

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, December 6, 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*O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² *Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.*

³*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*



⁴what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
⁶You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,
⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹**O LORD, our Lord,**
how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8)

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) "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

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Billy Shepard)

¹Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. (Titus 3:1-3)

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

Songs

3) "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

4) "Is He Worthy?"

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming? (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Is anyone worthy?
Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy of this?
He is

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Is anyone worthy?
Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

From every people and tribe



Every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
To reign with the Son
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this?
He is!

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Better: The Better Man
Hebrews 2:5-18

The Hope We Have (vv. 5-9)

- Recap from chapter 1:
 - Jesus is the final and definitive revelation of God as the Son of God.
 - And, as the Son of the God, He rules and reigns over all.
- Apparently, the congregation was starting to drift from that confession. (2:1-4)
 - So, the writer of Hebrews of is calling them to remember what they've heard.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
(Hebrews 11:1)
 - The rest of chapter 2 is intended to encourage their faith in a crucified Lord.
- The writer tells us that the world to come does not belong to the angels but to “man”, or “the son of man”. (v. 6)

- The proof of this is found in Psalm 8.
- Psalm 8 is a reflection on God’s creation and God’s mandate to man—to rule and reign over the earth.

You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
(Psalm 8:6-8)

- Paradise, though, has become a problem due to our sin.
- The writer of Hebrews reads Psalm 8 through the lens of Christ’s coming.
- Psalm 8 is about humanity in general, but it’s about Christ ultimately.
 - The lowliness of Jesus is not a mark against His Lordship.
 - Instead, it’s a sign that the world to come has actually come!

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. (Mark 1:15)

- How do we get in on this?
 - We get in on this by faith in the true and better Adam, the Son of Man.
 - And we continue to trust, “seeing” God’s plan in God’s man, Jesus Christ.

The Help We Need (vv. 10-18)

- He helps us when we are struggling with faith. (vv. 10-13)
 - The writer of Hebrews does not question Jesus' moral perfection.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)
 - By “made perfect”, he is speaking of experience and familiarity with suffering.
 - He is saying that Jesus has been there.
 - He is saying that Jesus understands our struggles.
 - Jesus understands what it's like to fight for faith.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? (Psalm 22:1)

I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: (Psalm 22:22)
 - If you struggle to trust, remember, you are not alone in that struggle!

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking 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)
- He helps us when we are afraid. (vv. 14-16)
 - The Bible offers us freedom from our greatest fear—the fear of death.
 - Jesus partook of flesh and blood and everything that entails, including death that he might destroy the one who has the power of death, the devil.
 - In the gospel, we celebrate the death of death in the death of Christ.
 - Because death itself is buried in a garden tomb outside Jerusalem, death is now the gateway to life.
- He helps us when we are wayward and weary. (vv. 17-18)
 - The only kind of priest who can help human beings is a human priest.
 - Jesus became like us so that He might intercede for us.

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) "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life



But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As will we be when He comes

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 (Nick Murray)

For Our Church

For doctors and nurses in our congregation, that God would supply them with his protection as they treat patients and are consistently exposed to the coronavirus, that God would grant them physical strength and energy as they are stretched thin, and for the emotional well-being of those who are caring for particularly sad cases.

For Our City

For Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church, pastor Nic Seaborn, their elders, staff and congregation.

For Our Nation

For government officials and healthcare providers all over the country who are coordinating a response to the pandemic, that God would grant wisdom for how to handle this multifaceted issue, and for a smooth distribution of vaccines and supplies to people and places of urgent need.

For Our World

For the nation of Tanzania: that healthy churches in the country would grow and flourish and multiply; that the poorest and neediest citizens of Tanzania would receive the provision that



they need; and for those churches and organizations that are working to serve the overlooked, the marginalized, and the forgotten.

"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

⁵⁴"Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:54b-58)

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...

Building Renovation Vote at the End of the Service Today

For all CFC Members, we encourage you to stay for a brief members' only meeting at the conclusion of today's worship service so that you can vote on the plans to renovate the remainder of our building. The ballot for your vote is the blue tear out on your worship guide. Ballots will be collected in the offering baskets at each exit.

ABCH Christmas Gifts

If you signed up for an ABCH Christmas gift, those must be turned in today. Gifts need to be unwrapped, with a post-it note or sticker with the recipient's name somewhere on the gift. If you have questions or forgot to bring your gift today please, email Elizabeth Bryant at ebryant@cfcbirmingham.org.

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. Be on the lookout for some reading plan bookmarks in the commons in the coming weeks.

