

CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, September 13, 2020

Welcome (Bart Box)

Building Notes:

- **Face Coverings:** After reviewing the state-wide mask order, **we have decided to continue requiring the wearing of facial coverings by all adults during entering and exiting the building and while singing. We also recommend the wearing of facial coverings during the entirety of the service.** The current statewide ordinance encourages masks for kids over six years old. We understand that this may be difficult for some kids, so we are leaving this up to each parent as to when to allow their own kids to remove their masks once they are seated. **We would recommend kids over six to wear masks during entrance, exit, singing, and any other time they are not in their seats.** This guidance will be reviewed as we have more information and direction from the governor or local officials.
- **Nursing Mothers:** We are now using the adjacent mothers' room for additional worship seating. There is still space for nursing mothers in the Nursery room on the Kids Hallway.
- **Bathrooms & Diaper Changing:** We have now opened the family restrooms, for the purpose of CFC Kids and access to the diaper changing stations in those restrooms.
- The youth room will now be used for elementary kids Sunday school during the sermon. So it is no longer available for overflow seating or for energetic children.
- We still have a "Wiggle Room" designated in the Kids Hallway for parents of younger kids who need a minute to calm down. You can find those to the left down the Kids Hallway.

Call to Worship

*¹Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!*

*²Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"*

*³Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.*

*⁴Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.*



⁵*They have mouths, but do not speak;
eyes, but do not see.*
⁶*They have ears, but do not hear;
noses, but do not smell.*
⁷*They have hands, but do not feel;
feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.*
⁸*Those who make them become like them;
so do all who trust in them. (Psalm 115:1-8)*

¹***Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!***
(Psalm 115:1)

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) "Christ Is Risen"

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
We fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely You bled for us



*Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

*Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold you down
In strength You reign
Forever let your Church proclaim

*Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

*Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church come stand in the light
The glory of God has defeated the night

O death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?
O church come stand in the light
Our God is not dead, He's alive, He's alive!

*Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*



*Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake, come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

2) "All Creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All the Redeemed washed by His blood
Come and rejoice in His great love
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Christ has defeated every sin
Cast all your burdens now on Him
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

He shall return in pow'r to reign
Heaven and earth will join to say
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Then who shall fall on bended knee?
All creatures of our God and King
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Bart Box)



³⁰*The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*" (Acts 17:30-31)

O Lord God, eternal and Almighty Father,
We confess and sincerely acknowledge before Your Holy Majesty that we are poor sinners,
conceived and born in iniquity and corruption,
prone to do evil, incapable of any good,
and that in our depravity we transgress Your holy commandments
without end or ceasing;
Therefore we purchase for ourselves, through your righteous judgment, our ruin and
damnation.
Nevertheless, O Lord, we are grieved that we have offended You,
and we condemn ourselves and our sins with true repentance,
beseeching Your grace to relieve our distress.
O God and Father, most gracious and full of compassion,
have mercy upon us in the name of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.
And as You do blot out our sins and stains,
magnify and increase in us day by day the grace of your Holy Spirit;
That as we acknowledge our unrighteousness with all our heart,
we may be moved by that sorrow which shall bring forth true repentance in us,
mortifying all our sins,
and producing in us the fruits of righteousness and innocence
which are pleasing to You.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (from the Strasbourg Liturgy, 1545)

⁵*But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.* (Isaiah 53:5)

Songs

3) "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above



Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
hither by Thy help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
interposed His precious blood

Oh to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above

O that day when freed from sinning
I will see Thy lovely face
Clothed and fit in grace washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy hand will carry
'Til I'm home with Thee at last

Prayer of Illumination (Daniel Barriault)



The Acts of the Risen Lord: Provoked to Proclaim
Acts 17:16-34

Four Marks of an Evangelist's Heart

#1 - A Zeal for God (vv. 16-21)

- Athens was an impressive city in architecture, ideas, and influence.
- But Paul was impressed most by their idolatry and misplaced worship.

They have provoked me to anger with their idols. (Deuteronomy 32:21)

For [Israel] provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols. (Psalm 78:58)

- Application:
 - How concerned are we about misplaced or missing worship?

If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. (Jeremiah 20:9)

- Are we driven by a zeal for God's glory?

