

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, May 9, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

## Call to Worship

<sup>2</sup>*I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.*

<sup>3</sup>*For you cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.*

<sup>4</sup>*Then I said, 'I am driven away  
from your sight;  
yet I shall again look  
upon your holy temple.'*

<sup>5</sup>*The waters closed in over me to take my life;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped about my head  
<sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains.*

*I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the pit,  
O LORD my God.*

<sup>7</sup>*When my life was fainting away,  
I remembered the LORD,  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.*

<sup>8</sup>*Those who pay regard to vain idols  
forsake their hope of steadfast love.*

<sup>9</sup>*But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay.*

*Salvation belongs to the LORD! (Jonah 2:2-9)*



## 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) "Let the Nations Be Glad"

2) "Here Is Love Vast as the Ocean"

### Public Reading of Scripture – Luke 15:11-32 (Abby Kirk)

### Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

*<sup>10</sup>Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. (Jonah 1:10)*

*<sup>38</sup>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)*

### Songs



3) "His Mercy Is More"

4) "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

Reading of the Preaching Passage (Emily Buckner)



**Words of Life: Compassion**  
Jonah

**Lesson #1 - God is not mocked (1:1-16)**

- Jonah did not do what God called him to do—preach to Nineveh, the great and wicked Assyrian city.
  - Nineveh was exceedingly violent and brutal.

*I built a pillar over his city gate and I flayed all the chiefs who had revolted, and I covered the pillar with their skin. Some I walled up within the pillar, some I impaled upon the pillar on stakes, and others I bound to stakes round about the pillar.... And I cut the limbs of the officers.... Many captives from among them I burned with fire, and many I took as living captives. From some I cut off their noses, their ears, their fingers, of many I put out the eyes. I made one pillar of the living and another of heads, and I bound their heads to tree trunks round the city. Their young men and maidens I burned in the fire. (Ashurnasirpal II, king of Assyria)*

- Jonah was not scared of Nineveh but revolted by Nineveh.

*But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. <sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. <sup>3</sup> Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:1-3)*

- Disobedient Jonah was in a state of decline—going down to Joppa, down to the boat, down in the ship.
  - Jonah sought to flee the presence of the Lord, but God is never not present.
  - God can be disobeyed, but God cannot be frustrated, defeated, or mocked.

*“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? <sup>24</sup> Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:23-24)*
- We should reckon with the Lord before He reckons with us in judgment or discipline.

**Lesson #2 - God is merciful (1:17-2:10)**

- There is a question regarding the depth or fullness of Jonah’s repentance.
  - Without question, Jonah says many true things in his prayer.
  - However, the end of the book shows us that Jonah’s repentance is partial or in process.
- God was not waiting on Jonah; God was working on and in Jonah.
  - Do you see all the ways that God is merciful to you and patient with you?
  - Does the mercy that marks your life also mark your lips and life?

**Lesson #3 - God can save anyone (3:1-10)**

- God's patience is once again displayed in Jonah's life.
  - Even though Jonah has blown it (and still doesn't get it), God's Word comes to him a second time.
  - Question: do you believe that God is so merciful that He would forgive a sinner like yourself?  
  
*Whatever you've done it's not as great as (Adam and Eve) plunging the whole human race into eternal misery. (Mark Dever)*
- We also see God's saving power toward the world.
  - The highlight in the text is not the message that Jonah preached.
  - The highlight in the text is the mercy that God displayed.
- This chapter should encourage us in all our evangelism.

*All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. (John 6:37)*

*If he did not pardon sin, when men turn from it with sincere repentance, he would have changed his method of dealing with the penitent; but when he does forgive, it is according to his way from the beginning, for he has ever been a tender, and compassionate, and gracious God. (Charles Spurgeon)*

*I have never despaired for any man since God saved me. (John Newton)*

**Lesson #4 - God aims to change our hearts (4:1-11)**

- Jonah's hardness of heart persists beyond the miracle of Ninevite repentance.
- But the Lord's compassion also persists—even for wayward Jonah.
  - God appointed and removed a plant to make a point.
  - And the point was simple—people matter to God.
- But the question of the book of Jonah moves beyond Jonah.
  - People matter to God...
  - But do people—all people—matter to us?

*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:43-48)*

## 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) "Amazing Grace"

## 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 (James Finch)

### *For Our Church*

For mothers in our church, that God would grant them endurance in the menial tasks of motherhood, grace in the challenging tasks of motherhood, and that he'd enable them to be faithful to teach eternal truths to their children; also, for God's grace to those women in our church who long to be mothers but who have not yet been granted the children they desire.

### *For Our City*

For Homewood Community Church, pastor Tom Franklin, their elders, staff, and congregation.

### *For Our Nation*



For orphans in America throughout the world awaiting adoption at this time, that God would sustain these children and supply all of their needs as they wait to be united with parents in a forever family, and for God to clear the way through red tape and travel restrictions for adoptive parents to get to their children and bring them home.

### *For Our World*

For the nation of India as COVID spreads uncontrolled at this time, that God would mercifully intervene and stop the spread of the disease, that necessary medical supplies would reach the most urgent cases, and for gospel witness to spread urgently at a time when many are dying without ever having heard about Christ.

**"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>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah  
<sup>2</sup>that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.  
<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you! (Psalm 67:1-3)*

### 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...

### ***No Youth Group Tonight***

Hug your mothers. We'll resume next week.

### ***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 [rrein@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:rrein@cfcbirmingham.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@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org).

