



Liturgy for Sunday, October 18, 2020

Welcome (Bart Box)

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.
- The youth room is now (and again) serving as an overflow room. Additional seating is available in there, along with the service livestream.
- The Elementary Sunday School lesson, which is offered to K-5th graders during the sermon, will take place in a classroom or on the covered play area outside.
- 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

*¹I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.*

*²He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.*

*³He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.*



*Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD....*
¹⁶*May all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"*
¹⁷***As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God!*** (Psalm 40:1-3, 16-17)

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) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love Divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.



Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy host above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till with Thee we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

2) "Jesus Paid It All"

I hear the Savior say
"Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
find in Me thine all in all."

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow*

Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone,
can change the leper's spots,
and melt the heart of stone.



*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow*

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow
He washed it white as snow

Oh, praise the One Who paid my debt,
and raised this life up from the dead
Oh, praise the One Who paid my debt,
and raised this life up from the dead
Oh, praise the One Who paid my debt,
and raised this life up from the dead, Jesus

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

¹*Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in his heart;
there is no fear of God
before his eyes.*

²*For he flatters himself in his own eyes
that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated. (Psalm 36:1-2)*

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**



**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

⁸*The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

⁹*He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.*

¹⁰*He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:8-10)*

Songs

3) "Speak, O Lord"

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us, Lord, full obedience
Holy reverence, true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built



And the earth is filled with Your glory

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



The Acts of the Risen Lord: Word and Work in the Church Acts 20:1-38

I know the vanity of your heart, and that you will feel mortified that your congregation is very small, in comparison with those of your brethren around you; but assure yourself on the word of an old man, that when you come to give an account of them to the Lord Christ at his judgment seat, you will think you have had enough. (John Brown)

The Word (vv. 1-16)

- The context:
 - Vv. 1-16 occur on the heels of the Ephesian riot.
 - Paul left Ephesus for Macedonia.
 - Paul returned through Macedonia on his way to Jerusalem.
 - Like Jesus, Paul embraced suffering as God's will.
- The church at Troas was marked by a commitment to the Word of God:
 - The Word of God verbally preached.

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (John 5:24)

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (John 6:63)

- The Word of God visibly portrayed.
 - For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)*
- Application:
 - If you are not a follower of Christ, engage with God's Word *personally*.
 - If you are a follower of Christ, engage with God's Word *with His people*.

The Work (vv. 17-38)

- The context:
 - Paul has spent years in the Ephesian church.
 - Vv. 17-38 contain Paul's farewell charge to the Ephesian elders.



So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you. (1 Peter 5:1-2)

- The elder must...

- Be unflinching in the Word. (Vv. 18-27)

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:3-5)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

- Be a shepherd to the sheep. (vv. 28-31, 33-35)

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. (1 Timothy 4:16)

My people's greatest need is my personal holiness. (Robert Murray McCheyne)

A pastor should not complain about his congregations, certainly never to other people, but also not to God. A congregation has not been entrusted to him in order that he should become its accuser before God and men.... Let him guard against ever becoming an accuser of the congregation before God. Let him rather accuse himself for his unbelief. Let him pray to God for understanding of his own failure and his particular sin, and pray that he may not wrong his brethren. Let him, in the consciousness of his own guilt, make intercession for his brethren. Let him do what he is committed to do, and thank God. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

- Be confident in God. (v. 32)

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. (Psalm 95:7)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28)

- Be among and one with them. (vv. 36-38)

And 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)

October 25 – Acts 21:1–22:21



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

4) "Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me"

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me



With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

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 (Ryan Adams)

For Our Church

For the elders of our church, that these men would all care for this body by teaching the Word of Christ to us and by modeling the character of Christ before us, that they would guard and promote unity in our congregation, and that as a body we would support and submit to their leadership.

For Our City

For Briarwood Presbyterian Church, pastor Harry Reader, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation



For former CFC member Timothy Sobitz, who is pastoring in North Dakota, that God would help him to lead and shepherd the congregation in accordance with God's Word, for the church to grow in all areas of discipleship, and for God to use them to reach their city.

And for the elected officials that serve our country in the Senate and the House of Representatives, that they would live lives of decency, that they would be men and women of respectable character, and that they would strive to implement legislation that brings about greater justice in our nation.

For Our World

For the nation of Lebanon, that God would grant wise and godly leaders to lead the country after economic depression as well as the devastating explosion in Belarus earlier this year, for faithful churches to thrive despite manifold difficulties, and for many Lebanese to come to know Jesus by hearing and believing the gospel.

"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

*¹³For you have delivered my soul from death,
yes, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life. (Psalm 56:13)*

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...

Membership Matters Class – Sunday, October 18th at 2:30pm

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, October 18th at 2:30pm. 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.

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!

EQUIP Class on Race, Politics, & The Gospel – Continues Tomorrow

Tomorrow night at 7:30pm, we will continue our study on the topic of Race, Politics, and the Gospel. We will host sessions at the building those evenings and live-stream to our YouTube channel. More information can be found on our website at cfcbirmingham.org/equip.

Women's Zoom Bible Study Continues Tonight

Rebekah Rein is leading an 8-week Zoom study through the book *Hope When It Hurts*. The study takes place on Sunday evenings at 8:00pm. Email Rebekah at rrein@cfcbirmingham.org if you are interested in attending.

