

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, May 23, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Call to Worship

¹*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

² *Serve the LORD with gladness!*

Come into his presence with singing!

³*Know that the LORD, he is God!*

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,*

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵*For the LORD is good;*

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100)

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) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

2) "All Creatures of Our God and King"

Public Reading of Scripture – Psalm 86 (Jessica Dreher)

Prayer of Lament & Assurance of Restoration (Nick Murray)

¹⁶*He has made my teeth grind on gravel,
and made me cower in ashes;*

¹⁷*my soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;*

¹⁸*so I say, "My endurance has perished;
so has my hope from the LORD."*

¹⁹*Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!*

²⁰*My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me. (Lamentations 3:16-20)*

²¹*But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:*

²²*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;*

²³*they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

²⁴*"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."*

²⁵*The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him. (Lamentations 3:21-25)*

Songs

3) "Thy Mercy, My God"

4) "Jesus, Strong and Kind"



Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

Reading of the Preaching Passage



**Words of Life: Comfort
Nahum**

God's Word to Judah

- The book of Nahum is composed of two parts:
 - A psalm of praise for God's righteous character. (1:1-8)
 - Prophecies about God's righteous judgment of Nineveh. (1:9-3:19)
- Assyria was a wicked, brutal, and powerful nation.
 - Apparently, Nineveh had repented of its repentance after the days of Jonah.
 - They destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel and terrorized the southern kingdom of Judah.
 - At the time of Nahum's prophecy (approx. 660-630 BC), Assyria was in full strength. (1:12)
- One of the remarkable things about this book is how unlikely this prophecy was & how accurate it proved.
 - The city of Nineveh was well-protected and seemingly invincible.
 - The city of Nineveh was conquered and destroyed, just as Nahum predicted.
- Whereas the prevailing theme in chapter 2 is the fact of Nineveh's destruction, in chapter 3 the theme is the fairness of that destruction.
 - Assyria had perpetrated violence among the nations.
 - Assyria would meet a violent end at the hands of other nations.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail. (Proverbs 22:8)

- All of this justice was rooted in the God who is jealous and avenging.

The Lord has given commandment about you. (1:14)

God is not intimidated by any nation. No king has any power except for the power that God gives. And he deposes kings and kingdoms as quickly as he raises them up. Nahum's remarkable book, written in the face of such an awful and awesome earthly power, reminds these enemies of God who is and who is not in charge. (Mark Dever)

God's Word to Us

- We should be comforted by God's righteous character.
 - We can praise God for his holy indignation and fury at sin.

They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:10)

His judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”³ Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” (Revelation 19:2-3)

- God’s goodness comprehends both His pity toward sinners and His vengeance against wickedness.
 - God demonstrates His goodness in His patient offers of forgiveness.
 - God demonstrates His goodness in His certain judgments against sin.
- We can celebrate and rejoice that the object of our worship and the center of our lives is the morally perfect God of the Bible!

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” (Revelation 15:2-4)

- We should be comforted through God’s amazing grace.
 - The message of Nahum *is not* that we are morally superior to other sinners.
 - The message of Nahum is that God is our only refuge.
 - Are you known by this great judging and saving God?
 - Have you abandoned all earthly trusts for a heavenly trust?
 - Does God oppose you for your rebellion, or is God for you as your refuge?

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

- We should be comforted in God’s certain triumph.
 - God loves to comfort and encourage his beleaguered people.
 - We are called to walk by faith in the truth that God is completely good.
 - The resurrection of Jesus tells us that powers of evil have been defeated and “will not rise up a second time” (Nahum 1:9).

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. (Colossians 2:15)

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (Romans 16:20)

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) "Only a Holy God"

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 (Jason Kirk)

For Our Church

For members of our church who are currently enduring trials and suffering of various kinds: that God would draw near to them, hold them fast, and strengthen their faith during this time; that their fellow church members would join in sharing their burdens; and God would providentially work these trials for the good of those that suffer and for God's glory.

For Our City

For Cahaba Park Presbyterian Church, pastor Murray Lee, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation



For our nation's judicial system, that judges from the Supreme Court to traffic court would give right judgments, and that those looking for justice would look to God as the final and never failing Judge.

For Our World

For the nation of Malaysia, that the gospel would go forth in that nation and shine its beauty and hopefulness over and against the religion of Islam, that God would grant repentance and belief in the hearts of many Malay people, and that God would continue to send more laborers into the harvest of Malaysia.

"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

*⁷The LORD is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him. (Nahum 1:7)*

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...

Sign Up for VBS today!

VBS is coming June 28-July 1 from 9:00am-12:00pm! You can now sign up your kids age 4 through 5th grade on our website. We also still need volunteers to help us ensure we are able to safely host as many kids as we can. You can sign up to volunteer on the website.

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!

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.

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 with any questions.

Women's Summer Bible Study

On Monday nights in June and July, we will be going through the study *She Reads Truth: This is the Old Testament*. For more information, please visit cfcbermingham.org/women or email Rebekah Rein at rrein@cfcbermingham.org.

Held: Women's Fellowship Dinner – Thursday, June 17

Introducing an event series for the women of CFC as we seek to glorify God through fellowship, connection, and sharing. Please join us on Thursday, June 17, at 6:30pm for a meal as we seek to engage with and encourage one another, with the recognition that we were designed to grow together in Christ, and that it is Christ who continually sustains us. RSVP at cfcbermingham.org/women.

