

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, March 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.
- 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*Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;*

*and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!*

*Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

²*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?*

*Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.*

³*Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;*

*and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David. (Isaiah 55:1-3)*



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) "Holy, Holy, Holy"

2) "God Your Everlasting Light"

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)



Songs

3) "Man of Sorrows"

4) "Behold Our God"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

*¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*



Words of Life: Hope

Isaiah

I. Trees of Idolatry

Isaiah 1:29—*They shall be ashamed of the oaks you desired; and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen.*

Isaiah 57:5—linking to this verse says *You who burn with lust among the oaks, under every green tree.*

Deuteronomy 12:2: *You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.*

Ezekiel 6:13: *And you shall know that I am the Lord, when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every leafy oak, wherever they offered pleasing aroma to their idols.*

Question: What does it mean to have a god? Or what is a god?

Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress, so that to have a God is nothing else than to trust and believe Him from the [whole] heart; as I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol.

II. Trees of Pride

Isaiah 2:12-13: *For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low; against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up, and against all the oaks of Bashan.*

Isaiah 10:33-34: *Behold the Lord God of hosts will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the great in height will be hewn down, and the lofty will be brought low. He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.*

III. Oaks of Righteousness

Isaiah 61:1-4: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to*

bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lords' favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; THAT THEY MAY BE CALLED OAKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE PLANTING OF THE LORD, THAT HE MAY BE GLORIFIED.

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) "We Will Feast in the House of Zion"

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 (Bart Box)

For Our Church

For our church, that we would maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3), that any cause for division amongst brothers and sisters in Christ would be addressed quickly and humbly, and that we would be united in mind and love for one another (1 Pet. 3:8).

For Our City

For Cathedral Church of the Advent, rector Andrew Pearson, their staff, elders, and congregation.

For Our Nation



For an end to gun violence in our country, that mass shootings would cease forever, that our swords would be beat into plowshares, that the underlying sin which ultimately leads to these horrible instances would be confronted with the gospel, and that our elected and appointed officials would work wisely to create solutions to this devastating issue.

For Our World

For the nation of Lebanon: that God would be merciful in the midst of many kinds of economic and political turmoil; that church would be confident in the care of God and the good news of the gospel, despite persecution; and that Christians would be faithful to proclaim the gospel especially among the many Muslim refugees in Lebanon.

**"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

*¹²For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

*¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. (Isaiah 55:12-13)*

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...

Families Count

Families Count is a ministry of Lifeline Children's Services that gives local churches a platform to meet, mentor, and care for parents who are working to fulfill a court-ordered plan for reunification with their children out of foster care or to intervene with parents who are at risk of their children entering foster care. Classes will take place on Sundays from 4:00-7:00pm from April 11th through May 16th. An important volunteer training on will take place on Monday, March 29th from 6:30-8:30pm at the church building. Please email Nathan (nathanhcurrie@gmail.com) or Kim Currie (kimcurrie123@yahoo.com) if interested.

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@cfcbermingham.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.

Women's Discipleship Ministry

To participate in the CFC Women's discipleship and mentoring program, please email rrein@cfcbermingham.org. Plans for a formal kick-off event will be announced in early April.

Women's Book Studies

New book studies are scheduled to begin on Monday, April 5.

- *Lord, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days*, 7:30pm for one hour, 5 weeks, leader Janet Thorn.
- *A Place to Belong*, 8:00pm for one hour, 6 weeks, leader Rebekah Rein.

To register and find more information on each title, please visit the CFC Ladies' Facebook page or [email rrein@cfcbermingham.org](mailto:rrein@cfcbermingham.org). Both books are available on the book stall!

