

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, April 25, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Call to Worship

¹*Praise the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²*I will praise the LORD as long as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³*Put not your trust in princes,*

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴*When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;*

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵*Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,*

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶*who made heaven and earth,*

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ *who executes justice for the oppressed,*

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ *the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹*The LORD watches over the sojourners;*

he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰*The LORD will reign forever,*

your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD! (Psalm 146)

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) "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

2) "My Worth Is Not in What I Own"

Public Reading of Scripture – Luke 10:25-37 (Bradford Forehand)

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

²¹*"I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.*

²²*Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.*

²³*Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.*

²⁴*But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."* (Amos 5:21-24)

¹⁴*Seek good, and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
as you have said.*

¹⁵*Hate evil, and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;*



*it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. (Amos 5:14-15)*

Songs

3) "His Mercy Is More"

4) "Be Thou My Vision"

Prayer of Illumination (Daniel Barriault)



Words of Life: Justice
Amos

God speaks of justice through His Word

- Amos was a shepherd from Tekoa, a town in the southern kingdom of Judah.
 - Amos prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel during the 8th c. BC.
 - During this period, Israel was enjoying economic prosperity.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. (1 Timothy 6:10)

- The book begins with a powerful image—God as a roaring lion.

And he said: “The Lord roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.” (Amos 1:2) (see also 3:8)

 - The first two chapters contain judgments against the surrounding nations.
 - Israel, the northern kingdom, lies at the center of Amos’ judgments.
- The combination of religion and prosperity would have suggested God’s blessing, but God gave them a prophet to show their true condition.

- As we think about justice in our own lives, isn’t God’s Word what is supremely important?

My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word! (Psalm 119:25)

- God disciplines through His perfect and piercing Word.
 - Regularly lay yourself open to God’s Word.
 - Pray for God’s Word to be rightly and clearly preached at CFC.

God demands justice among His people

- Israel was a religious but unrighteous people. (2:6-8)
 - Among their many sins, they regularly & ruthlessly oppressed the poor. (3:15-4:2; 5:11-14; 6:4-7)
 - They perverted justice against the poor and ignored the plight of the poor.

- Amos condemned Israel’s sins since...

- They were called to be different.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. (Deuteronomy 7:6)

You shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.” (Exodus 19:6)

May 2nd: Obadiah

- God's plan was for Israel to embody a rival vision for the world.
 - Israel was proudly bearing the divine name without properly bearing the divine image.
- They were claiming to be different. (4:4-5; 5:21-24)
- Application:
 - Is there any oppression of the poor in our lives?
 - Is there hostility toward the poor in our hearts?
 - Is it possible that we're simply indifferent to the poor?
 - Is it our practice to steward all wealth for God's glory and the good of those around us?

In the hands of (God's) children, it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, raiment for the naked. It gives to the traveler and the stranger where to lay his head. By it we may supply the place of a husband to the widow, and of a father to the fatherless. We may be a defense for the oppressed, a means of health to the sick, of ease to them that are in pain. It may be as eyes to the blind, as feet to the lame: yea, a lifter up from the gates of death! (John Wesley)

God judges justly and establishes justice forever

- The way to heaven is not to give to the poor.
- But one evidence of heaven in our lives is our attitude and action toward the poor.
 - How can we say that Jesus is in us if we don't care about things that Jesus cares about?
 - Jesus brought with a kingdom that was good news for the poor.

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (Luke 14:12-14)

- The kingdoms of this world will be torn down, but the righteous kingdom of Christ will never be uprooted.
 - Do our hearts long for this sort of kingdom reality?
 - Do our lives bear this sort of kingdom witness?

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. ⁹ As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." (2 Corinthians 9:8-9)

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) "Take My Life"

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 (Ralph Parrish)

For Our Church

For our church, that in whatever areas of this city God has placed us and given us influence, we would work to do justice for the voiceless and the vulnerable; that he would open our eyes to opportunities around us to relieve the poor; and that we would proclaim the hope of the gospel in every situation we can.

For Our City

For Hunter Street Baptist Church, pastor Buddy Gray, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation

For those Americans living in poverty, that the church would open her eyes to see those around us living in crippling need, that God would give us—individually and corporately—



ways to meet tangible needs of those we encounter, and that those in poverty would be treated with dignity and loving-compassion.

For Our World

For missionaries around the world, including all of CFC's mission partners, whose work has been drastically affected and who have had to leave their posts due to the pandemic: that God would preserve the fruit that they have long labored over from the counter-work of the enemy; for those who wonder if or when they'll be able to return to their work, that God would help them to trust His sovereign strategy over all things; and for those whose financial support seems uncertain, that God would make all grace abound to them so that they may abound in every good work.

"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

²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

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 Today After the Service

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

College Ministry Lunch Today After Church

Please meet us for lunch at Taziki's in Mountain Brook following the service today 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.

Church Work Day – Saturday, May 8th at 8:00am

Everyone is welcome to come help as we clean up around the property and attend to some smaller projects inside the building as well. We would love at least 30 people who can help put together furniture, hang signs, weed eat, and clean up trash.

Membership Matters Class – Monday, May 17th 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 17th 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, or email Nick Murray at nmurray@cfcbirmingham.org with any questions.

VBS Is Coming and We Need Volunteers – June 28th -July 1st

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. Join us for a kickoff event on Saturday, May 1 at 10:30am.

Women's Ministry Opportunity

If you are interested in being a pen pal to a woman who is incarcerated, please contact Emily Herring at eeh@herring-group.com. CFC women are partnering with the Birmingham Women's Work Release prison to provide pen pal relationships and to find ways to minister to the women. We are expanding the pen pal ministry and looking for more women to serve in this way!

