**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.

4/7/24

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

***Prayer Meeting & Fellowship Meal Tonight at 5:00pm***

All are invited to join us for our monthly fellowship meal and prayer meeting tonight 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.

***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.

***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 9am-Noon. Kids ages 4 through completed 5th grade can participate in VBS. Sign up via this QR code. We hope to have all volunteers signed up this week 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.

***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 the Church Center app.

***Refugee Outreach Opportunity and Training – Sunday, April 21***

Hundreds of refugees from around the world are now living within a few miles of the church and more are on the way. They need care groups to help make this transition possible. This is a great outreach opportunity for growth groups. A training course is required and we are hosting one in the fellowship hall on Sunday, April 21 from 8:30-10:00 am. Breakfast and childcare will be provided. Register in the Church Center app.

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

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

“Come Ye Sinners” Hart & Owen

**Welcome** Nick Murray

**Time of Silent Reflection**

**Call to Worship**

*1The heavens declare the glory of God,*

 *and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

*2Day to day pours out speech,*

 *and night to night reveals knowledge.*

*3There is no speech, nor are there words,*

 *whose voice is not heard.*

*4Their voice goes out through all the earth,*

 *and their words to the end of the world.*

*In them he has set a tent for the sun,*

*5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,*

 *and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.*

*6Its rising is from the end of the heavens,*

 *and its circuit to the end of them,*

 *and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

*7The law of the LORD is perfect,*

 *reviving the soul;*

*the testimony of the LORD is sure,*

 *making wise the simple;*

*8the precepts of the LORD are right,*

 *rejoicing the heart;*

*the commandment of the LORD is pure,*

 *enlightening the eyes;*

*9the fear of the LORD is clean,*

 *enduring forever;*

*the rules of the LORD are true,*

 *and righteous altogether.*

*10More to be desired are they than gold,*

 *even much fine gold;*

*sweeter also than honey*

 *and drippings of the honeycomb.*

*11Moreover, by them is your servant warned;*

 *in keeping them there is great reward.* (Psalm 19:1-11)

**Prayer of Invocation & Adoration**

**God’s Greeting & Mutual Greetings**

*10I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;*

 *my soul shall exult in my God,*

*for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;*

 *he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,*

*as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,*

 *and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.* (Isaiah 61:10)

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” Beethovan & Van Dyke

“All Creatures of Our God and King” Francis, Draper, & Baird

**Public Reading of Scripture** – Ephesians 5:22-33

**Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon** Brian G.

*18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* (Romans 1:18-20)

*14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* (John 1:14)

**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]

“Thy Mercy, My God” Stocker & McCracken

“Speak, O Lord” Getty & Townend

**Prayer for Illumination** Will Mitchell

**Reading of the Preaching Passage**

**Preaching of God’s Word** Bart Box

Beginnings: “The Givenness of Creation (Part 3)”

Genesis 2:18-25

**The Lord’s Supper**

“Christ Is Mine Forevermore” Robinson & Thompson

**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** Caleb Schmidt

**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**

*30No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel*

 *can avail against the LORD.* (Proverbs 21:30)

“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 those in our church who are married, that husbands and wives would love and serve one another with sacrificial joy and patience, that the faithfulness of Christ would mark the marriages of Christ Fellowship Church, and that the marriages of CFC members would display the beauty of Christ’s love to a world that is skeptical of God’s good design and intentions in marriage.

***For Our City***

For Mountain Brook Community Church, pastor Tim Kallam, their elders, staff, and congregation.

***For Our Nation***

For our nation, for a recovery of the importance of the institution of marriage for the sake of human flourishing for all in our society, for an increase in whole and healthy family units across our country, that Christians and churches would lead the way in modeling family stability in their communities, and that churches would be places of healing for those wounded in marriage.

***For Our World***

For the nation of Israel, for a swift and peaceful resolution to the ongoing violence there, for the preservation of innocent life, and ultimately for many Jewish and Palestinian people to hear the gospel and to come to faith in Christ amid this conflict.



