

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, January 10, 2021

Welcome (Nick Murray)

Building Notes:

- **Face Coverings:** After reviewing the state-wide mask order, **we have decided to continue requiring the wearing of facial coverings by all adults during entering and exiting the building and while singing. We also recommend the wearing of facial coverings during the entirety of the service.** The current statewide ordinance encourages masks for kids over six years old. We understand that this may be difficult for some kids, so we are leaving this up to each parent as to when to allow their own kids to remove their masks once they are seated. **We would recommend kids over six to wear masks during entrance, exit, singing, and any other time they are not in their seats.** This guidance will be reviewed as we have more information and direction from the governor or local officials.
- **Nursing Mothers:** We are now using the adjacent mothers' room for additional worship seating. There is still space for nursing mothers in the Nursery room on the Kids Hallway.
- There will be an Elementary Sunday School lesson during the sermon. Kids K-5th who wish to attend will be dismissed and led to their classroom as the sermon begins.
- We still have a "Wiggle Room" designated in the Kids Hallway for parents of younger kids who need a minute to calm down. You can find those to the left down the Kids Hallway.

Call to Worship

*¹We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks, for your name is near.*

We recount your wondrous deeds.

*²"At the set time that I appoint
I will judge with equity.*

*³When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants,
it is I who keep steady its pillars.*

*⁴I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,'
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn;*



⁵do not lift up your horn on high,
or speak with haughty neck."
⁶For not from the east or from the west
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,
⁷but it is God who executes judgment,
putting down one and lifting up another.
⁸For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup
with foaming wine, well mixed,
and he pours out from it,
and all the wicked of the earth
shall drain it down to the dregs.
⁹But I will declare it forever;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
¹⁰All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,
but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up. (Psalm 75:1-10)

**We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks, for your name is near.
We recount your wondrous deeds.**

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

God's Greeting and Mutual Greetings

Leader: "The Lord be with you!"

All: "And also with you!"

Leader: "Lift up your hearts."

All: "We lift them to the Lord."

Leader: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

All: "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

Songs

1) "This Is My Father's World"



2) "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Ryan Adams)

²³*And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes."*

²⁴*Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"*
(Mark 9:23-24)

¹¹*The saying is trustworthy, for:*

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

*¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself. (2 Timothy 2:11-13)*

Songs

3) "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

4) "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Words of Life: Re-Beginnings
Genesis 12-50

The most crucial event in the Bible between the fall of Adam and the birth of Christ occurs in Genesis 12. The Lord calls Abram (12:1-3). This call sets off the story of the rest of the Bible. Here, the camera zooms in on this one family line, the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And just as we found that God displays his character through all of creation (Genesis 1-11), so we find in the latter part of Genesis that God means to display his character through the special people he calls out from the world. (Mark Dever)

- How do we know that Genesis 12:1-3 is so important?
 - The pace of the story slows dramatically at this point.
 - The words in the story echo powerfully at this point.
 - Five times the word “curse” is used in Genesis 1-11 (3:14, 17; 4:11; 5:29; 9:25), and five times the word “bless” is used in Genesis 12:1-3.
 - God is reversing the curse through the line of Abram!
- Abram has a twofold calling in his life:
 - He is to “go” and trust God’s grace in his life. (12:1-2a)
 - He is to “be” and channel God’s grace to the lives of others. (12:2b-3)
- Genesis 12:1-3 is the creation of a new humanity.
 - God is going to bless Abram’s line with land, life, and a kingdom. (see Genesis 1:28a)
 - God is going to use Abram and his family. (see Genesis 1:28b)
- Notice God’s unwavering and unrelenting determination to bless His people!
 - God overcame Abram’s lack of a land.
 - The Canaanites occupied the land (12:6), and Abram nearly forfeited the land. (13:9-10)
 - But Sarah was buried in the Promised Land in a field owned by Abram. (23:19-20)
 - God overcame Abram’s lack of life.
 - Abram was 75 when God called him out of Ur; Sarai was 65 and barren. (11:30; 12:4)
 - Beyond the obstacles of biology, there were the obstacles of sin and unbelief.
 - Abram twice betrayed Sarai for fear of his life. (12:10-20; 20:1-13)
 - Sarai and Abram disbelieved God’s promises at times.
 - Sarai offered Abram her servant, Hagar, and laughed at God’s promise (16:2; 18:9-15)
 - Abram tried to domesticate the promise of God. (15:2)

- Despite all this, God persisted in His determination to bless.

