



Liturgy for Sunday, November 29, 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

²*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*

³*You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,*



as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:2-7)

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) "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other found I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other found I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus



*O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other found I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

2) "Who Would Have Dreamed"

On a starlit hillside, shepherds watched their sheep
Slowly, David's city drifted off to sleep
But to this little town of no great renown
The Lord had a promise to keep

*And who would have dreamed or ever foreseen
That we could hold God in our hands?
The Giver of Life is born in the night
Revealing God's glorious plan
To save the world*

Prophets had foretold it, a mighty King would come
Long awaited Ruler, God's Anointed One
But the Sovereign of all looked helpless and small
As God gave the world His own Son

*And who would have dreamed or ever foreseen
That we could hold God in our hands?
The Giver of Life is born in the night
Revealing God's glorious plan
To save the world*

Wondrous gift of heave, the Father sends the Son
Planned from time eternal, moved by holy love
He will carry our curse and death He'll reverse
So we can be daughters and sons

*And who would have dreamed or ever foreseen
That we could hold God in our hands?
The Giver of Life is born in the night*



Revealing God's glorious plan
To save the world

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

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.

⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Songs

3) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer



Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come, desire of nations bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

4) "Amen, Amen"

Let every creature rise and bring
Their grateful praises to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And Earth repeats a loud "Amen"

Amen, Amen
Amen, Amen
I found my life
I found my life in Him
Amen, Amen

Peace like a river from His throne
Will flow to nations yet unknown
His word a light where all hope is dim
And all tribes unite to cry "Amen"

Amen, Amen
Amen, Amen
I found my life
I found my life in Him
Amen, Amen

And in this Child we'll find our rest
And all the meek and lowly blest
An infant tongue could sing the hymn
Of Hallelujah and Amen

Amen, Amen



*Amen, Amen
I found my life
I found my life in Him
Amen, Amen*

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Better: A Better Word
Hebrews 1:1-2:4

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68-69)

God Has Spoken Supremely in His Son (Hebrews 1:1-14)

- Why does the writer speak so much about angels?
 - There were some Jews at the time who venerated angels, but the writer of Hebrews doesn't rebuke them for angel worship.
 - Angels are mentioned because they were associated the giving of the Law to Moses (see Hebrews 2:1-3).

[Jews] who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it. (Acts 7:53)

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary. (Galatians 3:19)

- The letter was written to Jewish Christians who knew that the Law was spoken by angels and who were tempted to go back to the Law instead of forward to Jesus.
- Vv. 1-4 highlight the final, definitive Word of the Son.
 - God spoke in all sorts of ways in the Old Testament.
 - God spoke ultimately and decisively in Jesus Christ.

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen. (Deuteronomy 18:15)

A servant may be able to say everything that is right about his lord and master, he may know him well and intimately, but he can never represent him in the way that the son can. The son is a manifestation of the father by being what he is. Thus our Lord himself, while here on earth, represented and manifested the name of God in a way that is incomparable and greater than all others, because he is the Son of God. (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. (John 14:9)

- The revelation of the Son is the revelation of God.

[We believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. (Nicene Creed, 4th century)

- The chapter closes with the exaltation of the Son in His resurrection and ascension.
 - The angels were important messengers of God.
 - Jesus is the final, ultimate revelation of God.
 - Angels are sent and serve.
 - Jesus reigns and rules.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

That Speech Matters Supremely (Hebrews 2:1-4)

- Pay careful attention to the revelation of the Son as the Savior.
 - Trust God for salvation through the Son.
 - Praise God for salvation in the Son.
- Give complete obedience and devotion to the Son.
 - Like the angels, we should be obedient to God in all of life.

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing. (“Joy to the World”)*

- Like the angels, we should be devoted to God in worship.

*Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exaltation
Oh sing all ye citizens of Heaven above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord. (“O Come All Ye Faithful”)*

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

5) "O Come All Ye Faithful"

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels
Oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exaltation
Oh sing all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God, all glory in the highest
Oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing
Oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

We'll praise Your name forever, we'll praise Your name forever
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord

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 (Bart Box)

For Our Church

For our church, that as we consider additional work on our building, that God would give our congregation: complete contentment in all things, heavenly wisdom how to best proceed, provision of needed resources, unity among all our members, and fruitful ministry that radiates out of these walls into our city.

For Our City

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

For Our Nation

For the men and women serving in the armed forces, that they would strive to maintain peace and order in the places they are serving, that the Lord would comfort and preserve the families of those who are deployed, and that we would faithfully give thanks to God for these men and women.

For Our World

For the nation of Somalia, that the Lord will build His Kingdom in the midst of harsh circumstances, for protection over Somali Christians who must be disciplined in secret, and that the Lord will make himself known to many Muslims and draw them to Himself.

"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

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

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

At our last 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.

