

# CHRIST FELLOWSHIP

Liturgy for Sunday, September 5, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Time of Silent Reflection

Call to Worship

- <sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.
- <sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- <sup>3</sup>You return man to dust  
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
- <sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night...
- <sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- <sup>10</sup>The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
- <sup>11</sup>Who considers the power of your anger,  
and your wrath according to the fear of you?
- <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- <sup>13</sup>Return, O LORD! How long?  
Have pity on your servants!
- <sup>14</sup>Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- <sup>15</sup>Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- <sup>16</sup>Let your work be shown to your servants,



*and your glorious power to their children.*  
<sup>17</sup>*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and establish the work of our hands upon us;  
yes, establish the work of our hands! (Psalm 90:1-4, 9-17)*

### 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 Our Hope in Life and Death"

2) "My Worth Is Not in What I Own"

### Public Reading of Scripture – Ecclesiastes 7:1-13 (Bethany Murray)

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

<sup>13</sup>*The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup>For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)*

<sup>19</sup>*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*



*<sup>21</sup>And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him. (Colossians 1:19-22)*

### **Songs**

3) "Before the Throne of God Above"

4) "I'd Rather Have Jesus"

**Prayer of Illumination** (Will Mitchell)

**Reading of the Preaching Passage** (Paige Herr)



**Words of Life: Joy**  
Ecclesiastes

**Tearing Down (1:1-3:22)**

- We're not enduring like the world. (1:1-11)
  - The creation will be here long after we're gone.
  - We dream of immortality, but more than likely our names will be quickly forgotten.
- We're not ever satisfied by the world. (2:1-23)
  - The pursuit of pleasure will not satisfy in a lasting way. (vv. 1-11)
  - The acquisition of wisdom will not satisfy in a lasting way. (vv. 12-17)
  - The obsession with work will not satisfy in a lasting way. (vv. 18-23)

*Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.*  
(Augustine)

- We're not in control of the world. (3:1-22)
  - There are seasons that we like and seasons that we don't like. (vv. 1-8)
  - But all of our seasons are ordained by God. (vv. 9-15)
  - Bottom line: there is a God, and we're not Him!

**Building Up (4:1-11:10)**

- Having rejected the ideas of being immortal or in control, the way is cleared for real wisdom & joy.
- We can be enriched...
  - By a life of community. (4:1-16)
  - By a life of humility. (5:1-7)
  - By a life of generosity. (5:8-6:12)

*Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.* (Ephesians 4:28)

- By a life of intentionality (7:1-5)

*It's vital to see that eating, drinking, dressing, and loving in these verses do not form an exhaustive list of God's gifts. Rather, it's a representative list of what it looks like to love life and to live it to the full. These things are a way of saying: when God made the world, he made it good, and no amount of being a Christian, being spiritual, ever changes the fact that*

*God put you in a physical world with hands and food and drink and culture and relationships and beauty. Sin fractures everything, distorts everything. It means we cannot understand everything. But sin does not uncreate everything. So if we were to tap into the Preacher's worldview and train of thought, I think an expanded list would go something like this:*

*Ride a bike, see the Grand Canyon, go to the theater, learn to make music, visit the sick, care for the dying, cook a meal, feed the hungry, watch a film, read a book, laugh with some friends until it makes you cry, play football, run a marathon, snorkel in the ocean, listen to Mozart, ring your parents, write a letter, play with your kids, spend your money, learn a language, plant a church, start a school, speak about Christ, travel to somewhere you've never been, adopt a child, give away your fortune and then some, shape someone else's life by laying down your own.*

*Dying people who know they are dying are among all people the most alive. (David Gibson)*

### Living Wisely (12:1-14)

- The young are instructed in a targeted way. (vv. 1-8)
  - The young are less likely to think of death and need to course correct.
  - But there is coming a day when it will be too late to change much about our lives.

*We are each, in all our earlier years, building the house in which we shall have to live when we grow old. And we may make it a prison or a palace. (James Russell Miller)*

- Are you building for the future or only living for the present?
- Everyone is instructed in an eternal way.
  - The final message of the book is simple: prepare to meet your Maker.

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"<sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them<sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."<sup>5</sup> (Matthew 18:1-4)*

- Are you prepared today for that Day?

*For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.<sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:52-58)*

## 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) "All Glory Be to Christ"

## 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 (Bart Box)

### *For Our Church*

For our church, for the gospel to permeate every area of our lives as individuals and as a congregation, and that the same gospel would pervade our every relationship as we seek to make all peoples everywhere know the hope offered in Jesus Christ.

### *For Our City*

For Briarwood Presbyterian Church, pastor Harry Reeder, their elders, staff, and congregation.

### *For Our Nation*



For the various parts of the country from Louisiana to New York that were affected by Hurricane Ida this past week, that God would comfort those who lost loved ones and homes, and for all those involved in the work of helping to restore what was lost.

### *For Our World*

For the countries around the world that might become destinations for Afghan refugees, that these refugees and families would find the safety they long for, that they might be placed in areas where they would be befriended by Christians, and that many Afghan refugees would hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in their new homelands and so find hope in him.

“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>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)*

### 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...

### *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.

### *Join the Communion Team*

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Sunday morning communion team. If you would have any interest in helping, please email our deaconess of communion Rebecca Osteen at [rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaosteen22@gmail.com).

### *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).

### *Service Opportunity for Men at Brother Bryan Mission*

We are looking to add some more men to our preaching rotation at Brother Bryan Mission on Monday nights. Chapel is from 6:30–7:00pm every Monday, and we typically try to have men preaching once every 6-8 weeks. This is a great opportunity to speak God's Word to others. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ryan Adams.



*Directory Updates*

For all members of CFC, if you have recently moved, added children to your family, or would like to update your email address or picture in the church directory, please email those updates to Nick Murray at [nmurray@cfcbermingham.org](mailto:nmurray@cfcbermingham.org).

*No Youth Tonight*

Due to Labor Day weekend, there will be no youth group meeting tonight.

