

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, October 25, 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

⁸*But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
⁹you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off";
¹⁰fear not, for I am with you;*



*be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
11Behold, all who are incensed against you
shall be put to shame and confounded;
those who strive against you
shall be as nothing and shall perish.
12You shall seek those who contend with you,
but you shall not find them;
those who war against you
shall be as nothing at all.
13For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, "Fear not,
I am the one who helps you." (Isaiah 41:8-13)*

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) "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity



Holy, Holy, Holy, all the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before Thee
Who wert and art and evermore shall be

Holy, Holy, Holy, though the darkness hides Thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy, there is none besides Thee
Perfect in power love and purity

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

2) "All I Have Is Christ"

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*



Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
Oh Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (David Morrison)

*⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Isaiah 52:7)*

Almighty God, we confess how we struggle to be your people.
You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus
Christ to our lonely and confused world.
Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active,
more isolated than involved, more callous than compassionate,
more obstinate than obedient, more legalistic than loving.
Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.
Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives
to a broken world.
Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Holy Spirit.
This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. **Amen.**

(Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*)

*²¹Remember these things, O Jacob,
and Israel, for you are my servant;
I formed you; you are my servant;
O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.
²²I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud
and your sins like mist;
return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:21-22)*



Songs

3) "He Will Hold Me Fast"

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
When He comes at last!

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;*



*For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



The Acts of the Risen Lord: Whatever It Takes Acts 21:1-22:21

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:22-24)

A Willingness to Suffer (21:1-16)

- Paul was determined to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost. (Acts 20:16, 22)
- But there was great resistance to that mission. (vv. 4, 11-12)
 - Paul's brothers and sisters were told by the Spirit that Paul would suffer.
 - They reasoned from the visions that Paul shouldn't go to Jerusalem.
- How do we reconcile their vision and Paul's decision?
 - There is no evidence that they were mistaken in their visions.
 - There is no evidence that Paul was wrong for going.
 - It seems that their vision (that Paul would suffer) was right and their conclusion (that Paul shouldn't go) was wrong.
- Application:
 - Sometimes, opportunities for the gospel can only be seized by suffering.

I am in a strange land. No Christian friend, a large family, and nothing to supply their wants.... Well, I have God, and His Word is sure. (William Carey)

Mr. Dixon, you are advanced in years now and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave there to be eaten by worms. I confess to you if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or by worms. And in the great day, my resurrection body will arise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer. (John Paton)

- Always, a fellowship in suffering is helpful for gospel advance.

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. (1 Corinthians 12:26)



A Willingness to Sacrifice (21:17-26)

- Paul was wrongly accused of being anti-Law.
 - Paul was against the idea that the Law should be imposed on Gentile believers.
 - Paul was *not* against voluntary observance of the Law and its customs.
- Application:
 - We should not compromise on the gospel.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

- We should demonstrate flexibility on many matters apart from the gospel.

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. (1 Corinthians 9:22)

A Willingness to Sympathize (21:27-22:1-21)

- Paul was wrongly arrested in the Temple.
- Paul then testified as one who also persecuted the Way.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. (1 Timothy 1:15)

- Application:
 - We should remember that we were also once blind.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

- We should remember that Jesus was without sin but had great sympathy for sinners.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)

October 25 – Acts 22:22–23:25



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) "Take My Life"

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord for Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee

*Here am I
All of me
Take my life
It's all for Thee*

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee

Take my silver and my gold
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Every power as You choose

*Here am I
All of me
Take my life
It's all for Thee*



Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne

Take my love, my Lord I pour
At Your feet its treasure stored
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only all for Thee

*Here am I
All of me
Take my life
It's all for Thee*

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 (Steve Killough)

For Our Church

For our church, for the gospel to permeate every area of our lives as individuals and as a congregation and that the same gospel would pervade our every relationship as we seek to make all peoples everywhere know the hope offered in Jesus Christ.

For Our City

For Hunter Street Baptist Church, pastor Buddy Gray, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation



For our nation, that God would bring true spiritual revival, that people would grow dissatisfied with their sin and long for the truth of the gospel, and that healthy churches would display the glory of God and the hope of the gospel to those around them.

For Our World

For the nation of Thailand, that God would bring stability in the midst of current political upheaval, for wise and godly leadership to govern the nation in a way that promotes human flourishing, and for the church in Thailand to faithfully proclaim and display the gospel hope of Jesus Christ.

"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

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

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...

2021 Budget Q&A on Zoom – Sunday, November 1 at 4:30pm

If you missed last week's budget presentation, you can ask questions on a Zoom call next Sunday. Email radams@cfcbirmingham.org for a link.

Cross-Cultural Training – Sunday, November 1 at 4:00pm

Join us Sunday, November 1 from 4:00-6:00 pm to learn about Chinese culture, befriending Chinese people, and building bridges to the gospel. We'll hear from missionaries to East Asia and have a time of Q&A and discussion. RSVP to Melynda.Schauer@gmail.com or 205-413-2641.

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

Tomorrow night at 7:30pm, we will have our final our study on the topic of Race, Politics, and the Gospel. Join us in-person or via live-stream to our YouTube channel. More information at cfcbirmingham.org/equip.

Church Work Day – Saturday, November 7 at 8:00am

Everyone is welcome to come help as we clean up around the property and attend to some smaller projects inside the building as well. We need at least 30 people who can help cut down limbs, weed eat, and clean trash. Fill out the form on the website if you plan to come.

ABCH Christmas Gifts

If you have signed up for a Christmas gift for an ABCH child, you can bring your unwrapped gift to church any Sunday before December 6.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

We will collect shoeboxes again this year on November 22.

