



Liturgy for Sunday, December 20, 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

¹⁰*"Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'*

¹¹*For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.*

¹²*They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,*



*over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall be like a watered garden,
and they shall languish no more.*
¹³*Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.*
¹⁴*I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,
declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 31:10-14)*

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) “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
and heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns



Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

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 (Bart Box)

¹²*For our transgressions are multiplied before you,
and our sins testify against us;
for our transgressions are with us,
and we know our iniquities:
¹³transgressing, and denying the LORD,
and turning back from following our God,
speaking oppression and revolt,
conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.
(Isaiah 59:12-13)*

**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.**



¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

Songs

3) "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia Lord most high
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia Lord most high

King of kings yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food

Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia Lord most high
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia Lord most high

Rank on Him the host of Heaven
Spreads its wings on the way
As the light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away

Alleluia, alleluia



Alleluia Lord most high
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia Lord most high

At His feet the six-winged seraph
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces in His presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry

Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia Lord most high
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia Lord most high

4) "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!"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Better: A Better Covenant

Hebrews 7:22–8:13

I. The Structure of the Bible through Covenants

“A covenant is not merely a ‘contract’ or a ‘promise’ as we understand such things. Rather, it’s a bond that establishes an all-compassing relationship. A covenant is not merely a financial obligation or a military treaty. It’s a claim on someone’s total loyalty and allegiance. It has an authority structure to it, with ongoing obligations, blessings, and curses.” -Michael Lawrence

“When God condescended to reveal himself to humanity and enter into a relationship with us, he structured those relationships in what we have come to recognize as covenants. God uses covenants in an extraordinary act of condescending anthropomorphic communication.” -Michael Lawrence

- Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12 & 15) — Covenant of Grace
- Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20-24) — Covenant of Works
- Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7) — Covenant of Grace

II. The Deficiencies of the Old Covenant

- The priests—the men chiefly responsible for helping Israel uphold its side of the covenant—were sinners themselves.
 - Which meant that they themselves kept needing sacrifices for their own sin (7:27).
 - Which meant that they themselves kept dying (7:23).
- The sacrifices—the means by which God granted forgiveness—were never enough to match the sins committed.
 - The quantity of sacrifices was never enough, due to the sheer volume of sins committed.
 - The quality of the sacrifices themselves was ultimately powerless to take away sins.
 - **Hebrews 10:4** – [4] *For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*
 - **Hebrews 10:11** – [11] *And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.*
- The covenant itself was never meant to be permanent, but to prepare us for something that is.

III. The New & Better Covenant

- Not a covenant of works, like with the Exodus generation (8:9a).
- Not a covenant with the certainty of failure (8:9b).
- Not a covenant of external behavioral modification, but internal transformation (8:10a).
- But a covenant in which God will fully and finally forgive all sins by His great mercy (8:12).
- In short, a covenant of unrelenting grace, where God redeems His people and makes them like Himself by imparting His very self to us.

IV. The Supremacy of Jesus, the Guarantor of the New Covenant

- Who He is.
 - *Holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens* (Hebrews 7:26).
- What He has done.
- What He is doing.
 - "The answer is that intercession applies what the atonement accomplished. Christ's present heavenly intercession on our behalf is a reflection of the fullness and victory and completeness of his earthly work, not a reflection of anything lacking in his earthly work. The atonement accomplished our salvation; intercession is the moment-by-moment application of that atoning work. In the past, Jesus did what he now talks about [to the Father]; in the present, Jesus talks about what he did then."
-Dane Ortlund
- What He will do.
 - "We all tend to have some small pocket of our life where we have difficulty believing the forgiveness of God reaches. We say we are totally forgiven. And we sincerely believe our sins are forgiven. Pretty much, anyway. But there's that one deep, dark part of our lives, even our present lives, that seems so intractable, so ugly, so beyond recovery. 'To the uttermost' in Hebrews 7:25 means: God's forgiving, redeeming, restoring touch reaches down into the darkest crevices of our souls, those places where we are most ashamed, most defeated. More than this: those crevices of sin are themselves the places where Christ loves us the most. His heart willingly goes there. His heart is *most* strongly drawn there. He knows us to the uttermost, and he saves to the uttermost, because his heart is drawn out to us to the uttermost. We cannot sin our way out of his tender care." -Dane Ortlund
 - "Our sinning goes to the uttermost. But his saving goes to the uttermost. And his saving always outpaces and overwhelms our sinning, because he always lives to intercede for us." -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) "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*

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 (Ryan Adams)

For Our Church

For our church as we move into the Christmas holidays: that God would be present with those who are unable to gather with family this year as they typically would; that God would comfort those who feel a sense of sadness and loneliness, especially those who might be alone; that we as a church would do what we can to be hospitable and loving to the hurting and sorrowful this Christmas; and that in every circumstance we find ourselves in this week, that we might be ready to share the ultimate hope of Jesus.

For Our City

For Double Oak Community Church, pastor Adam Robinson, their elders, staff and congregation.

For Our Nation

For doctors, nurses, and all healthcare workers responding to the pandemic, that God would grant them supernatural protection from infection, that God would use them to minister his healing mercies to the sick, that they would be blessed with physical and emotional endurance during this trying time, and that they would be able to get adequate rest and renewal when not working.

For Our World



For the nation of China and the human rights abuses that are being committed there against the Uighur, that God would intervene and stop the terrible treatment that these image bearers are receiving from the Chinese government's hand, that national leadership would repent, and that other nations might continue to pressure China into actionable change.

"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

²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

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.

