

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

Angels We Have Heard on High

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Minister)

Based on John 1:1-5

Minister: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Let us rejoice in the Light of the World and praise the glorious radiance of Christ.

*SONG OF ASCENT (Unison)

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Trinity Hymnal, 208 vs. 1, 2, 4

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruling Elder

Isaiah 7:14
John 1:14

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)

O Word of God Incarnate
Trinity Hymnal, 140

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

Ruling Elder

GLORIA PATRI (Unison)

Trinity Hymnal, 734

CONFESSION OF SIN (Responsive)

Psalm 6:1-7

Elder: O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

Congregation: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

Elder: My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord—how long?

Congregation: Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

Elder: For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

Congregation: I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears;

Elder: I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief;

Congregation: it grows weak because of all my foes.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsive)

Psalm 6:8-10

Elder: Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

Congregation: The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer.

Elder: All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;

Congregation: they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

*HYMN OF REJOICING (Unison)

The Apostles' Creed
Trinity Hymnal, 845

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

The Mystery of Godliness
1 Timothy 3:14-16 (Pew Bible, 992)

Dr. John Clayton

*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)

Immanuel

1. From the squal-or of a bor-rowed sta-ble, by the Spir-it and a hum-ble ser-vant in the heav-en now the friend of sin-ners, 2. King of heav-en now the friend of sin-ners, hum-ble ser-vant in the heav-en now the friend of sin-ners, 3. Through the kiss-es of a friend's be-tray-al, He was lift-ed on a cross, 4. Now He's stand-ing in the place of hon-or, crowned with glo-ry on the vir-gin's faith, to the an-guish and the shame of scan-dal, Fa-ther's hands, filled with pow-er and the Ho-ly Spir-it, cru-el cross, He was pun-ished for a world's trans-gres-sions; high-est throne, in-ter-ced-ing for His own be-lov-ed.

7. came the Sav-ior of the hu-man race. But the skies were filled with the filled with mer-cy for the bro-ken man. Yes, he walked my road and He He was suf-fer-ing to save the lost. He fights for breath, He 'til His Fa-ther calls to bring them home. Then the skies will part as the

11. praise of heav'n. Shep-herds lis-ten as the an-gels tell of the gift of God come felt my pain, joys and sor-rows that I know so well; yet His right-eous steps give me fights for me, loos-ing sin-ners from the claims of hell; and with a shout, our trum-pet sounds, hope of heav-en or the fear of hell. But the bride will run to her

15. down to man, at the dawn-ing of Im-man-u-el. hope a-gain, I will fol-low my Im-man-u-el. souls are free; death de-feat-ed by Im-man-u-el. Lov-er's arms, giv-ing glo-ry to Im-man-u-el.

*BENEDICTION

Ephesians 6:23

Congregational Response: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

Sermon Notes

The Mystery of Godliness
1 Timothy 3:14-16 (Pew Bible, 992)

I. Introduction

II. The Household of God

III. The Mystery of Godliness

IV. The Confession of Salvation

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. White paraments adorn the pulpit and communion table during the celebration of Christmas, Easter, and other days to represent the purity of Christ and the joy and peace believers find in Him.

Nursery Volunteers: We need more nursery worker volunteers. If you are willing to serve on a volunteer rotation, please contact the church office to sign-up.

January 7th

Sunday School – Patti Sanchez & Nan Hudson

Worship Service – Liddia Bourlon & Sophie Maurer

January 14th

Sunday School – Jayna Blan & Lauren Good

Worship Service – Susan Rodriguez & Jennifer Burgin

Parish Groups: Greg Bailey's Parish Group will meet on Sunday, January 7th, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service.

2024 Devotional Guide: Our 2024 devotional guide is available at the back of the Sanctuary. This plan will lead you in reading through the Old and New Testament once and the Psalms twice. It also includes daily prayers, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 98 to 107.

Memorize the Shorter Catechism: Please join us in 2024 as we memorize the Westminster Shorter Catechism together, children and adults alike. For the first week, memorize catechism answers 1- 4.

The Midweek: Starting on January 10th, Dr. John Clayton will lead a short Bible study and prayer meeting on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

2024 Women's Bible Study: Starting January 18th on Thursday mornings at 10:00, Susan Rodriguez will lead our Women's Bible Study. Starting out, the class will consider the value and importance of God's Moral Law using *Ten Words to Live By: Delighting in and Doing What God Commands* by Jen Wilkin. Also, if you are willing to help with refreshments, please contact Susan directly.

2024 Men's Bible Study: Starting January 24th on Wednesday mornings at 10:00, Rusty Peoples will lead our Men's Bible Study through a verse-by-verse study of Philippians.

Missional Focus of the Week: Simon Arscott and All Nations Church – Ilford, England Please be in prayer for the Arscotts and All Nations Church this week.

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – December: \$10,905

Designated giving: \$0

Total giving: \$10,905

General fund giving (YTD): \$602,116

Designated giving (YTD): \$7,725

Total giving (YTD): \$609,841

Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – yclayton@cpcfs.org

Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – bbolin@cpcfs.org

Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – scclayton@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 31, 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