

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 *And Can It Be*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Based on Genesis 2:7; Psalm 100:3-4

Minister: The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. It is God who made us; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *Behold Our God*

1. Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered ev'ry grain of sand?
 2. Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His words?
 3. Who has felt the nails upon His hand, bearing all the guilt of sin-ful man?

5
 Kings and nations tremble at His voice. All creation rises to re-
 Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fashion all His wondrous
 God eternal, humbled to the grave, Je-sus, Sav-ior, ri-sen now to

9
 Chorus
 joyce. Be-hold our God, seat-ed on His throne. Come let us a-dore Him. Be-
 deeds? reign!

14
 hold our King, noth-ing can com-pare, come, let us a-dore Him!

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

*1 Chronicles 16:8-10, 28-29, 34
 Hebrews 10:19-25*

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*
 Trinity Hymnal, 1

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) Ezra 9:6

O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison) Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

***HYMN OF REJOICING** (Unison) *The Apostles' Creed*

1. I be-lieve in God the Fa-ther, Ma-ker of the heav'n and earth, and in
 2. Suf-fered un-der Pon-tius Pi-late, cru-ci-fied, en-dur-ing hell, laid with-
 3. At God's right hand he is seat-ed, 'til his com-ing, as he said; fin-al
 4. I be-lieve the church of Je-sus ho-ly, cath-o-lic re-mains; we are

5
 Je-sus Christ, our Sav-ior, God's own Son, of match-less worth; by the
 in the grave so si-lent, as the proph-ets did fore-tell. But the
 judg-ment will be met-ed to the liv-ing and the dead. I con-
 one thro' all the ag-es, the com-mun-ion of the saints. I be-

9
 Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ed, vir-gin Mar-y bore God's Son, he in
 stone-sealed tomb was emp-tied on the third day; he a-rose: in-to
 fess the Ho-ly Spir-it has been sent thro' Christ the Son to ap-
 lieve sins are for-giv-en, that our bod-ies will be raised, life with

13
 whom I have be-liev-ed: God Al-might-y, Three in One.
 heav-en made his en-try, Might-y Con-queror of his foes.
 ply sal-va-tion's mer-it; God the Spir-it, Three in One.
 God is nev-er end-ed. A-men, let his name be praised.

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 *The Blessing of Corporate Worship* Dr. John Clayton
 Psalm 134 (Pew Bible, 519)

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Instruction

***Hymn of Preparation** *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*
 Trinity Hymnal, 420

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
 Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is fitting and right to do so.

Administration of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *Psalm 134*

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION** (Minister) Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

* = Please stand if able.

Sermon Notes

The Blessing of Corporate Worship
Psalm 134 (Pew Bible, 519)

I. Introduction

II. The Assembly of Worship

III. The Act of Worship

IV. The Blessing of Worship

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.

Lord's Supper: We will be observing the Lord's Supper this morning. We ask that you begin now examining yourself and preparing your heart to celebrate the sacrament. If you are not a member of Covenant, you are welcome to celebrate the sacrament with us if you have made a credible profession of faith in Christ, have been baptized, and are in good standing with a like-kind Protestant church.

Benevolence Giving: We take up a separate offering for benevolence on the Lord's Supper Sunday (first Sunday of each month). Please designate benevolence gifts on your giving envelope and place it in the benevolence box at the back of the sanctuary.

Adult Sunday School Series: Please join us in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for our series, *Proverbs: Words of Wisdom*, a topical study of select proverbs.

Prayer Ministry: If you have a prayer request that you would like the church to pray for, you can send your request to pray@cpdfs.org. Your prayer request will be sent out in our weekly prayer ministry email. If you would like to receive the weekly prayer email, please go to <https://tinyletter.com/cpdfs-prays>.

Covenant Game Night: Our next Game Night is this Saturday, January 21st from 5:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. To reserve your spot, please contact Marian Henry at 918-728-5844 so she can coordinate the food.

Covenant Women Connect: We will have our first fellowship of 2023 on January 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Marian Henry's. More details to come.

