

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, September 12, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Time of Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

*<sup>7</sup>For thus says the LORD:*

*“Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
‘O LORD, save your people,  
the remnant of Israel.’...*

*<sup>10</sup>“Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’*

*<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.*

*<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall be like a watered garden,  
and they shall languish no more.*

*<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.*

*<sup>14</sup>I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness,  
declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 31:7, 10-14)*



## 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) "His Mercy Is More"

2) "Shine into Our Night"

Public Reading of Scripture – Matthew 23:27-29 (Rebekah Rein)

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Jason Kirk)

<sup>40</sup>Let us test and examine our ways,  
and return to the LORD! (Lamentations 3:40)

<sup>21</sup>But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup>they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:21-23)

### Songs



3) "Jerusalem"

4) "I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

Reading of the Preaching Passage (Bradford Forehand)



**Words of Life: Mercy**  
Lamentations

**The sure end of sin**

- The background of the book:
  - Lamentations is composed of five distinct laments (songs and prayers of grief and sorrow).
  - The event behind the book is the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC.
    - The walls were breached.
    - The king was carried away.
    - The temple was destroyed.
    - The people were devastated.
  - The author may have been Jeremiah, who was an eyewitness to the fall of Jerusalem.
- Lamentations begins with a vivid description and warning regarding sin's consequences.
  - Sin leads to loneliness and emptiness. (1:1-2)
  - Sin leads to bondage and fatigue. (1:3)
  - Sin leads to a poverty of life. (1:4-7)
- Jerusalem was reaping all that she had sinfully sowed. (1:8-9)
  - She had no regard for God's ways.
  - She had no thought for her future.

*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (Mark 8:36)*
- Application:
  - Do you give thought to your future, or do you think only of the moment?
  - Are you sober-minded about sin, or do you treat it lightly?

**The desperate plea for mercy**

- The ultimate cause of destruction was not the Babylonians but the Lord. (2:1-8)
  - God makes use of events and human instruments, but...
  - In the end, it is God with whom we must deal.
- The last chapter of Lamentations vividly illustration the desperation of the people, but that desperation can have a good effect.

- The point of suffering is not affliction but attention.

*Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world. (C.S. Lewis)*

- The last chapter concludes with a recognition that only divine mercy will do.

*But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! (Luke 15:17)*

*None are fitter for comfort than those that think themselves furthest off. (Richard Sibbes)*

- Follow the progression of the text in your own life...
  - Feel the devastation of your sin. (5:1-15)
  - Own your sin before God. (5:16-18)
  - Cry out for mercy from God. (5:19-22)

### The great faithfulness of the Lord

- Chapter 3 is the heart of the book, both literarily and theologically.
- The movement from torment to trust is remarkable. (3:1-24)

*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope... (Lamentations 3:21)*

- The truthfulness of God was on display in the discipline of God's people.
- God had threatened punishment if they rebelled, and they did.
- But! If the threats were not empty, neither were the promises!

*The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (Exodus 34:6-7)*

- The confidence inspired by God's character leads to lasting hope. (3:25-33)

*And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (Hebrews 12:5-7)*

## 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) "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

## 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 (Nick Murray)

### *For Our Church*

For the new members that we will add to covenant membership this evening, that we would faithfully fulfill our covenantal obligations to one another: spurring one another on to love and good deeds, meeting together consistently, praying for one another regularly, sharing in each other's' joys, bearing each other's' burdens, and serving one another selflessly, for our good and God's glory.

### *For Our City*

For Hunter Street Baptist Church, pastor Buddy Gray, their elders, staff, and congregation.

### *For Our Nation*



For police officers, firefighters, and first responders, that the Lord would help them to look after the good of others as they serve and protect; that they would be consistent in maintaining peace and just order; and that God would protect them as they serve in dangerous situations.

### *For Our World*

For the nation of Taiwan, that God would spare the people from imminent loss of life and property as it prepares to be hit by a typhoon, that God would preserve a peaceful relationship between Taiwan and China, and that ultimately even as it faces pressing issues, the people of Taiwan would find hope and comfort in the gospel of Jesus 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>25</sup>*The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.*

<sup>26</sup>*It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:25-26)*

### 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...

### ***Members Meeting — Tonight at 5:00pm***

All members are encouraged to attend the Members' Meeting tonight at 5:00pm. Our time together will include a bring-your-own-dinner (but CFC will provide drinks and cookies for dessert) in the fellowship hall, affirmation of new members, and other important items of business.

### ***CFC Kids and Face-Coverings***

We are now recommending that all teachers in CFC Kids (both preschool and elementary) and all kids in elementary classes wear a facial covering while they are in CFC Kids. We are recommending this up to October 3, at which point we will reevaluate these protocols. There are masks available in the hallway for any who need one.

### ***Support Students at Glen Iris Elementary School***

This fall, CFC will be collecting school supplies for students at Glen Iris Elementary School. Look for backpacks with supply lists in the commons space to see how you can contribute.

### ***Women's Small Group Dinners***

Around the Tables is a new opportunity for women to get to know each other through quarterly dinners with 5-7 other people. For more information, and to sign up to host a group of women in your home or a restaurant during the month of October, please visit [www.cfcirmingham.com/women](http://www.cfcirmingham.com/women).

### ***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.

### ***College Women's Retreat—October 15-17***

All college age women are invited to join us for a mountain retreat weekend October 15-17 in Cashiers, NC. Throughout the weekend, we will dig into the book of James together, and it will be a great time of fellowship, getting to know one another, and spending time outdoors. The cost for the weekend is \$50. Scholarships are available as we do not want the cost to be the reason anyone doesn't go. Contact Rebecca Osteen with any questions or to sign up at [rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com).

### ***Tech Volunteers Needed***

We are looking for more volunteers to join our tech team on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in running sound, song lyrics, or our livestream, please email Will Mitchell at [wmitchell@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:wmitchell@cfcbirmingham.org) for more information.



***College Ministry Lunch – September 12***

All college students are invited to join the Rein Growth Group for lunch following the service today at 107 Stratford Rd, Homewood, AL 35209.

***Birds and Bees Seminar – Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm***

Parents, we would love for you to join us at the Birds and Bees seminar on October 8th from 6:00pm-9:00pm. The Birds and Bees seminar is designed to give parents of 1–10-year-olds the tools and confidence to talk to their young kids about sex. Register at the link in your midweek email.

