

DIVINE 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 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Minister)** Based on Psalm 147:12-14, 19-20

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. Praise the Lord!

***SONG OF ASCENT (Unison)** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*
Trinity Hymnal, 53 vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

Psalm 103:8-19
Colossians 3:18-25

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)** *Psalm 127*

1. Un - less the LORD builds up the house, the wear - y buil - ders toil in
2. Lo, chil - dren arc a her - i - tage, a gift from God in ver - y

vain; un - less he keeps the cit - y safe, the guards a
truth. Like ar - rows in a war - rior's hand arc all the

use - less watch main - tain. In vain you rise be - fore the
chil - dren of one's youth. The man whose qui - ver's full of

dawn, and late your night - ly vig - ils keep, while you eat
them is blessed by God; his name is great. He shall not

bread of anx - ious toil, God gives to his be - lov - ed
fear his en - e - mies when he speaks with them in the

sleep, God gives to his be - lov - ed sleep
gate, when he speaks with them in the gate.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION Ruling Elder

GLORIA PATRI (Unison)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

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)** *Amazing Grace!*
Trinity Hymnal, 460 vs. 1-4

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic*** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

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)**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Deacon

SERMON *A Blessed Life* Dr. John Clayton
Psalm 127 (Pew Bible, 518)

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** *A Christian Home*
Trinity Hymnal, 719

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

***HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)** *Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed*

1. Won - der of won - ders, here re - vealed;
2. This child of God, though young or old,
3. Now we our vow of faith re - new,

God's cov - e - nant with us is sealed.
we wel - come now in - to Christ's fold,
9 stretch wide our sights to glo - bal view,

And long be - fore we know or pray,
to know with us God's lov - ing care;
13 and claim with Chris - tians far and near

God's love en - folds us ev - ery day.
here all our joys and sor - rows share.
a larg - er fam - i - ly held dear.

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION (Minister)** Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE *Be Thou My Vision*

* = Please stand if able.

**According to the Westminster Larger Catechism, "Christ's humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, and under the power of death till the third day; which hath been otherwise expressed in these words, *He descended into hell*" (WLC 50).

*** "catholic" refers to the universal church at all times and all places.

Sermon Notes

A Blessed Life

Psalm 127 (Pew Bible, 518)

I. Introduction

II. The Blessing of Work

III. The Blessing of Family

IV. The Blessing of God

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 an 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.

Restrooms: Restrooms are available at the East-end on the sanctuary level or downstairs at the East-end of the hallway. Please use the restrooms downstairs during the worship service.

Children & Restrooms: Parents, please accompany your children to the restroom during the worship service.

Self-service Nursery: Parents who wish to attend to their children outside of the worship service will find a nursery room available downstairs, equipped with a changing table, rocking chairs, toys, and an adjustable-volume speaker to listen to the worship service.

Seating: Please be courteous by moving toward the front of the sanctuary providing room in the back for those arriving late.

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.

Sacrament of Baptism: Today, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with the covenant child baptism of *Ellie June Clayton*, daughter of *J.D. and Claire Clayton*. Please be in prayer in preparation for today's baptism.

The Westminster Larger Catechism reminds us: "The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavoring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body" (Question 167).

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated next Sunday, January 8th.

Ministry Staff

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, January 1, 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)

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