

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

The prelude is a sacred curtain dropped between the world and the sanctuary. During this time, be prayerful and reverent in preparation for the worship of our holy God in His sanctuary. (Please silence all phones and electronic devices.)

PRELUDE *Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive) Based on Isaiah 49:13; Psalm 30:11-12

Minister: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Congregation: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*
Trinity Hymnal, 195

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

Psalm 16:5-11
John 15:10-11

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *Psalm 16 vs. 8-11*

1. I've set the Lord be - fore my face that him I'll al - ways see. Be -
2. Be - cause you will not leave my soul con - signed to depths be - low; cor -
5
cause he is at my right hand, un - shak - en I will be. Be - cause of this my
rup - tion you will not al - low your god - ly one to know. The path of life you'll
10
heart is glad, my glo - ry cel - e - brates; in - deed, my bod - y e - ven now in
show to me; with you is joy un - told. And pleas - ures that will have no end, in
15
hope se - cure - ly waits,
your right hand you hold.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION Ruling Elder

GLORIA PATRI (Unison) Trinity Hymnal, 734

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison) Psalm 51:3-4

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison) 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

***HYMN OF REJOICING** (Unison) *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*
Trinity Hymnal, 211

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed*
Trinity Hymnal, 846

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION Minister

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.
Amen*

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** (Unison) Trinity Hymnal, 731

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Deacon

SERMON *Sing for Joy* Dr. John Clayton
Isaiah 12 (Pew Bible, 576)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*
Trinity Hymnal, 207

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

***BENEDICTION** Isaiah 60:19-20

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Sermon Notes

Sing for Joy
Isaiah 12 (Pew Bible, 576)

I. Introduction

II. Joyful Salvation

III. Joyful Proclamation

IV. Joyful Praise

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith! We are thankful that you have come to worship the true and living God with us. Our worship service, in essence, is a covenant renewal ceremony in which the covenant community gathers to hear the covenant promises, which have been secured for us by Christ, and respond in faith. The congregation is not a passive but active participant in the worship service.

If you are visiting with us this morning, please complete a visitor's card and place it in the offering plate during the offertory so that we may have a record of your visit.

Paraments: Liturgical colors have an instructional purpose and point us to the life of Christ and the great acts of redemptive history. Purple paraments are displayed during the Advent season. Purple represents hope, expectation, confidence, and anticipation. During Advent, we are reminded of the significance of the threefold advent of Christ in His incarnation, His dwelling in our hearts by His Spirit, and His glorious return at the last day.

Advent: Advent, a four-week period in which the Church, rejoicing in Christ's first coming, eagerly looks forward to Christ's coming again.

On this third Sunday of Advent our theme is Joy. At the beginning of our worship service the Shepherd's Candle, the pink candle, is lighted to remind us that the birth of the Messiah was announced to humble shepherds, and that we, straying sheep, must go to our Good Shepherd, believe in Him and tell others the Good News of salvation.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th. Please invite your friends and family to join us on this special evening.

2024 Women's Bible Study: Starting on January 18th, Susan Rodriguez will lead our Women's Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Topic and more details to come!

Advent Family Worship Guide: This year, we are providing a daily Advent devotional. Each day includes a Scripture reading and a corresponding hymn to use in your daily private or family devotions leading up to Christmas Day. Copies are available in the foyer.

Missional Focus of the Week: MTW Missionaries - Collin & Zury Jennings – Dakar, Senegal Please be in prayer for the Jennings this week.

New Members: Please welcome our newest church members,

Bill and Zenda Hawthorne

Joel, Jessica, Camden, Jade, Garner, and Harvey Meinardus (Joel and Jessica also have three non-communing children: Vera, Thatcher and Bhaer)

Abigail Mino

Lynn Schriver

New communing members make a public profession of faith and assent to the following declarations and promises, entering into a solemn covenant with God and his Church.

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – December 10th: \$68,582	General fund giving (YTD): \$579,771
Designated giving: \$5,755	Designated giving (YTD): \$7,725
Total giving: \$74,337	Total giving (YTD): \$587,496

Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – jclayton@cpcfs.org
Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – bbolin@cpcfs.org
Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – sclayton@cpcfs.org

Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) * 120 N 9th Fort Smith, AR 72901

Office (479) 242-PRES
www.cpcfs.org

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, December 17, 2023

10:30 A.M.

“It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name,
O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night” (Psalm 92:1,2)

120 North 9th Street, 72901