



Liturgy for Sunday, September 6, 2020

Welcome (Ryan Adams)

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

*¹Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!*

*Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

*²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?*



*Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David. (Isaiah 55:1-3)*

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) "How Firm a Foundations"

How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word
What more can He say than to you He has said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

Fear not I am with you oh be not dismayed
For I am your God and will still give you aid
I'll strengthen you help you and cause you to stand
Upheld by My righteous omnipotent hand

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie
My grace all sufficient shall be your supply
The flame shall not hurt you, I only design



Your dross to consume and your gold to refine

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never, no never, no never forsake

2) "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, help me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord
Lead me home

When my way grows drear
Precious Lord, linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand, lest I fall
Take my hand, precious Lord
Lead me home

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand, precious Lord
Lead me home

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, help me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord
Lead me home



Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Songs

3) "Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us



Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As will we be when He comes

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)

*¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*



The Acts of the Risen Lord: The Word at Work
Acts 17:1-15

Had God insisted on remaining incommunicado, we would know nothing whatever about Him.... God cannot be known unless He wills to be known and to make Himself known. (Carl F.H. Henry)

Are we steadfastly committed to the Word? (vv. 1-4)

- Paul went to the synagogue because Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promises to His people.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs. (Romans 15:8)

- Paul proved to them that Jesus was the Christ, the King and Deliverer of His people.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:22-24)

- Paul reasoned with the Thessalonians from the Scriptures *for three Sabbaths*.
- So...

- We should give ourselves to faithful proclamation of God's Word.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

- We should depend on the Scriptures as we share the gospel.

Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:18)

- We should not grow weary in doing well, especially in doing well with the Word.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Are we regularly challenged by the Word? (vv. 5-9)

- Paul's opponents in Thessalonica made an (ironic) accusation—"they are saying that there is another king, Jesus."



- We should render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but not everything is Caesar's.
- Caesar has no dominion over the soul, no rights to the conscience, and no rule over the heart.
- Jesus is our King, and His rule is real and tangible.
 - Jesus not only turns the world upside down...
 - He lovingly and gloriously turns our lives upside down.

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

- Can the same be said of us?
 - Are we continually and progressively turning to God from idols?
 - Are we sinfully carving out areas of our lives and protecting them from Jesus' words?

Are we wholeheartedly submitted to the Word? (vv. 10-15)

- The Bereans were more noble than the Thessalonians.
 - They were receptive to the Word and...
 - They were students of the Word.

- Application:

- We should listen to the Bible in obedience where it speaks.

These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is utterly authoritative and without error in the original writings, complete in its revelation of his will for salvation, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. (CFC Statement of Beliefs)

- We should reverence the Bible as God's revelation of Himself.

However hard some things are to understand, it is never helpful to start picking and choosing biblical truths we find congenial, as if the Bible is an open-shelved supermarket where we are at perfect liberty to choose only the chocolate bars. For the Christian, it is God's Word, and it is not negotiable. What answers we find



may not be exhaustive, but they give us the God who is there, and who gives us some measure of comfort and assurance. The alternative is a god we manufacture, and who provides no comfort at all. Whatever comfort we feel is self-delusion, and it will be stripped away at the end when we give an account to the God who has spoken to us, not only in Scripture, but supremely in his Son Jesus Christ.
(D.A. Carson)

September 13 – Acts 17:16-34



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) "O Church Arise"

O Church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle-cry is love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride



Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

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 (Billy Shepard)

For Our Church

For the members of our church who are still unable to attend worship in-person during these days, that they might be encouraged by participating online, that God would supernaturally knit all of our hearts together despite our inability to all be together, that they might have frequent meaningful interactions with their Growth Groups and other relationships in the church, and that God would allow us all to meet together again soon.

For Our City

For Redeemer Community Church, pastor Joel Brooks, 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 India, for greater and greater gospel witness to spread throughout this country, that Christ-centered churches would thrive and establish even more churches, and that God would save many souls in this land of vast spiritual darkness.

"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*For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*
¹³*Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. (Isaiah 55:12-13)*

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 – Next Sunday, September 13th 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 – Monday, Sept. 14th

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.

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@cfcbirmingham.org.

