



Liturgy for Sunday, November 8, 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

¹*How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!*

²*My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.*

³*Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,*



*where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.*
⁴*Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise! Selah*
⁵*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion...*
¹⁰*For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.*
*I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*
¹¹*For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.*
*No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.*
¹²*O LORD of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you! (Psalm 84:1-5, 10-12)*

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) "Nothing but the Blood"

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 fount 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 fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

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

2) "Shine into Our Night"

We are not what we should be
We haven't sought what we should seek



We've seen Your glory Lord, but looked away
Our hearts are bent our eyes are dim
Our finest works are stained with sin
And emptiness has shadowed all our ways

*Jesus Christ, shine into our night
Drive our dark away
'Til Your glory fills our eyes
Jesus Christ, shine into our night
Bind us to Your cross, where we find life*

Still we often go astray
We chase the world, forget Your grace
But You have never failed to bring us back
Reveal the depths of what You've done
The death You died, the vic'try won
You made a way for us to know Your love

*Jesus Christ, shine into our night
Drive our dark away
'Til Your glory fills our eyes
Jesus Christ, shine into our night
Bind us to Your cross, where we find life*

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

²⁵*The fear of man lays a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. (Proverbs 29:25)*

¹⁸*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)*

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: Mere Christianity
Acts 24:1-26:32

Question: What is Christianity all about?

Christianity is about eternity and the coming judgment (Acts 24)

- Recap:
 - Paul was in prison in Caesarea, awaiting trial.
 - The Roman governor at the time was Felix. (A.D. 52-57 or so)
- The charges against Paul were threefold:
 - That he was stirring up riots and disturbing the peace. (24:5)
 - That he was a “ringleader” of a sect of the Nazarenes. (24:5)
 - That he had profaned the Temple in Jerusalem. (24:6)
- Rome didn’t mind if you were religious so long as you weren’t rebellious.
- The reason Paul asserted his innocence was not because he wanted to be cleared but because he wanted *to be clear*. (24:10-21)
- Application:
 - Christianity is not about a hostile takeover of the culture or a power play for thrones and dominions.
 - Christianity is about bigger, more eternally consequential matters.

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,
(Hebrews 9:27)
 - So...
 - Live a quiet, godly life and... (24:16-18)
 - Proclaim a great, glorious gospel. (24:14-15, 24-25)

Christianity is about Jesus as the The Way (Acts 24)

- Paul denied the charges of sedition and sacrilege.
- Paul admitted the charge of following Jesus! (24:14-15)
 - Jesus isn’t a left turn in the Bible but is rather the final destination.



- Jesus is the culmination and centerpiece of all God's promises.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

- Application:

- Jesus is not a way to God but *the way* to God.
 - Jesus alone can save us from our sins.
 - Have you placed your faith in Christ as Savior?
- Out of love, we should be clear about the claims of Jesus.

Christianity is about the hope of the resurrection (Acts 25-26)

- The context:

- Felix gave way to Festus as the Roman governor. (Acts 24:27; 25:1)
- Before sending Paul to Rome, Festus employed the help of Agrippa, king of Judea. (Acts 25:13-27)

- The testimony:

- At the center of Paul's intellectual and spiritual universe was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Acts 26:8, 23)
- Indeed, the resurrection of Christ brings about God's new world and our new lives:
 - The power of God instead of the power of Satan.
 - The forgiveness of sins.
 - A place among God's saints.

- Do you have God's life in your life?

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. (Ezekiel 36:23-25)

November 15 – Acts 27:1–28:16



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 Praise the Name"

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

*O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

And then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

*O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing Son shall pierce the night.
And we will rise among the saints,
Our gaze transfixed on Jesus' face



O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

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 (Billy Shepard)

For Our Church

For our church, that our faith in Christ would be marked by care for orphans in their affliction (James 1:27), that we would not insulate ourselves from them and their needs, and that the cares of our hearts would line up with the cares of the Father of the fatherless (Psalm 68:5).

For Our City

For the Alabama Baptist Children's Home and Lifeline Children's Services, that God would continue to bless their efforts and direct their steps as they seek to provide loving homes for children both in our city and abroad.

For Our Nation

For whomever has been elected as the next President of the United States, that the rule of law would be upheld until inauguration day, that he would lead our nation wisely and righteously, that he might bring unity to our polarized population, and that the policies which will be adopted in the next four years would promote human flourishing for all.

For Our World



For the nation of Nicaragua as it recovers from the hurricane that made landfall there this week, for relief from flooding, for the immediate needs of all those affected to be met, and for a quick recovery for the impoverished nation.

"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

²⁴*The LORD bless you and keep you;*

²⁵*the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;*

²⁶*the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)*

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 – Today at 4:30pm

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

Cross-Cultural Training – Today 1 at 4:00pm

Join us today from 4:00-6:00pm 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.

Church Workday – Next 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

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.

Members' Meeting – Next Sunday, November 8 at 5:00pm

Our next Members' Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 8th at 5:00pm. It will take place in person, but we will also offer a Zoom option. Note that we will not have a potluck dinner this evening. We will receive incoming members, remove outgoing members, and talk about upcoming building renovation plans. Please plan to attend!

