



Liturgy for Sunday, March 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.

Call to Worship

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

*⁵"Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"*

*⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and [Jesus] sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**" ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" ¹¹And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." (Matthew 21:1-11)*



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) "Psalm 100"

2) "Let the Nations Be Glad"

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Ryan Adams)

⁹*The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?*

¹⁰*"I the LORD search the heart
and test the mind,
to give every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his deeds." (Jeremiah 17:9-10)*

⁵*"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a
righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and
righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6)*



Songs

3) "Jerusalem"

4) "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Words of Life: Truth
Jeremiah

Jeremiah tells us the truth about our sin

- Jeremiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom (Judah) before and during the exile to Babylon.

See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. (Jeremiah 1:10)

- The organization of Jeremiah is not always clear to us.
 - The opening chapter describes Jeremiah's calling.
 - The final chapter describes Judah's destruction.
 - The middle chapters are mainly sermons and prophecies delivered during Jeremiah's ministry.
- The opening indictment of Judah occurs in chapter 2.
 - Israel became worthless by chasing worthless things. (2:4, 13-14)
 - Questions:
 - What are we chasing and pursuing?
 - Do we realize how truly unsatisfying sin is?
- Jeremiah also points out the greatest evil of sin—sin is unfaithfulness to God.
 - Adultery is a prominent theme in the book of Jeremiah. (3:1, 6)
 - God takes our sin personally.

The awareness of sin used to be our shadow. Christians hated sin, feared it, fled from it, grieved over it. Some of our grandparents agonized over their sins.... But the shadow of sin has dimmed. Nowadays, the accusation you have sinned is often said with a grin, and with a tone that signals an inside joke. At one time, this accusation had the power to jolt people. (Cornelius Plantiga)

Jeremiah tells us the truth about judgment

- There is a clear priority of judgment in Jeremiah.
 - God will judge everyone. (see chapters 46-51)

“When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, ⁶⁴ and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.’” (Jeremiah 51:63-64)
 - But judgment begins at the household of God.

“Then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Drink, be drunk and vomit, fall and rise no more, because of the sword that I am sending among you.’ ²⁸ “And if they

refuse to accept the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: You must drink! ²⁹ For behold, I begin to work disaster at the city that is called by my name, and shall you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, declares the Lord of hosts.'" (Jeremiah 25:27-29)

- How do we practically encourage humility regarding our own sins and struggles?
 - We should develop the discipline of listening to God's Word personally.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

- We should cultivate friendships where we can hear God's Word frequently.

A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin. (Proverbs 26:28)

- We should expect truth-tellers ministering among us.

- God calls us to receive the truth personally and to proclaim the truth faithfully. (8:17)

Jeremiah tells us the truth about salvation

- Jeremiah tells us where salvation isn't found. (7:1-15)

- Religious affiliation cannot save us from our sins.
- We can do all the religious things and still spend eternity in Hell.

Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Lord God. (Jeremiah 2:22)

- But Jeremiah also tells us where salvation can be found! (31:27-35)

- Israel's problem was not their heads but their hearts.
- Jeremiah foresaw a day when God would do a new and greater work in the hearts of His people.

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." (Luke 22:17-20)

- For those who trust in God's offer of salvation, God gives both a new heart and a new start.

The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. (Jeremiah 31:3-4)

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) "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

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 our church, as we enter into Holy Week: that God would sovereignly provide evangelistic opportunities this week, that we'd be faithful to speak boldly and lovingly into every opportunity, and that those friends and neighbors of ours who are outside of Christ would be invited inside our church this week so that they might hear the gospel and observe the love of Christ in our fellowship.

For Our City

For those affected by this week's tornadoes in Birmingham and beyond in our state, that God would comfort the afflicted and help those who lost family or property in the storm.

For Our Nation



For the preservation of religious liberty as the culture and laws of our nation continue to change, so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way (1 Tim. 2:2); and that God would strengthen and purify the American church so that would remain faithful to the Great Commission even if those liberties are taken away.

For Our World

For the persecuted church around the world, that they would know that even though they are persecuted, they are not forsaken; that though perplexed, they wouldn't be driven to despair; that they would endure for the sake of fruit they could never plan for; and that the life of Christ would be manifested even as they suffer for his sake (2 Corinthians 4:8-11).

"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

²³Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

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.

Women's Ministry with Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship will hold a prison ministry Hope Event on Saturday, April 10th from 1:00-3:00pm at the Birmingham Women's Work Release Prison. There will be worship and testimonies, and the event will be held outside the prison in the yard. This is a great opportunity to see what prison ministry looks like for those interested. Please contact Emily Herring (eeh@herring-group.com) if you have questions or are 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@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.

Women's Discipleship Ministry

To participate in the CFC Women's discipleship and mentoring program, please email rein@cfcbirmingham.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_rein@cfcbirmingham.org. Both books are available on the book stall!

