



Liturgy for Sunday, December 13, 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

¹The LORD says to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."
²The LORD sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.
Rule in the midst of your enemies!
³Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,



*in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.*
⁴*The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek."*
⁵*The Lord is at your right hand;
he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.*
⁶*He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with corpses;
he will shatter chiefs
over the wide earth.*
⁷*He will drink from the brook by the way;
therefore he will lift up his head. (Psalm 110)*

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) "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born*



While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light
The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus hailed our Savior's birth

*Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born
And brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Jesus Christ is born
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Savior of the world

2) "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"

Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.

God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son

O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility
Come on bended knee, adore Him

Go spread the news of Emmanuel



Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads, for your King has come
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark

Glory shining for all to see
Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus
Gloria, Gloria!

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. (James 3:6-10)

*¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
(Psalm 51:15-17)*

Songs

3) "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

4) "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Come Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Better: The Better Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

*We cannot present a reason for Christ to finally close off his heart to his own sheep. No such reason exists. Every human friend has a limit. If we offend enough, if a relationship gets damaged enough, if we betray enough times, we are cast out. The walls go up. With Christ, our sins and weaknesses are the very resumé items that qualify us to approach him. Nothing but coming to him is required—first at conversion and a thousand times thereafter until we are with him upon death. (Dane Ortund, from *Gentle and Lowly*)*

- The idea of a priesthood rests on the idea of the holiness of God.

- God is holy and people are sinful.

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? (Exodus 15:11)

Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. (Leviticus 11:44)

There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2:2)

- So, God's people needed (and still need!) a mediator.

- The writer of Hebrews shows that Jesus is a superior priest to all other priests.

- Jesus is superior to other priests in two ways:

- Jesus has a superior calling.

- Priests were appointed by God.

Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests. (Exodus 28:1)

- Jesus is the ultimate priest appointed for the people of God.

- Not only is Jesus a King... (5:5, quoting Psalm 2)

- Jesus the King is a priest! (5:6, quoting Psalm 11)

- Biblical hope and expectation looked toward a Messiah who be both magnificent (a king) and merciful (a priest).

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:18-20)

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5)

- Jesus lived a superior life.
 - Jesus is like priests in his shared humanity.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:36-39)

- Jesus is unlike other priests in his perfect, enduring obedience.
 - This provides us with hope for forgiveness.
 - This provides us with encouragement when tempted.
- In light of all this, why wouldn't we go to Jesus? (4:14, 16)
 - The Evil One would have us believe unworthy thoughts of the Lord.
 - If we don't believe the Lord is for us...
 - We won't go before the Lord in prayer.
 - But what if we believe this text and not the lies in our head?
 - What if we came to God, not with cockiness because we are reckless, but with confidence because of Christ?
 - What if we looked outward instead of inward?

Look to Christ. He deals gently with you. It's the only way he knows how to be. He is the high priest to end all high priests. As long as you fix your attention on your sin, you will fail to see how you can be safe. But as long as you look to this high priest, you will fail to see how you can be in danger. Looking inside ourselves, we can anticipate only harshness from heaven. Looking out to Christ, we can anticipate only gentleness. (Dane Ortlund)

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) "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings!
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth



Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Come, Desire of nations come!
Fix in us Thy humble home
Rise, the woman's conquering seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head
Adam's likeness now efface
Shine Thine image in its place.
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.
Hark The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

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 (Jason Kirk)

For Our Church

For our church, as we promise to do in our church covenant: that we would continue to give cheerfully and generously to the support of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

For Our City

For Philadelphia Baptist Church, pastor Cory Varden, their elders, staff and congregation.

For Our Nation

For president elect Biden, that in the coming weeks he would surround himself with wise counselors who will instruct his administration in godly directions, that his transition to



leadership would be smooth, and that God would help him as he faces many different difficulties as he becomes the leader of our country.

For Our World

For the nation of Indonesia, for the establishment and flourishing of healthy churches who proclaim the gospel and faithfully preach God's Word, and for the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ to be lifted high in this nation and that all men and women might be drawn to him.

"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

²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)

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...

Words of Life Sermon Series and Bible Reading Plan

For 2021 and into 2022, we are planning a sermon series that walks through every book of the Bible. To go alongside this series, we are publishing a daily Bible reading plan so that you can better follow along and prepare for each week. We hope that this gives us the opportunity as a church to all study the same Scriptures on our own throughout the week. You can grab the first few months of bookmarks today at the bookstall on your way out! You can also access the entire reading plan at cfcbermingham.org/wordsoflife.

Christmas Eve Service – Thursday, December 24th at 4:00pm

We will hold our Christmas Eve service on Thursday, December 24th at 4:00pm. There will be no childcare offered, as we encourage families to come and worship together. The service should last about an hour. We also plan to livestream the service this year.

Year End Giving

As we approach the end of the year, we want to begin by giving God thanks for the way he has provided for our church through your faithful giving. The Lord is good and kind whether we make budget or not, but we are grateful that we have been able to support church ministries, give to local initiatives, and provide for our global partners. If you would like to give in the year 2020, you can either: 1) deposit your gift in the offering boxes on a Sunday prior to December 27 (final Sunday of the year), 2) give [online](#) by December 31, or 3) mail a check to 76 Green Springs Hwy, Birmingham, AL 35209, postmarked by December 31.