My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law. (Psalm 119:136)

My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words. (Psalm 119:139)

#2 - A Love for People and the Truth (vv.22-23)

- Paul's gospel was strange to the ears of his audience.
- But Paul had the courage of his convictions and was willing to preach the truth in love.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- Application:
 - Christian, don't sacrifice truth for the sake of love.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

- Non-Christian, don't confuse sincerity with salvation.



God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

#3 - An Understanding of the Gospel (vv. 24-31)

- In his sermon, Paul was replacing human instincts with divine instruction.

- God doesn't live in man-made temples. (v. 24)

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! (1 Kings 8:27)

- God is not served by human hands. (v. 25)
- God is not like the idols we fashion. (v. 29)

Idolatry is the attempt either to localize God, confining him within limits which we impose, whereas he is the Creator of the universe; or to domesticate God, making him dependent on us, taming and taping him, whereas he is the Sustainer of human life; or to alienate God, blaming him for his distance and his silence, whereas he is the Ruler of nations, and not far from any of us; or to dethrone God, demoting him to some image of our own contrivance or craft, whereas he is our Father from whom we derive our being. In brief, all idolatry tries to minimize the gulf between the Creator and his creatures, in order to bring him under our control. More than that, it actually reverses the respective positions of God and us, so that, instead of our humbly acknowledging that God has created and rules us, we presume to imagine that we can create and rule God. (John Stott)

- In his conclusion, Paul was urgent about the need to repent and believe.

And it is resurrection which explains why Jesus is the coming judge. It isn't anything so trivial as that the resurrection demonstrates Jesus' divinity, or even his human superiority, and thus qualifies him for this particularly tricky task. Rather, it is that with the resurrection of Jesus God's new world has begun; in other words, his being raised from the dead is the start, the paradigm case, the foundation, the beginning, of that great setting-right which God will do for the whole cosmos at the end. The risen body of Jesus is the one bit of the physical universe that has already been 'set right'. Jesus is therefore the one through whom everything else will be 'set right'. (N.T. Wright)

- Do we share Paul's convictions about God, the gospel, and the urgency of faith?

#4 - A Trust in God (vv. 32-34)

- Sometimes the results aren't what we expect or want.
- But we must remember that our call is to be evangelists, not saviors.

The Christian call to evangelism is a call not simply to persuade people to make decisions but rather to proclaim to them the good news of salvation in Christ, to call them to



repentance, and to give God the glory for regeneration and conversion. We don't fail in our evangelism if we faithfully tell the gospel to someone who is not converted; we fail only if we don't faithfully tell the gospel at all. (Mark Dever)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, (Colossians 1:13)

September 20 – Acts 18:1-23



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

4) "Behold Our God"

Who has held the oceans in His hand?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

*Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him!*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

*Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him!*

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

*Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him!*



You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)

*Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him!*

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 (Ralph Parrish)

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, and serving one another selflessly, for our good and God's glory.

For Our City

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

For Our Nation

For our nation, that God would bring unity where there is deep division, that elected and appointed officials would strive for greater consensus amid significant polarization, and that the church would promote love and charity to all—even toward those with whom we fundamentally disagree.



For Our World

For the nation of Saudi Arabia, that God would soften the strictness of their traditional Muslim culture so that open doors might be created and the gospel might be proclaimed in the nation, for workers to be sent into the harvest there, and that Christians there would hold fast to Jesus even in the midst of persecution.

"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

¹²*The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
¹³he will bless those who fear the LORD,
both the small and the great. (Psalm 115:12-13)*

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

Our next Members' Meeting will take place on Sunday, September 13th at 5:00pm. It will take place in person, but we will offer a Zoom option for those who are uncomfortable attending. Note that we will not have a potluck dinner this evening. We will receive incoming members, remove outgoing members, and vote on elder candidates. Please plan to attend!

EQUIP Class on Race, Politics, & The Gospel – Starts Tomorrow

Starting Monday September 14th at 7:30pm we will begin an eight-week study on the topic of Race, Politics, and the Gospel. We will host sessions at the building those evenings and live-stream to our YouTube channel for those who are unable to come in person. More information can be found on our website at cfcbirmingham.org/equip

Women's Bible Study Options This Fall

Rebekah Rein is putting together a couple of women's studies for the Fall: one in person, and one over Zoom. If you are interested in joining either, please email her at rrein@cfcbirmingham.org.

