**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.

4/21/24

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

***Membership Matters Class – Today at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class today 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.

***VBS Registration is Now Open!***

VBS will take place June 24-27 from 9am-noon. Kids ages 4 (by September 1, 2024) through completed 4th grade are welcome! **VBS registration is currently open for CFC families. We will open VBS registration to the community on May 9.** Register in the Church Center app. We will need more volunteers for VBS, so please sign up for that as well!

***Women’s Spring Held Gathering – Thursday, April 25***

Ladies, join us at 6:00pm on Thursday, April 25, for dinner, worship, and a talk by Brittany Mann on the topic of "Holy Limitations." Register in Church Center.

***Youth Moms Table Talk – Monday, April 29 at 6:00pm***

Moms of youth at CFC, please join us for an evening of connection and conversation around parenting tweens/teens on Monday, April 29th at 6:00pm! The goal for the night is to provide connection with other moms of teens, talk through specific topics related to parenting teens, and to spend time in prayer for one another. This will take place in the fellowship hall with dinner provided by CFC which Sara Beth G is cooking! Please register on Church Center

***50+ Fellowship – Saturday, May 4 at 5:30pm***

All 50+ members and visitors are invited to a Quattro de Mayo fiesta at the home of Paul and Donna Lefebvre on Saturday, May 4th, at 5:30 pm for Mexican fare and fellowship. Get more details and sign up for something to bring at the link in your midweek email. If you have any questions, contact Donna at 205-533-4667.

***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!

***Himalayan Outreach Meeting – Sunday, May 5 at 9:00am***

Join Brian G. for an informational meeting about this year’s opportunities to be involved in learning more about the region as well as a vision trip in the Fall. We will meet on Sunday, May 5th at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be provided. Register in the Church Center app.

***Brazil Mission Trip Interest Meeting – April 28 at 9am***

CFC is planning to send a team back to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from October 10-18. The goal is to connect with and evangelize people in underprivileged communities through short term medical and dental clinics. Medical experience is helpful but not necessary. It is just as crucial to have non-medical Christian brothers and sisters to support the work of the clinic and to spend focused time establishing relationships with locals through evangelism. We will have an interest meeting on Sunday April 28 at 9:00am in the conference room upstairs. If you have questions, please contact Jess Mann at jessehmann@gmail.com.

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

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

“God, Your Everlasting Light” Cowper & Smith

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*8The LORD is merciful and gracious,*

 *slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*9He will not always chide,*

 *nor will he keep his anger forever.*

*10He does not deal with us according to our sins,*

 *nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

*11For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

 *so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;*

*12as far as the east is from the west,*

 *so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

*13As a father shows compassion to his children,*

 *so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

*14For he knows our frame;*

 *he remembers that we are dust.* (Psalm 103:8-14)

**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)

“Christ the True and Better” Boswell & Papa

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder” Newton & Taylor

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Romans 8:19-25

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

*8I am feeble and crushed;*

 *I groan because of the tumult of my heart.*

*9O Lord, all my longing is before you;*

 *my sighing is not hidden from you.*

*10My heart throbs; my strength fails me,*

 *and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.*

(Psalm 38:8-10)

*1For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee*.

(2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

**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]

“All Sufficient Merit” Barnard & Fowler

“Is He Worthy?” Peterson & Shive

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

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

Beginnings: “The Disruption of Creation”

Genesis 3:8-24

**The Lord’s Supper**

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion” McCracken

**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** Brian G.

**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**

*20The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.* (Romans 16:20)

“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 members of our church who are currently enduring trials and suffering of various kinds: that God would draw near to them, hold them fast, and strengthen their faith during this time; that their fellow church members would join in sharing their burdens; that they would grow in their faith in God’s promises; and that God would providentially work these trials for the good of those that suffer and for God’s glory.

***For Our City***

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

***For Our Nation***

For police officers, firefighters, and first responders, that the Lord would help them to look after the good of others as they serve and protect; that they would be consistent in maintaining peace and just order; and that God would protect them as they serve in dangerous situations.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Saudi Arabia, for the faithful endurance of believers who are often persecuted by family members and society as a whole, for the protection of believers who have gone missing as a result of persecution, and that the Lord would sustain the faith of those who face harm and hatred for the name of Christ.



