

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, April 18, 2021

Welcome (Nick Murray)

## Call to Worship

- <sup>1</sup>*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.*
- <sup>2</sup>*Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*
- <sup>3</sup>*though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*
- <sup>4</sup>*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.*
- <sup>5</sup>*God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.*
- <sup>6</sup>*The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.*
- <sup>7</sup>***The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.***
- <sup>8</sup>*Come, behold the works of the LORD,  
how he has brought desolations on the earth.*
- <sup>9</sup>*He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the chariots with fire.*
- <sup>10</sup>*“Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!”*
- <sup>11</sup>***The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*** (Psalm 46)

## 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) "Revive Us Again"

2) "We Will Feast in the House of Zion"

### The Apostles' Creed (Billy Shepard)

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 (Oliver Sinquefield)

*<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:37-39)*

### Songs

3) "Before the Throne of God Above"

4) "Yet Not I but through Christ in Me"

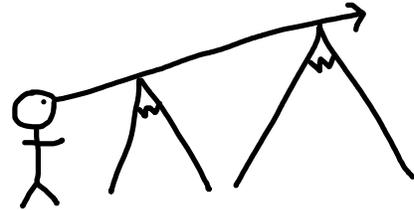
### Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Words of Life: Salvation  
Joel

How God deals with His people (1:1-2:27)

- The book of Joel is a call to reckon with God.
  - The Day of the Lord is mentioned five times in the book.
  - There are multiple “Days of the Lord” in Joel.
    - The Old Testament prophets sometime spoke about events in the future as if all of them were happening simultaneously.
    - As history unfolds, however, we see that time separates the prophesied events.
  - The book of Joel is composed of two parts:
    - Joel 1:1-2:27 describes an immediate “Day of the Lord” that Israel would experience.
    - Joel 2:28-3:21 describes a final “Day of the Lord” that everyone will experience.



*I have two days on my calendar: this day and that Day. (Martin Luther)*

- The first part of Joel describes a crisis in the land—an invasion of locusts. (1:4-7; 2:4-11)
  - The language is apocalyptic but tangible—the land is being laid waste.
  - The question is: why would God bring this to pass? (2:11, 25)

*But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you....<sup>38</sup> You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it.<sup>39</sup> You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them.<sup>40</sup> You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. (Deuteronomy 28:15, 38-40)*

- The locusts were meant to shock into action a spiritually lethargic and dull people.
  - Not every trial is a divine respond to our sin. (see John 9, for example)
  - But, in this case, Israel was receiving discipline from the Lord’s hand.
- Above all, the discipline was meant to foster repentance and restoration. (2:12-27)
  - Repentance can be a show, but God desires a return with our whole heart.
  - Because God is gracious and merciful, we have hope for full restoration and blessing!
    - Is God trying to get your attention in some way?
    - Is God the true center of your life?

### How God deals with the nations (2:28-3:21)

- Joel describes another Day of the Lord in the latter half of the book.
  - The language is similar to the earlier Day of the Lord. (2:10-11; 2:31)
  - But this Day is a later and greater Day of the Lord.

*Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Matthew 24:29)*

*But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> “ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, & your young men shall see visions, & your old men shall dream dreams.” (Acts 2:16-17)*

*When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood. (Revelation 6:12)*

- Joel envisions a day of great conflict and judgment due to sin.
  - The Valley of Jehoshaphat is a valley of verdict. (3:2, 14)
  - The decision on the final day belongs to the Lord, not to us.

*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:31)*

- But there is a window of opportunity!
  - There is coming a day when it's too late to find refuge.

*The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. <sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” (Revelation 6:14-17)*

- So today is the day of salvation!

*And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls. (Joel 2:32)*

- Question: Are you ready for that Day?

## 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) "It Is Well with My Soul"

## 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 CFC Kids, that the children in our church would come to know the Lord at a young age, that our staff and volunteers would be faithful leaders and selfless servants, and that parents in the church would be equipped to disciple their children in their homes.

### *For Our City*

For Briarwood Presbyterian Church, pastor Harry Reeder, their elders, staff, and congregation.

### *For Our Nation*



For president Joe Biden and all other elected officials, that they would use authority for the benefit of others; that they would act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly; and that they would exercise discernment and wisdom in governing our cities, states, and nation.

### *For Our World*

For the nation of Uganda, for God to grant the nation wise and honest leaders that would promote flourishing for all Ugandans, and that God would bless and use the ministry efforts of those in our congregation who are doing work in Uganda.

"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>27</sup>You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame. (Joel 2:27)*

### 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...

### ***Open House Next Sunday After the Service***

The renovations on the rest of the building are almost complete! If you would like to take a look around at the fellowship hall or the additional classrooms, you are welcome to do so after the service next Sunday. Several of our staff members will be stationed throughout the new areas to answer any question you may have.

### ***Membership Matters Class – Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm***

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Attending this class is an important part of the process of becoming a member of Christ Fellowship Church. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at [cfcbirmingham.org/membership-matters](http://cfcbirmingham.org/membership-matters), or email Nick Murray at [nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org) with any questions.

### ***VBS Is Coming and We Need Volunteers – June 28<sup>th</sup> -July 1<sup>st</sup>***

VBS 2021 is headed to present-day Israel where discovery awaits at Destination Dig. Mark your calendars! June 28th - July 1st, 9:00am-12:00pm. Volunteer sign up is on the CFC website.

### ***Women's Discipleship Ministry***

To participate in the CFC Women's discipleship and mentoring program, please email [rein@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:rein@cfcbirmingham.org). Plans for a formal kick-off event will be announced in early April.

### ***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. Direct any questions to Ryan Adams at [radams@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:radams@cfcbirmingham.org).

### ***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).

### ***College Ministry Lunch Next Sunday After Church***

Please meet us for lunch at Taziki's in Mountain Brook following the service on Sunday, April 25th for a time to meet and fellowship with other college students. Feel free to contact Rebecca Osteen at (803) 617-9767 if you need a ride or have any questions.

