



Liturgy for Sunday, February 21, 2021

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.
- There will be an Elementary Sunday School lesson during the sermon. Kids K-5th who wish to attend will be dismissed and led to their classroom as the sermon begins.

Call to Worship

¹*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*

²*Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."*

³*Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."*

⁴*Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."*

⁵*Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.*

⁶*The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?*

⁷*The LORD is on my side as my helper;*



I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
⁸*It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in man.*
⁹*It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes...*
¹⁴*The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.*
¹⁵*Glad songs of salvation
are in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"*
(Psalm 118:1-9,14-16)

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) "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

2) "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand"

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)



¹¹Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings. ¹²Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you. (Joshua 7:11-12)

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.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

Songs

3) "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

4) "Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Words of Life: Devotion

Joshua

Do you mortify? Do you make it your daily work? Be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; be killing sin or it will be killing you.

Sin doth not only still abide in us, but is still acting, still laboring to bring forth the deeds of the flesh. When sin lets us alone, we may let sin alone; but as sin is never less quiet than when it seems to be most quiet, and its waters are for the most part deep when they are still, so ought our contrivances against it to be vigorous at all times and in all conditions, even where there is least suspicion. (John Owen, Overcoming Sin and Temptation)

Holy God, Holy War

- Many texts in Joshua describe total destruction of the Canaanites. (e.g. 6:21; 10:28; 11:11)
 - Some have objected to the Bible on the basis of these texts.
 - These verses actually clarify the message of Joshua (and the Bible) as a whole.
- The removal of the Canaanites was an act of judgment meant to show God's holy wrath against sin.

- God had promised to Abraham the removal of the Canaanites because of their sin.

And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites (a group of Canaanites) is not yet complete.” (Genesis 15:16)

- In Leviticus 18 & 20, God had forbidden Israel to be like the Canaanites in their sexual immorality and child sacrifice.

You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. (Leviticus 18:3)

- In Deuteronomy 9, God made his determination of judgment clear.

Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. (Deuteronomy 9:5)

- Yes, Israel was being given the land, but also the Canaanites were being judged in the land (like Israel would be judged in the future).

- The book of Joshua illustrates clearly the biblical doctrine of judgment upon and for sin.

In [the Canaanite] destruction we see an expiration of God's mercy. Every time they ignored their own consciences and defied the image of the true God within them, they spent his mercy. Every time they hated one another, or got drunk, or worshiped the fertility god Baal through cult prostitution, they spent more of this rich mercy. Every time they worshiped their God Molech by putting a knife through the hearts of their own children or casting them into the flames, they spent still more. Indeed, every day the people of Canaan drew breath and failed to repent, they cried out for the end of God's mercy and the beginning of his justice. Finally, God said, “Enough!” To use the language of the Bible, the cup of their sins had become full to overflowing. God's mercy expired. And so he commanded Joshua and the Israelites to be partial ministers of the judgment all humankind will one day face, apart from Christ. (Mark Dever)

Holy God, Holy Devotion

- The charge to Joshua is about holy devotion. (Joshua 1:1-9)
 - Joshua is called to be like the man of Psalm 1, wholly devoted to God's Word.
 - The most important thing in our life is not our skill but our heart.
 - Are we praying for and looking for that among our leaders?
 - Are we cultivating that in our own lives?

Fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:14-15)

- The preparation for battle is about holy devotion. (Joshua 5)

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

- The success in battle is about holy devotion. (Joshua 6-7)

- The battle of Jericho is an illustration that God doesn't need our might to win the battle.
- The battle of Ai is an illustration that God doesn't play favorites in the battle, either.

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God. (1 Peter 4:17)

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' (Matt. 7:21-23)

Holy God, Wholly Forgiving

- Importantly, the story of Rahab is located near the beginning of the book.
- Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute, but that is not the end of her story!
 - Rahab refused to give up the location of the Israelite spies.
 - Rahab confessed clearly the God of Israel as the true God. (2:11)
 - Rahab not only lived in safety all the days of her life, but she lives on in the memory of God's people as an ancestor of the Messiah. (Matthew 1:5)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

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) "Take My Life"

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 members of our church who are currently enduring trials and suffering of various kinds: that God would draw near to them, hold them fast, and strengthen their faith during this time; that their fellow church members would join in sharing their burdens; and God would providentially work these trials for the good of those that suffer and for God's glory.

For Our City

For Redeemer Community Church, pastor Joel Brooks, their staff, elders, and congregation.

For Our Nation

For those Americans who are still recovering from the effects of this week's deadly winter storm, that God would be near to those whose lives and livelihoods were drastically



affected, and for restoration of basic infrastructure needs like power and water in the areas affected.

For Our World

For the nation of North Korea, that the Lord would strengthen North Korean believers who are languishing in prison camps, that the gospel would be proclaimed both in and outside prison walls, that Christians in the country would have access to Bibles and fellowship, and that God would open Kim Jong-Un's eyes to the surpassing glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"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

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

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

To track along with the Words of Life sermon series, get a reading plan bookmark on your way out the door today. You can also access the entire reading plan at cfcbirmingham.org/wordsoflife.

Tech Volunteers Needed

We are looking for more volunteers to join our tech team on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in running sound, song lyrics, or our livestream, please email Will Mitchell at wmitchell@cfcbirmingham.org for more information.

CFC Youth Tonight

For students 6th grade and up, our youth group meets on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00pm here at the church building. All students are welcome! Contact Billy at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org with any questions.

Members' Meeting – Sunday March 7th at 5:00pm

Our next Members' Meeting will take place on Sunday, March 7th 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 other items of business. Please plan to attend!

Foster Parent Training

If you or someone you know would like to be trained to serve as a foster parent, Lifeline will be holding training classes at our building in the Spring. Orientation is Monday, February 22nd from 6:00-8:00pm. Classes begin on March 8th from 6:00-9:00pm and will last 10 weeks. You can register at the [link here](#).

