



Liturgy for Sunday, February 28, 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.
- 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

¹The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

²Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³Fire goes before him
and burns up his adversaries all around.

⁴His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.

⁵The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

⁷All worshipers of images are put to shame,
who make their boast in worthless idols;
worship him, all you gods!

⁸Zion hears and is glad,



*and the daughters of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.
9For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
10O you who love the LORD, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of his saints;
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
11Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
12Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name! (Psalm 97)*

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) "Let the Nations Be Glad"

2) "Shine Into Our Night"

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (David Morrison)

*13Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. (Proverbs 28:13)*



⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

Songs

3) "Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy"

4) "This Is My Father's World"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

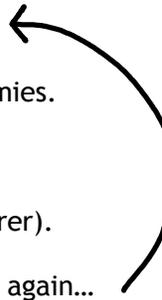


Words of Life: Chaos
Judges

You shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. (Leviticus 18:3)

The Downward Spiral of Sin

- The book of Judges may appear to be little more than a collection of heroic and inspirational tales.
 - Certainly, there are inspirational stories of deliverance by the judges (or deliverers).
 - But many of the deliverers in the book are tragically flawed.
- The book of Judges describes a cycle of sin that persists in Israel's history during this period (2:11-23).
 - Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.
 - God gave them into the hands of their enemies.
 - Israel groaned under their affliction.
 - God saved Israel through a judge (or deliverer).
 - Israel lived in peace, but then Israel sinned again...



- Israel experienced God's grace through...
 - God's repeated deliverance.
 - God's firm discipline.

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11)

- The frightening lesson of Judges is not the continuous cycle of sin but the downward spiral of sin.
 - The earlier cycles of sin contain all the elements of the sin cycle.
 - The latter cycles of sin contain significant breaks in the pattern.
 - Israel appoints their own judge, Jephthah. (Judges 11)
 - Israel hardly acknowledges their need for a deliverer with Samson. (Judges 13-16)
 - The truth: over time, comfort with sin dulls our spiritual sensitivity—sin binds and blinds.
- The closing chapters of Judges show the horrifying depths of sin.
 - Chapters 17-21 are filled with instances of abuse, violence, and bloodshed.
 - Tragically, Israel has become like Sodom.

And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." ⁶ Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, ⁷ and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. ⁸ Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." (Genesis 19:5-8)

As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him." ²³ And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing. ²⁴ Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing." (Judges 19:22-24)

- How did Israelites become like Canaanites?
 - Israel had promised before Joshua that they would serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:16-18)
 - But "there arose a generation after them who did not know the Lord." (Judges 2:10)
 - The question is: are we giving supreme attention to our hearts and avoiding moral drift?

People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated. (Carson)

The Heavenward Look for a King

- Four times in the last chapters we are told "there was no king in Israel." (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25)
- The book of Judges shows us our dark side, and in so doing cries out for the ultimate Light.
 - Eventually, Israel was given kings to rule the people, but they, too, were unable to restrain the people (or themselves).
 - The ultimate Deliverer was still to come, and in the fullness of time He did come!

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

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) "Be Thou My Vision"

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 (Steve Killough)

For Our Church

For the elders of our church, that these men would all care for this body by teaching the Word of Christ to us and by modeling the character of Christ before us, that they would guard and promote unity in our congregation, and that as a body we would support and submit to their leadership.

For Our City

For Urban Hope Community Church, pastor Alton Hardy, their staff, elders, and congregation.

For Our Nation



For all levels of governing authorities over us, that they would have humility in seeing God's sovereignty over their own lives (Rom. 13:1), that they would execute just laws that punish wrong and reward good (Rom. 13:3), and that they would govern in such a way that we might live peaceful and quiet lives (1 Tim. 2:2).

For Our World

For the country of Nigeria, that God would protect the Christians there who are regularly being killed for their faith, that God would put an end to the violence that is being done there, and that the government would righteously intervene to protect their people.

"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

¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

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.

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. Register at the link in your midweek announcement email.

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. We will receive incoming members, remove outgoing members, and other items of business. Please plan to attend!

