

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, October 4, 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.
- **Bathrooms & Diaper Changing:** We have now opened the family restrooms, for the purpose of CFC Kids and access to the diaper changing stations in those restrooms.
- 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-5<sup>th</sup> 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

*<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,*



according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (Ephesians 1:3-10)

### 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) "Revive Us Again"

We praise thee, O God  
For the Son of thy love  
For Jesus who died  
And is now gone above

*Hallelujah, Thine the glory,  
Hallelujah, amen  
Hallelujah, Thine the glory,  
Revive us again*

We praise thee O God  
For Thy Spirit of light  
Who hath shown us our Savior  
And scattered the night



All glory and praise  
To the Lamb that was slain  
Who hath borne all our sins  
And has cleansed every stain

*Hallelujah, Thine the glory,  
Hallelujah, amen  
Hallelujah, Thine the glory,  
Revive us again*

All glory and praise,  
To the God of all grace  
Who hast brought us and sought us  
And guided our ways

Revive us again,  
Fill each heart with Thy love  
May each soul be rekindled  
With fire from above

*Hallelujah, Thine the glory,  
Hallelujah, amen  
Hallelujah, Thine the glory,  
Revive us again*

## 2) "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, help me stand  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home

When my way grows drear  
Precious Lord, linger near  
When my life is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand, lest I fall  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home



When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand  
Guide my feet, hold my hand  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, help me stand  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home

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

*<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:15-17)*

Holy God, we confess that we have not lived as you have taught us.  
We have put our longing for money, success, or happiness  
above our desire for you and your kingdom.  
We worry about what others will think, what we wear,  
how our reputation can be polished.  
We make idols out of the winning record of a sport team,  
the next promotion at work, the perfect family,  
the cleanliness of our house, or the latest technology.  
We are careless with our words, saying things we don't mean,  
things that are hurtful to our children or friends.  
We are so busy with our lives  
that we forget our every breath depends on you.  
While we waste time on meaningless activities,  
we fail to recognize moments of grace throughout our day.  
We indulge in hateful thoughts against those we feel have offended us,  
and we are indifferent toward the suffering in our own neighborhoods.  
We forget that all people bear your image.  
In an effort to look better, we compare ourselves to others.  
We take advantage of weakness and are passive in the face of injustice.



For personal gain and reputation, we lie blatantly, and we lie by omission.  
We would rather blame others unjustly than accept fault.  
We long for what is not ours and begrudge the blessings of others.  
Forgive us for thinking of ourselves before others and before you.  
Free us from unreasonable expectations of ourselves and others,  
from the need to compete, and from loss of perspective  
so that we may glorify you in all we think, say, and do.  
We ask by the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. Amen.  
(from The Worship Sourcebook)

*<sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*  
(Ephesians 2:4-7)

## Songs

### 3) "Rock of Ages"

Rock of ages, cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee  
Let the water and the blood  
From Thy wounded side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure  
Save from wrath and make me pure

Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's commands  
Could my zeal no respite know  
Could my tears forever flow  
All for sin could not atone  
Thou must save and Thou alone

Nothing in my hands I bring  
Simply to the cross I cling  
Naked come to Thee for dress  
Helpless look to Thee for grace  
Foul I to the fountain fly  
Wash me Savior or I die



While I draw this fleeting breath  
When my eyes shall close in death  
When I rise to worlds unknown  
And behold Thee on Thy throne  
Rock of ages cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



## The Acts of the Risen Lord: Power Trip Acts 19:1-20

*For [Jesus] was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. (2 Corinthians 13:4)*

*True religion is an union of the soul with God, a real participation of the divine nature, the very image of God drawn upon the soul; or, in the Apostle's phrase, it is 'Christ formed within us.'... Briefly, I know not how the nature of religion can be more fully expressed, than by calling it a divine life. (Henry Scougal, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*)*

### Power for Life (vv. 1-7)

- Ephesus was a large, important city with great interest in magical and mystical experiences.
- Paul found “some disciples”. (v. 1)
  - Paul’s questions indicate that these were not ordinary disciples of Jesus. (vv. 2-3)
  - And their answers also indicate something irregular.
    - They don’t know of the Holy Spirit.
    - They don’t have a Christian baptism.
- What’s going on with these “disciples”?
  - This is not a situation that demands more accuracy (like Apollos).
  - This is not a situation that demands more intensity (a deeper baptism).
  - This is a situation that demands initial faith (conversion). (vv. 4-5)
- But why tongues and prophecy upon faith in this case? (v. 6)
  - Tongues and prophecy in Acts are associated with particularly unique moments of gospel triumph and inclusion.
  - God verified the outpouring of the Spirit at transitional moments (cf. Acts 2, 8, 10).
  - The gift of the Spirit was validated so that there could be no doubt that these men were *now* part of God’s people.
- Application:
  - Can you say that the Spirit of God resides in you?

*In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ*

*alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death. (John Wesley)*

*Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:4-6)*

- Do we recognize how critical the Spirit of God is to our lives?

*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)*

### **Power for Change (vv. 8-20)**

- Paul's ministry was marked by long-term faithfulness and patient preaching. (vv. 8-10)
- Paul's ministry was also marked by extraordinary works that the Lord did through him. (vv. 11-12)
  - The works of the Lord were effective for the sick.
  - The works of the Lord were desired by the greedy.
- The point?
  - There is power in the name of Jesus!
    - The name of Jesus was extolled. (v. 17)
    - The sins of Christians were confessed. (vv. 18-19)
    - The Word of the Lord prevailed. (v. 20)
  - Whenever God's Spirit is at work, Jesus will be exalted, sin will be in the crosshairs, and God will be glorified.

*You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:5-9)*

October 11 – Acts 19:21-41



## 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

### 4) "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me



From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

### 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 (Brad Lowe)

#### For Our Church

For our church, that we would maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3), that any cause for division amongst brothers and sisters in Christ would be addressed quickly and humbly, and that we would be united in mind and love for one another (1 Pet. 3:8).

#### For Our City

For Mountain Brook Community Church, pastor Tim Kallam, 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 Turkey, that God would send revival to this strategically located nation, that the gospel would convert and mobilize many nationals and refugees who are passing through the country, and that God would grant endurance and fruitfulness to those missionaries that CFC has sought to partner with in the past.

"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>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11)*

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://cfcbirmingham.org/membership-matters), or email Nick Murray at [nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org) with any questions.

### ***CFC Youth Tonight***

For students 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:rrein@cfcbirmingham.org) if you are interested in attending.

