

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, March 14, 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-5<sup>th</sup> who wish to attend will be dismissed and led to their classroom as the sermon begins.

## Call to Worship

<sup>1</sup>*How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!*

<sup>2</sup>*My soul longs, yes, faints  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and flesh sing for joy  
to the living God...*

<sup>10</sup>*For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.*

*I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

<sup>11</sup>*For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor.*

*No good thing does he withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.*

<sup>12</sup>*O LORD of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you! (Psalm 84:1-2,10-12)*



## 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) "All Creatures of Our God and King"

2) "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

### The Apostles' Creed (Bart Box)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;  
From there he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;



the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

[\*that is the true Christian church of all times and all places]

### **Baptisms** (Bryce Sims)

*<sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:4-5)*

### **Songs**

3) "Amazing Grace"

4) "The Solid Rock"

### **Prayer of Illumination** (Will Mitchell)



## Words of Life: Decline

1 and 2 Kings

### *How Did We Get Here?*

- **God Is Faithful to Bring Covenant Blessings (1 Kings 1–10; see also Dt. 28:1–14)**
  - Solomon walks in humble, dependent faithfulness to the Lord (see 1 Kings 3).
  - *[23] “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart; [24] you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.... [56] “Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. (1 Kings 8:23–24, 56)*
  - *The nation has never had it so good. We have reached the pinnacle of the Old Testament. It looks now as if all the promises of God have been fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come.... God’s people are in God’s place under God’s rule and are enjoying God’s blessing. (Vaughn Roberts)*
  - The Lord responds with blessing (1 Kings 9:3–5), but gives a solemn warning should Solomon or the kings after him turn to other gods (1 Kings 9:6–9).
- **Syncretism and Idolatry Lead to Division and Decline (1 Kings 11–16)**
  - *[4] For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. [5] For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. [6] So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. (1 Kings 11:4–6)*
  - Solomon’s sin has immediate, disastrous effects, splitting the nation into Israel in the north and Judah in the south.
  - Of the 20 kings of Judah, eight of them are commended for walking in faithfulness to God. Of the 20 kings of Israel, every single one of them led the people further away from the Lord.
  - Two warnings
    - Adding things alongside the Lord (syncretism) is still a turn away from Him.

- Decline away from God can happen in days, not decades.
- **God Lovingly Calls for Repentance (1 Kings 17–2 Kings 10)**
  - *[36] And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. [37] Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." [38] Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. [39] And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God."* (1 Kings 18:36–39)
  - We must give ourselves to listening to the God who Speaks.
  - Receive correction as loving discipline from a Father who loves you.
- **God Is Faithful to Bring Covenant Curses (2 Kings 11–2 Kings 25; see also Dt. 28:15–69)**
  - God's judgment falls on Israel (2 Kings 17:6) and Judah (2 Kings 25:8–9) as they are exiled out of the Promised Land, just as he told them.
- **How Did We Get Here? God Is Faithful to His Word, Both in Blessing and in Judgment.**
  - Heed the warning of God's judgment.
  - Feel the longing for God's blessing.

### *Is There Hope for Renewal?*

- The closing paragraph (2 Kings 25:27–30) is a signpost of hope to come, ending on a note of mercy instead of judgment.
- We need a more consistent wise man, a more faithful king, a more enduring prophet, and a new temple.
- *[1] The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.* (Matthew 1:1)
- **Is There Hope for Renewal? Yes, in Christ!**

## The Lord's Supper

<sup>26</sup>Now 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." <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I 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) "Jesus Is Better"

## Offering

<sup>9</sup>For 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)

<sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And 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 (Bart Box)

### *For Our Church*

For our church, that the Lord would continue to grow our church in diversity along ethnic, socioeconomic, and age lines; that we would be united in mind and love for one another (1 Pet. 3:8); and that our unity amidst diversity would be a testimony to the reconciling power of the gospel.

### *For Our City*

For Mountain Brook Community Church, pastor Tim Kallam, their staff, elders, and congregation.

### *For Our Nation*



For our nation, that our country's vision of liberty and justice for all would become a truer reality: for the minority, for the refugee, for the unborn, for the underprivileged, for those discriminated against, and for all the vulnerable and voiceless.

### *For Our World*

For the nation of Yemen, that the Lord would bring an end to the ongoing war within the country, that God would grant deep peace that would dwell in the people's hearts and bring about healing for the nation, for humanitarian aid to reach the sick and dying, and that God would open a door for the reconciling gospel to be proclaimed.

"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

*<sup>14</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

### 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](http://cfcbirmingham.org/wordsoflife).

### *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.

### *CFC Kids Camp — July 20-23*

All current 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us at Student Life for Kids Camp July 20-23 at Shocco Springs! Cost for camp is \$269, with additional discounts for families with multiple kids.

### *Youth Camp – June 14-18*

The student ministry will be attending Student Life Mission Camp at Lee University in Cleveland, TN from June 14-18. All students who have completed 6th-12th grade are welcome. Direct any questions to Billy Shepard at [bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org).

### *Good Friday Service, April 2 at 6:30pm*

Join us for a Good Friday service as we meditate on the cross of Christ as a church. The service will last about an hour. CFC Kids will be available for children in kindergarten and younger, **but we can only guarantee space for those who pre-register**. Information and registration can be found on the website.

