

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, November 22, 2020

Welcome (Billy Shepard)

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

- ¹May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah
- ²that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.
- ³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!
- ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity



and guide the nations upon earth. Selah
⁵*Let the peoples praise you, O God;*
let all the peoples praise you!
⁶*The earth has yielded its increase;*
God, our God, shall bless us.
⁷*God shall bless us;*
let all the ends of the earth fear him! (Psalm 67)

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) "All Creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son



And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the Redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2) "O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer"

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God, like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life



My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose, the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Ryan Adams)

⁸Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
⁹There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
¹⁰I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
¹¹"But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.
¹²So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels.
¹³Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!" (Psalm 81:8-13)

²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Songs

3) "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed



Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Acts of the Risen Lord: To Be Continued...

Acts 28:17-31

I. Conclusion

- When in Rome, what does Paul do?
 - Paul follows his pattern of proclaiming the gospel to the Jew first, and then to the Gentile.
 - Paul explains from the Scriptures why Jesus of Nazareth is the biblically prophesied Messiah, the hope of Israel.
- Why does this ending feel a bit disappointing?
 - **Acts 1:1-2** – [1] *In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, [2] until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.*
 - Luke is not giving us a biography of Paul. Luke is giving us an account of the unstoppable progress of the gospel.
 - The point is not the conclusion of the story of Paul, but the continuation of the mission of Christ in our lives.

II. Inclusion

1) Have we grown in evangelistic zeal?

- **1 Corinthians 9:16b**—*Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*
- **Acts 28:31** – [31]...*proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*

2) Have we grown in our faithfulness to Christ even at personal or social cost?

- **2 Timothy 3:12** – [12] *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*
- **John 15:18, 20** – [18] *If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you...*[20] *Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.*
- **Acts 14:22** – [22] *...saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*



- **Luke 22:28-29** – [28] *You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, [29] and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom.*
- **Romans 8:17** – [17] *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*
- “Nothing proves the sincerity of our beliefs like a willingness to suffer for them.” -John Stott

3) Have we grown in our commitment to the local church as God’s plan for bringing His kingdom to fruition on earth as it is in heaven?

- What things, what events, what pursuits have drawn my attention away from a commitment to the local church as the vehicle through which God means to bring his kingdom to earth as it is in heaven?
- Your involvement in the local church is not peripheral to your following Jesus; it is central to it. Because the local church is not peripheral to the advance of God’s kingdom; it is central to it.

4) Have we grown in our dependence upon the Holy Spirit to carry out the will of God?

- **Acts 1:8** – [8] *But 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 4:31** – [31] *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness*
- “Whenever God’s Spirit is at work, Jesus will be exalted, sin will be in the crosshairs, and God will be glorified.” -Bart Box

5) Have we grown in getting the gospel deeper into every corner of our lives and wider into every corner of the globe?

- **Romans 15:24** – [24] *I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.*
- “Now the next generation must step into [Paul’s] shoes and continue the work. Just as Luke’s Gospel ended with the prospect of a mission to the nations, so Acts ends with the prospect of a mission radiating from Rome to the world. Luke’s description of Paul preaching ‘with boldness’ and ‘without hindrance’ symbolizes a wide open door, through which we in our day have to pass. The Acts of the Apostles have long ago finished. But the acts of the followers of Jesus will continue until the end of the world, and their words will spread to the ends of the earth.” -John Stott

November 29 – Hebrews 1:1–2:4



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) "O Church Arise"

O Church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle-cry is love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle



That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

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 (Lev Bragg)

For Our Church

For God to grow us as a church and as individuals: in evangelistic zeal, in our faithfulness to Christ regardless of personal or social cost, in our commitment to the church as God's plan for establishing his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, in our dependence upon the Holy Spirit to carry out the will of God in our lives, and in getting the gospel into every corner of our lives and every corner of the globe.

For Our City

For Valleydale Church, pastor Mac Brunson, their elders, staff and congregation.

For Our Nation

For our nation, that God would change the hearts of our lawmakers and elected officials to see the evil of abortion, that as a nation we would move toward ending this horrible practice, that our culture of death would be transformed into one that cherishes life at every stage. Also, for those who have had abortions or paid for abortions, that they would know the freeing and forgiving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For Our World

For missionaries around the world whose work has been drastically affected during these times: for those that have had to leave their posts earlier in the pandemic, that God would preserve the fruit that they have long labored over from the counter-work of the enemy; for those who



wonder if or when they'll be able to return to their work, that God would help them to trust His sovereign strategy over all things; and for those whose financial support seems uncertain, that God would make all grace abound to them so that they may abound in every good work.

"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...

Renovating Here & Reaching There

This past Sunday night at our members' meeting, we discussed two exciting ministry opportunities for 2021. If you weren't able to attend, we would encourage you to watch the portion of the members' meeting and/or read the proposal at cfcbirmingham.org/reach. We reintroduced plans for finishing the renovation of our building, and we plan to vote on this immediately following the Sunday morning service on December 6th. If you have questions or concerns about the project, please reach out to an elder as soon as possible. We will also have a Zoom Q&A session on Monday, November 30th at 7:30pm if you would like to address your question there. Email radams@cfcbirmingham.org for the Zoom link.

ABCH Christmas Gifts

Each year, we have the opportunity to support children and moms who are in the care of one of our local partners, the Alabama Baptist Children's Home. You can sign up to provide gifts online at cfcbirmingham.org/abch. Gifts need to be unwrapped, with a post-it note or sticker with the recipient's name somewhere on the gift, and brought to church and dropped off **any Sunday morning from now until December 6th**. There are many gifts to be bought, which means ample opportunities for many of us to be involved! If you have questions, email Elizabeth Bryant at ebryant@cfcbirmingham.org.