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.... Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." ⁷ And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." (Genesis 21:1-3, 5-7)

- God overcame Abram's lack of a name.
 - The generation of Babel wanted to make a name for themselves but were dispersed (70 nations in all).
 - A descendent of Shem ("name"), Abram, a no-name, receives a name from God.
 - He is blessed with authority by Melchizedek, a priest-king. (14:19-20)
 - And his descendants, 70 in number, have prominence in Egypt at book's end.
- Despite all the twists and turns, the promises were never in doubt.
 - Not because of the faithfulness of the patriarchs...
 - But because of the faithfulness of the patriarchs' God. (Genesis 15)

God made a covenant. To do that, he walked barefoot in the form of a blazing torch, through the path of blood between the animals. Think of it. Almighty God walking barefoot through a pool of blood! The thought of a human being doing that is, to say the least, unpleasant. Yet, God, in all his power and Majesty, expressed his love that personally. Picturing God passing through that gory path between the carcasses of animals, imagining the blood splashing as he walked, helps us recognize the faithfulness of God's commitment. He was willing to express, in terms his chosen people could understand, that he would never fail to do what he promised.

But there's more. When God made covenant with his people, he did something no human being would have even considered doing. In the usual blood covenant, each party was responsible for keeping only his side of the promise. When God made covenant with Abraham, however, he promised to keep both sides of the agreement. "If this covenant is broken, Abraham, for whatever reason, for my unfaithfulness or yours, I will pay the price," said God. "If you or your descendants, for whom you are making this covenant, fail to keep it, I will pay the price in blood." And at that moment, Almighty God promised the death sentence on his son, Jesus. (Ray Vander Laan)

- The faithfulness of God calls for and enables the faithfulness of His people.
 - Abraham grew in his faith and understanding of God. (22:13-14)
 - But what about you?
 - Do you have trust in this God of grace?
 - Are you channeling that grace to others as God intends?

The Lord's Supper

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29)

Song

5) "By Faith"

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 (Keith Pearson)

For Our Church

For God to increase our faith in his ability to accomplish all that he promises us, for a deep and abiding trust to fill the heart of every church member so that we would be known by others as people who possess a peace that surpasses understanding because of our confidence in God, and that God would continue to give us clear glimpses of his constant faithfulness to us so that we would respond with greater faith and greater praise.

For Our City

For Citizens Church, pastor Justin Karl, their elders, staff and congregation.

For Our Nation



For a recovery of peace, stability, and truth in light of this week's events in Washington D.C.; that God would have mercy on our divided country; and that the American church would lead the way as a prophetic voice in these days as we seek to recover our witness where it has been lost to political idolatry and hypocrisy.

For Our World

For the nation of Zimbabwe, that God would grant good leaders for this nation that has dealt with corrupt leadership for so long, that those leaders would coordinate a good response to the present surge in COVID cases there, and that faithful churches in Zimbabwe would thrive as they seek to show the love of Christ to many in various states of need.

"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 and ever. Amen."

Benediction

²⁰No unbelief made him [Abraham] waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. (Romans 4:20-25)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost



What's Happening at Christ Fellowship...

Words of Life Sermon Series and Bible Reading Plan

For 2021 and into 2022, we are planning a sermon series that walks through every book of the Bible. To go alongside this series, we are publishing a daily Bible reading plan so that you can better follow along and prepare for each week. We hope that this gives us the opportunity as a church to all study the same Scriptures on our own throughout the week. You can grab the first few months of bookmarks today at the bookstall on your way out! You can also access the entire reading plan at cfcbirmingham.org/wordsoflife.

Membership Matters Class – Sunday, February 7th at 2:00pm

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, February 7th 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.

Women's Winter Bible Study Options

CFC is offering two ladies' studies this winter: Gentle & Lowly, by Dane Ortlund, and Women of the Word, by Jen Wilkin. Both studies are scheduled for Monday nights at 7:30pm via Zoom, and will begin meeting on January 11. For more information or to sign up, please email Rebekah Rein at rrein@cfcbirmingham.org.

CFC Youth Tonight

For students 6th grade and up, our youth group meets on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00pm here at the church building. All students are welcome!