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – January 1st: \$7,483
Designated giving: \$50
Total giving: \$7,533

General fund giving (YTD): \$7,483
Designated giving (YTD): \$50
Total giving (YTD): \$7,533

End of Year General fund giving – December 31: \$575,440
End of Year Designated giving: \$4,874
End of Year Total Giving: \$580,314

Ministry Staff

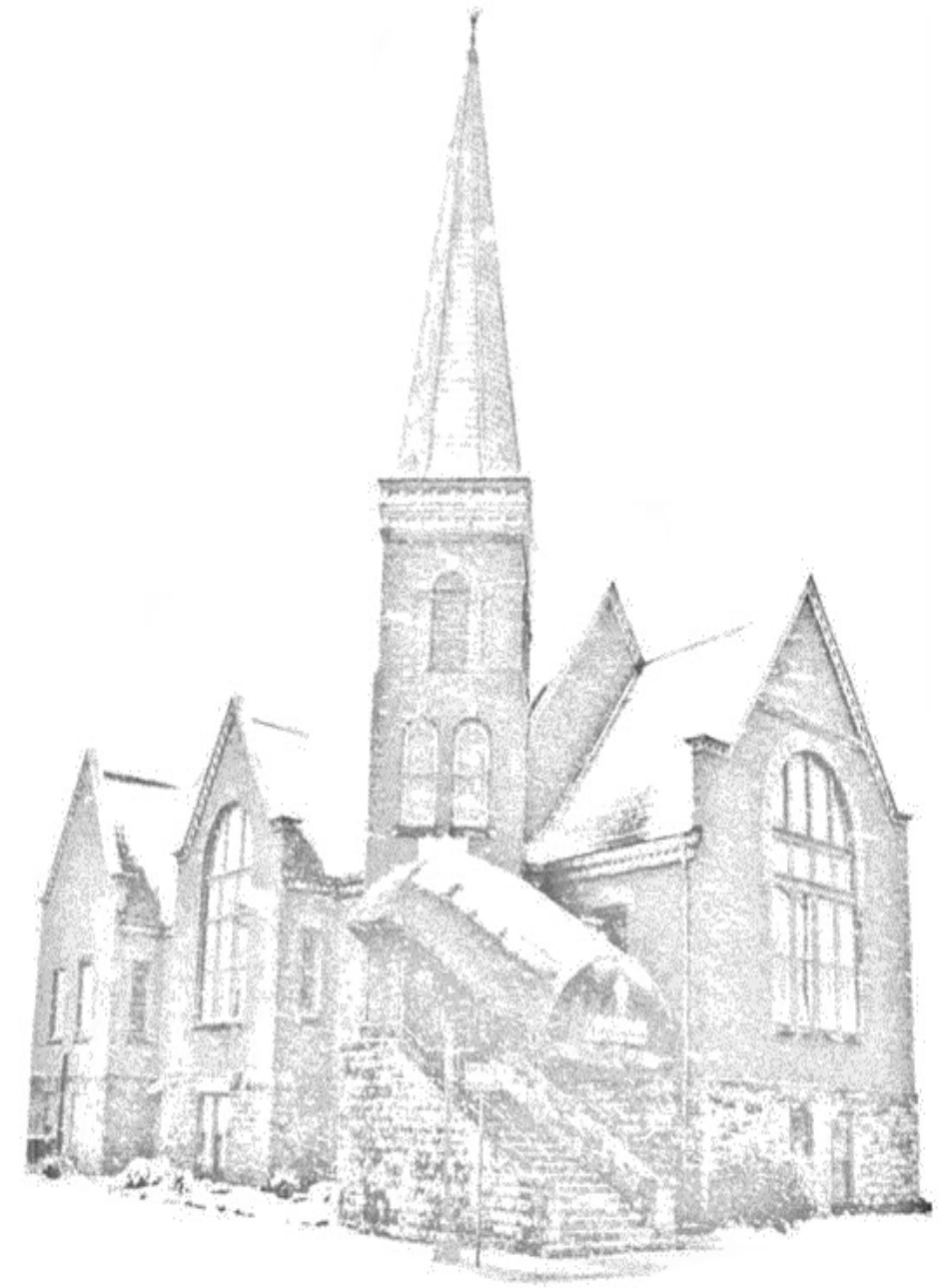
Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – jclayton@cpdfs.org
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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, January 8, 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