

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, August 1, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Time of Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

¹*I lift up my eyes to the hills.*

From where does my help come?

²*My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

³*He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

⁴*Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

⁵*The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

⁶*The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

⁷*The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.*

⁸*The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121)*

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) "O Love that Will Not Let Me Go"

2) "To God Be the Glory)"

Public Reading of Scripture – Psalm 139 (Abby Kirk)

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting! (Psalm 139:23-24)

⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made. (Psalm 145:8-9)

Songs

3) "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

4) "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

Reading of the Preaching Passage (Bradford Forehand)



Words of Life: Thanksgiving
Psalms 107-150 (Book 5)

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. (Psalm 33:1)

A call to thanks (vv. 1-3)

- Book 5 of the Psalter shows us the conquering kingdom of God's Messiah.

- Psalm 106 ends with a cry for redemption from among the nations.

Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. (Psalm 106:47)

- Psalm 107 opens with a call for thanks for redemption from among the nations. (vv. 2-3)

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. (Psalm 107:2-3)

- The praise that Psalm 107 commands is praise by the redeemed for redemption. (v. 2)

- Application:

- We (naturally) praise what we love.

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation.... It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with. (C.S. Lewis)

- Are we rightly praising the God who has loved and saved us?

A review of mercy (vv. 4-32)

- Psalm 107 contains four examples of redemption.

- The steadfast love of the Lord is on display throughout Psalm 107. (vv. 8, 15, 21, 31)

- These examples are four different ways of talking about the same salvation.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9-10)

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. (Psalm 130:7)

- In His steadfast love...
 - God has redeemed us from wandering. (vv. 4-9)

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10)

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. (Lk 1:51-53)

- God has redeemed us from bondage. (vv. 10-16)

How often divine mercy protects us from the results of our own false choices we shall never know, but sometimes, with equal love, the barrier is allowed to fall and we experience the bitter bondage we have brought on ourselves. But even then we can pray and find that—in measure now but in full reality then—grace responds to prayer in deliverance. (Alec Motyer)

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. (Hebrews 12:6)

For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:20-23)

- God has redeemed us from death. (vv. 17-22)

[Jesus] cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out. (John 11:43)

- God has redeemed us from distress. (vv. 23-32)

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:39)

An invitation to trust (vv. 33-43)

- The last section moves us from particular acts of God to the general ways of God—He brings down the proud and lifts up the needy.
- The Psalm ends on a note of wisdom and call to decision:
 - Are you prideful in your sin? Then come to Jesus before it’s too late!
 - Have you been laid low by your sin? Come to Jesus—it’s not too late!

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) "Jesus, Strong and Kind"

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 (Bart Box)

For Our Church

For our church, that God may produce in our hearts a deeper sense of gratitude for the manifold blessings that he has bestowed upon us, that collectively and individually we would abound in thanksgiving in all circumstances, and that our growth in humble thankfulness would serve as a witness to the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

For Our City

For Urban Hope Community Church, pastor Alton Hardy, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation



For doctors, nurses, and all other frontline medical workers who are now responding to a resurgence of COVID cases: that God would protect them from infection or spreading infection as they care for the sick, that God would give them endurance as they are weary with frustration and anxiety over this seemingly unending pandemic, and for their mental and emotional health as they face sad situations on a daily basis.

For Our World

For the nation of Uganda, for God to grant the nation wise and honest leaders that would promote flourishing for all Ugandans, and that God would bless and use the ministry efforts of those in our congregation who are doing work in Uganda.

**"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

*¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
³The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad. (Psalm 126:1-3)*

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...

Membership Matters Class — Sunday, August 15th at 2:00pm

If you are interested in becoming a member at CFC, we are planning to hold a Membership Matters class on Sunday, August 15th at 2:00pm. 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. We plan to arrange childcare for the meeting.

Join the Communion Team

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Sunday morning communion team. Responsibilities include helping fill cups and put out trays on Sundays prior to the service. If you would have any interest in helping, please email our deaconess of communion Rebecca Osteen at rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com.

Youth Group Meets Tonight

The student ministry will meet from 5:00-6:30pm here at the building. All middle and high school students are encouraged to attend. Contact Billy Shepard with any questions at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org.

CFC Kids Teachers for the Fall

We are transitioning back to age-graded classrooms in CFC Kids on Sunday mornings starting this fall. We are excited to offer age-appropriate gospel-based teaching on a weekly basis, but that requires a lot of faithful teachers and assistants. We are asking every member to prayerfully consider serving on a rotation serving in CFC Kids. To indicate whether you'd like to be a teacher or an assistant, you can email Maggie or fill out the form in the midweek announcement email.

International Student Ministry Training – Sunday, August 22

There are so many ways you can help reach international students in Birmingham, including offering rides, inviting them to a meal, and practicing English. To learn more about how you can serve internationals this school year, please join us for an informational meeting at CFC on Sunday, Aug. 22 from 4:00–5:30 p.m. Contact Dennis Schauer (schauer.dennis@gmail.com) or Melynda Schauer (melynda.schauer@gmail.com) with any questions.

