

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, August 8, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Time of Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

¹*Praise the LORD!*

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

²*Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.*

³*Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.*

⁴*He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

⁵*He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.*

⁶*He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.*

⁷*The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;*

⁸*they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.*

⁹*He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!*

¹⁰*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever! (Psalm 111)*

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) "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

2) "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death"

Public Reading of Scripture – Job 19 (Gray Shipley)

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Bart Box)

[Q] What is your only comfort in life and in death?

[A] That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. (Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1)

⁵⁰*This is my comfort in my affliction,
that your promise gives me life.* (Psalm 119:50)

Songs

3) "Man of Sorrows"



4) "This Is My Father's World"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

Reading of the Preaching Passage (Vanessa Kynes)



Words of Life: Comfort
Job

Reading Job Following the Psalms

- The Psalms tell a story:
 - Psalm 1: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked...He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Ps 1:1, 3)
 - Psalms 42–43: “My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, ‘Where is your God?’” (Ps 42:3)
 - Psalm 73: “But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God.” (Ps 73:16–17)
 - Psalm 90: “Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! ... Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.” (Ps 90:13–15)
 - Psalm 107: “Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!” (Ps 107:8)
 - Psalm 150: “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!” (Ps 150:6)
- Job embodies that story.

Job’s Suffering

- Job knows our pain.
- The book of Job is more about “comfort” than “wisdom.”

How should I respond to God in the midst of suffering?

- Job initially responds to God with admirable submissive piety (1:21; 2:10)
- Job turns to lament, complaint, and argument with God (e.g., 3:1-26; 10:3; 16:12-14; 19:13-19; 21:17-18)
- God approves of Job’s speech (42:7)



- Job participates in the biblical tradition of defiant faith (e.g., Gen 18:25; 32:26–28; Exod 32:11–13)

*And I had a mighty battle like-a Jacob and de angel,
Jacob time of old;
I didn't 'tend to lef' 'em go
Till Jesus bless my soul. ("I Saw the Beam in my Sister's Eye")*

- Do you have the faith in God's goodness, justice, and power to cry out to him to put things right?

How should I respond to others who are suffering?

- Job's friends came to comfort him (2:11), but they failed (16:2; 21:34; 42:7).
- The friends become enemies (22:5), because they are terrified by Job's suffering (6:21).
- Job breaks down the imaginary walls we build to separate us from the suffering of others.
- Ask yourself, am I being one of Job's friends right now?
- There is some suffering that human wisdom is insufficient to comfort.

What does suffering teach us about the nature of God?

- In the divine speeches (chs. 38–41), God establishes himself as the creator (38:4–38), who cares for (38:39–39:30) and is in sovereign control over (40:1–41:34) his creation.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father... Fear not, therefore; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Matt 10:29, 31).

If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom 8:31)

- Job responds: "therefore I reject [my mourning], and I am comforted regarding dust and ashes." (42:6, my translation)
- True comfort is found in knowing God through Jesus Christ.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too." (2 Cor 1:3–5)



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) "Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me"

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 (Nick Murray)

For Our Church

For all who will go back to school this week: for the safety and protection of all students, teachers, and administrators; that environments for learning will be cultivated despite redoubled COVID precautions; that our CFC kids would not be conformed to the pattern of this world but would instead be transformed by the renewing of their minds; and that they would grow in the knowledge of their school materials as well as the knowledge of Christ.

For Our City

For Faith Presbyterian Church, pastor Jason Sterling, 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 nation of Lebanon: that God would be merciful in the midst of many kinds of economic and political turmoil; that church would be confident in the care of God and the good news of the gospel, despite persecution; and that Christians would be faithful to proclaim the gospel especially among the many Muslim refugees in Lebanon.

"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

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

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.

Women's Fall Book Studies

We are offering several book studies this fall—one on Monday nights, and one on a weekday morning with childcare available, as well as one on Wednesday nights. For more information and to sign up, please visit cfcbirmingham.org/women.

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.

Social-Distanced Seating Option Available



For any who would like to make use of it, we have a social-distanced seating option available where the livestream is playing in the fellowship hall. Masks are required for all who choose to sit in that room.

