

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, April 4, 2021

Welcome (Nick Murray)

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 after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.** Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." (Matthew 28:1-10)*

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) "Christ Is Risen"

2) "Only a Holy God"

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]

Baptism (Isaac Box)

²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. (1 Peter 3:21-22)

Songs

3) "Jesus Paid It All"

4) "Is He Worthy?"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Words of Life: Resurrection
Ezekiel

The Good News according to Ezekiel...

1. God is our righteous judge.

Ezekiel 7:1-4 *The word of the Lord came to me: ² “And you, O son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. ³ Now the end is upon you, and I will send my anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will punish you for all your abominations. ⁴ And my eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity, but I will punish you for your ways, while your abominations are in your midst. Then you will know that I am the Lord.*

Ezekiel 8:7-12 *And he brought me to the entrance of the court, and when I looked, behold, there was a hole in the wall. ⁸ Then he said to me, “Son of man, dig in the wall.” So I dug in the wall, and behold, there was an entrance. ⁹ And he said to me, “Go in, and see the vile abominations that they are committing here.” ¹⁰ So I went in and saw. And there, engraved on the wall all around, was every form of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel. ¹¹ And before them stood seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing among them. Each had his censer in his hand, and the smoke of the cloud of incense went up. ¹² Then he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, ‘The Lord does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land.’”*

Hebrews 4:13 *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.*

2. We are sinful and guilty.

Ezekiel 18:14-17 *Now suppose this man fathers a son who sees all the sins that his father has done; he sees, and does not do likewise: ¹⁵ he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor’s wife, ¹⁶ does not oppress anyone, exacts no pledge, commits no robbery, but gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, ¹⁷ withholds his hand from iniquity, takes no interest or profit, obeys my rules, and walks in my statutes; he shall not die for his father’s iniquity; he shall surely live.*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

3. There is hope beyond the grave.

Ezekiel 37:3-14 ³ *And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”*

⁷ *So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.*

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

Luke 24:17-21 *¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.*

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 *²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.*

4. Do you believe this?

Ezekiel 18:32 *For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.*

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

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) "In Christ Alone"

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 (Lev Bragg)

For Our Church

For our church, our lives would be marked by the resurrection life of Jesus Christ, that we would be a people who overflow with gospel hope, and that we would make much of Jesus Christ to the world around us.

For Our City

For all gospel-preaching churches in our city, that they would clearly proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as our only hope in life and death, and that those hearing the gospel proclaimed might trust in Christ and give their lives to follow him.

For Our Nation



For our nation, that God would bring true spiritual revival, that people would grow dissatisfied with their sin and long for the truth of the gospel, and that healthy churches would display the glory of God and the hope of the gospel to those around them.

For Our World

For the nation of China, that God would move in power among the governing authorities of the country, that he would convert leaders at all levels from enemies of God into disciples of Jesus, and that national revival would sweep across the nation that would reverberate throughout the world.

"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

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20)

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@cfcirmingham.org.

Women's Discipleship Ministry

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

