

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, October 10, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Time of Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising...

<sup>18</sup>Violence shall no more be heard in your land,  
devastation or destruction within your borders;  
you shall call your walls Salvation,  
and your gates Praise.

<sup>19</sup>The sun shall be no more  
your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon  
give you light;  
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.

<sup>20</sup>Your sun shall no more go down,  
nor your moon withdraw itself;  
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

<sup>21</sup>Your people shall all be righteous;  
they shall possess the land forever,  
the branch of my planting, the work of my hands,  
that I might be glorified. (Isaiah 60:1-3, 18-21)



## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

## God's Greeting and Mutual Greetings

*<sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)*

## Songs

1) "Holy, Holy, Holy"

2) "Not in Me"

## Public Reading of Scripture – Isaiah 61:1-4 (Meghan Gray)

## Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

*<sup>29</sup>And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. <sup>30</sup>Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. (Nehemiah 9:29-30)*

*<sup>31</sup>Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God. (Nehemiah 9:31)*

## 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]

### Songs

3) "His Mercy Is More"

4) "The Solid Rock"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

Reading of the Preaching Passage (Will Kynes)



**Words of Life: Returning**  
Nehemiah

*A Recipe for Rebuilding...*

**Fervent Prayer**

- Some background:
  - The events of Nehemiah are roughly parallel with the events of Ezra 7-10.
  - Nehemiah was cupbearer to a foreign king and was stirred by bad news from Jerusalem. (1:3)
- Nehemiah's prayers were...
  - Biblical and bold.
    - Nehemiah prayed to a God who is able and a God who is attentive.  
*Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)*
    - And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants." (1:5-6)*
    - Nehemiah knew that God had promised exile for rebellion.
    - But he also knew that God had promised restoration for repentance.
  - Instinctual and habitual
    - Nehemiah prayed as a way of life. (1:4; 2:4; 4:4-5, 8-9; 6:9; 9:5; 13:14, 22, 29, 31)
    - No matter the location, the circumstance, or the magnitude, Nehemiah prayed.
- Application:
  - Are we praying boldly and biblically?  
*Thou art coming to a King,  
Large petitions with thee bring;  
For His grace and power are such,  
None can ever ask too much. ("Come, My Soul, They Suit Prepare" by John Newton)*
  - Are we praying instinctually and habitually?

**Spiritual Leadership**

- Nehemiah provided the spiritual leadership needed for the work. (4:1-6:19)

- Nehemiah was:
  - A visionary—Nehemiah had a vision of a great God who is worthy of great glory.
 

*In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. (Isaiah 6:1)*
  - A God-fearer—Nehemiah was undeterred by human opposition or earthly approval.
 

*“Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.” (4:14)*

*But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. (5:15)*

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:3-8)*

### Biblical Reform

- God regularly grows His people through the preaching of the Word. (8:18)
 

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)*

*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)*
- God regularly reforms His people through encounters with the Word. (13:1-31)
  - Nehemiah needed to rebuild a wandering people who had drifted from the Word.
  - Nehemiah foreshadows a better, greater, final Reformer—the Word made flesh.
 

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (Matt. 1:1)*

*But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20-21)*

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)*

## The Lord's Supper

<sup>26</sup>Now 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." <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I 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) "All Glory Be to Christ"

## Offering

*<sup>9</sup>For 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)*

*<sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And 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)

### *For Our Church*

For our church, that we would be faithful in discipling one another; that our Growth Groups would be places of biblical growth and accountability; and that we would grow together in godliness as we study the Bible together in church, Growth Groups, and one-on-one relationships.

### *For Our City*

For Cahaba Park Presbyterian Church, pastor Murray Lee, their elders, staff, and congregation.

### *For Our Nation*



For the abolition of human trafficking in our country, that God would intervene and break the power of the wicked perpetrators of these actions, that the full measure of justice would be brought upon those guilty of these crimes, and that victims would be rescued and rehabilitated to the dignity they deserve as God's image bearers.

### *For Our World*

For the nation of China, that God would move in power among the governing authorities of the country, that he would convert leaders at all levels from enemies of God into disciples of Jesus, for a cessation of the present escalating tensions between China and Taiwan, and that there would be an end to the human rights abuses that are being carried out by the government against the Uighur people.

"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

*<sup>24</sup>Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup>to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)*

### 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...

### ***Men's Theology Breakfast Continues this Tuesday at 6:20am***

Guys, join Bart for some biscuits, coffee, and theology, on Tuesdays at 6:00am. You can find the schedule, the book we're reading, and more info at [cfcbirmingham.org/men](http://cfcbirmingham.org/men). Enter at the front of the building near the fellowship hall. And don't worry if you don't have the book just yet!

### ***Membership Matters Class – Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://cfcbirmingham.org/membership-matters), or email Nick Murray at [nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org) with any questions. We plan to arrange childcare for the meeting.

### ***CFC Kids and Face-Coverings***

We are now recommending that all teachers in CFC Kids (both preschool and elementary) and all kids in elementary classes wear a facial covering while they are in CFC Kids. We are recommending this up to October 17, at which point we will reevaluate these protocols. There are masks available in the hallway for any who need one.

### ***Social-Distanced Seating Option Available***

For any who would like to make use of it, we have a social-distanced seating option available where the livestream is playing in the fellowship hall. Masks are required for all who choose to sit in that room.

### ***College Women's Retreat—October 15-17***

All college age women are invited to join us for a mountain retreat weekend October 15-17 in Cashiers, NC. Throughout the weekend, we will dig into the book of James together, and it will be a great time of fellowship, getting to know one another, and spending time outdoors. The cost for the weekend is \$50. Scholarships are available as we do not want the cost to be the reason anyone doesn't go. Contact Rebecca Osteen with any questions or to sign up at [rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com).

### ***Tech Volunteers Needed***

We are looking for more volunteers to join our tech team on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in running sound, song lyrics, or our livestream, please email Will Mitchell at [wmitchell@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:wmitchell@cfcbirmingham.org) for more information.

### ***Women's Fellowship Dinner – Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm***

Join us for dinner on Thursday, October 21 at 6:00pm as we hear about the women in Christ's lineage and how God's intentional inclusion of these unexpected women displays His grace and care for all His people. RSVP at [cfcbirmingham.org/women](http://cfcbirmingham.org/women).



*Support Students at Glen Iris Elementary School*

This fall, CFC will be collecting school supplies for students at Glen Iris Elementary School. Look for backpacks with supply lists in the commons space to see how you can contribute.

