though they are persecuted, they are not forsaken; that though perplexed, they wouldn’t be driven to despair; that they would endure for the sake of fruit they could never plan for; and that the life of Christ would be manifested even as they suffer for his sake (2 Corinthians 4:8-11).



