

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, May 16, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Call to Worship

<sup>1</sup>*It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and peoples shall flow to it,*

<sup>2</sup>*and many nations shall come, and say:  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."*

*For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

<sup>3</sup>*He shall judge between many peoples,  
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore;*

<sup>4</sup>*but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,  
and no one shall make them afraid,  
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

<sup>5</sup>*For all the peoples walk  
each in the name of its god,  
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God  
forever and ever. (Micah 4:1-5)*

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) "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

2) "O Praise the Name"

Public Reading of Scripture – Micah 5:2-5a (Hannah Brancheau)

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Ryan Adams)

<sup>9</sup>Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob  
and rulers of the house of Israel,  
who detest justice  
and make crooked all that is straight,  
<sup>10</sup>who build Zion with blood  
and Jerusalem with iniquity.  
<sup>11</sup>Its heads give judgment for a bribe;  
its priests teach for a price;  
its prophets practice divination for money;  
yet they lean on the LORD and say,  
"Is not the LORD in the midst of us?  
No disaster shall come upon us." (Micah 3:9-11)

<sup>8</sup>Rejoice not over me, O my enemy;  
when I fall, I shall rise;  
when I sit in darkness,  
the LORD will be a light to me.



*⁹I will bear the indignation of the LORD  
because I have sinned against him,  
until he pleads my cause  
and executes judgment for me.  
He will bring me out to the light;  
I shall look upon his vindication. (Micah 7:8-9)*

### Songs

3) "Before the Throne of God Above"

4) "Speak, O Lord"

Prayer of Illumination (Daniel Barriault)

Reading of the Preaching Passage (Laura Wright)



**Words of Life: Righteousness**  
Micah

**Getting the Story**

- We need see the cycles in the book of Micah.
  - Micah is composed of three sections: chapters 1-2, 3-5, and 6-7.
  - Each section ends with an unexpected note of hope for the “remnant” of Israel. (2:12; 5:7-8; 7:18)
- We need see Micah in the story of the Bible.
  - It would be a mistake to read Micah in a purely moralistic way (i.e. “do better than Israel”).
  - We have to understand how Jesus and His kingdom makes sense of and fulfills Micah.

**Getting the Problem**

- Cycle 1 - Israel was marked by abuse of authority. (2:1-11)
  - There was a clear failure of leadership and wickedness in leadership. (2:1-3)
  - Their abuse of authority was joined to a rejection of authority. (2:6-11)
    - Israel was not against preaching.
    - They just wanted editorial rights and privileges on what preaching was allowed.

*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)*

- God despises the misuse of the authority that He has given. (2:3)
 

*When men invent sins, God will not be slow to invent punishments. (Charles Spurgeon)*
- Cycle 2 - Israel was marked by prosperity through perversity. (3:1-12)
  - Times were good in Israel, but things were wrong in their hearts. (3:9-12)
  - Prosperity is often a liar and a peace a deceiver.
- Cycle 3 - Israel was marked by injustice alongside religion. (6:1-16)
  - Israel was committed to transactional religion. (6:6-7)
  - God was commending a transformational religion. (6:8)

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>*

*But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (James 2:14-18)*

### Getting to Jesus

- Like God promised, judgment came calling—first the Assyrians, and then the Babylonians.
  - But that’s not the end of the story!
  - Micah shows us a failed kingdom, and Micah points us to a future and faithful King.
- Beyond the judgment, Micah saw...
  - A Shepherd-King who would use His authority to deliver His people. (2:12-13)

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” (John 10:14-18)*

- An ancient-yet-born Ruler who would establish a kingdom of peace. (4:1-5:15)
  - Unlike Israel’s leaders, this Ruler would build a kingdom with His own blood.
  - The kingdom will be a place where God’s Word is heard and heeded.
- A gracious God who would identify with and pardon His people. (7:1-20)
  - Micah foresaw a singular but faithful follower of God. (7:1-7)
  - But this righteous one would bear the indignation of the Lord. (7:8-10)
- Questions:
  - Do you know this King?

*All their sins—yea, the whole host of them—thou wilt cast into the depths of the sea. Not into the shallows out of which they might be washed up by the tide, but into the “depths” shall our sins be hurled. They are all gone. They sank into the bottom like a stone. Hallelujah! (Spurgeon)*

- Do you hope and live for this Kingdom?

*Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.*

*Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I’ve found. (“Thy Mercy My God”, John Stocker)*

## 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) "What a Beautiful Name"

## 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 (Billy Shepard)

### *For Our Church*

For our church, that corporately and individually, we would be a people who: do justly—loving who and what God loves, while hating and opposing all that God hates; love mercy—spilling over with compassion and giving of ourselves and our resources to those in need; and walk humbly—finding no pleasure or pride in ourselves, but wholly in Christ.

### *For Our City*

For Valleydale Church, pastor Mac Brunson, 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 escalating conflict between Israel and Palestine, that tensions would be reduced, that violence would come to an end, for those whose lives have been significantly affected by recent rocket fire, and ultimately for the peace of Christ and his kingdom to pervade that part of 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

*<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over transgression  
for the remnant of his inheritance?*

*He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in steadfast love.*

*<sup>19</sup>He will again have compassion on us;  
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.*

*You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.*

*<sup>20</sup>You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
and steadfast love to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our fathers  
from the days of old. (Micah 7:18-20)*



## 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...

### ***Membership Matters Class – Tomorrow Night 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 [cfcbermingham.org/membership-matters](http://cfcbermingham.org/membership-matters), or email Nick Murray at [nmurray@cfcbermingham.org](mailto:nmurray@cfcbermingham.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 28<sup>th</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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@cfcbermingham.org](mailto:rein@cfcbermingham.org).

### ***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](mailto: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!

### ***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](mailto:bshepard@cfcbermingham.org).

### ***CFC Youth Tonight***

For students 6th grade and up, our youth group meets on Sunday nights from 5:30-7:00pm here at the church building. All students are welcome! Contact Billy at [bshepard@cfcbermingham.org](mailto:bshepard@cfcbermingham.org) with any questions.

