

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 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Psalm 71:22-23

I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) Psalm 33 (vs. 1-9)

1. With joy let us sing to the LORD, all you right - eous, for
 2. For up - right and true is the word, God has spo - ken; the
 3. The LORD by his word has cre - a - ted the heav - ens; and
 4. So let all the earth and its peo - ple re - vere him, and

5
 fit - ting it is that the up - right give praise. And
 he works of the LORD his great faith - ful - ness prove. And
 9 in the LORD's pres - ence with stars awe let them stand. He

skill - ful - ly praise him with harp and with lyre; make
 he loves true right - eous - ness, jus - tice and judg - ment; the
 13 depths of the o - cean he heaps up to - geth - er, and
 spoke, it was done, and con - tin - ues to stand fast; it

mus - ic to God, a new song to him raise.
 ends of the earth show the LORD's stead - fast love.
 puts in a store - house the waves of the sea.
 all was ac - com - plished when he gave com - mand.

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

*Isaiah 40:28-31
2 Peter 3:4-13*

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *How Firm a Foundation*
Trinity Hymnal, 94 vs. 1, 2, 5, 6

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) Daniel 9:18b-19a

For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison) Romans 5:8-9

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

***HYMN OF REJOICING** (Unison) *Before the Throne of God Above*

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair, and tells me of the guilt with -
 3. Be - hold Him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect spot - less right - eous -

4
 plea, a great High Priest whose name is love, who e - ver lives and pleads for
 in, up - ward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my
 8 ness, the great un - change - a - ble "I Am," the King of glo - ry and of

12
 me. My name is writ - ten on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His
 sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 grace. One with Him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased by His

16
 heart; I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence de -
 free, for God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don
 blood; my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my

part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 me, to look on Him and par - don me.
 God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

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*

SERMON *Awaiting the Bridegroom* Dr. John Clayton
Matthew 25:1-13 (Pew Bible, 830)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *Blessed Assurance*
Trinity Hymnal, 693

***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 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

* = 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).

Sermon Notes

Awaiting the Bridegroom

Matthew 25:1-13 (Pew Bible, 830)

I. Introduction

II. Wisely Waiting

III. Wakefully Watching

IV. Willingly Welcoming

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.

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

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.

Worship Service COVID-19 Protocol: Face masks will be required for the entirety of the service, including while sitting, standing, and singing. Face masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be provided in the foyer as you enter the church sanctuary, and seating will continue to be available on every other row, for proper distancing. At the conclusion of the service, we will dismiss by row.

As the coronavirus is spread primarily by airborne transmission and can be spread unknowingly by asymptomatic carriers, we encourage you to enjoy fellowshiping with one another outside after the worship service rather than inside the church sanctuary.

Women's Evening Bible Study: Our monthly Tuesday evening Women's Bible study will resume on Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (masks required), or via Zoom. Our study will continue using *All That's Good*, by Hannah Anderson. Please contact Nancy Krehbiel for more information and check your email for details, including the Zoom password (nkrehbiel@cpdfs.org).

Women's Morning Bible Study: Our weekly Women's Bible study will resume on Wednesday, January 13th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall (masks required) or via Zoom. Our Spring study will be *The Lamb of God: Seeing Jesus in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy* by Nancy Guthrie. Please contact Nancy Krehbiel for more information and check your email for details (nkrehbiel@cpdfs.org).

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – January 3rd: \$3,583	General fund giving (YTD): \$3,583
Designated giving: \$150	Designated giving (YTD): \$150
Total giving: \$3,733	Total giving (YTD): \$3,733

End of Year General fund giving – December 31: \$438,743
End of Year Designated giving: \$7,773
End of Year Total Giving: \$446,516

Ministry Staff

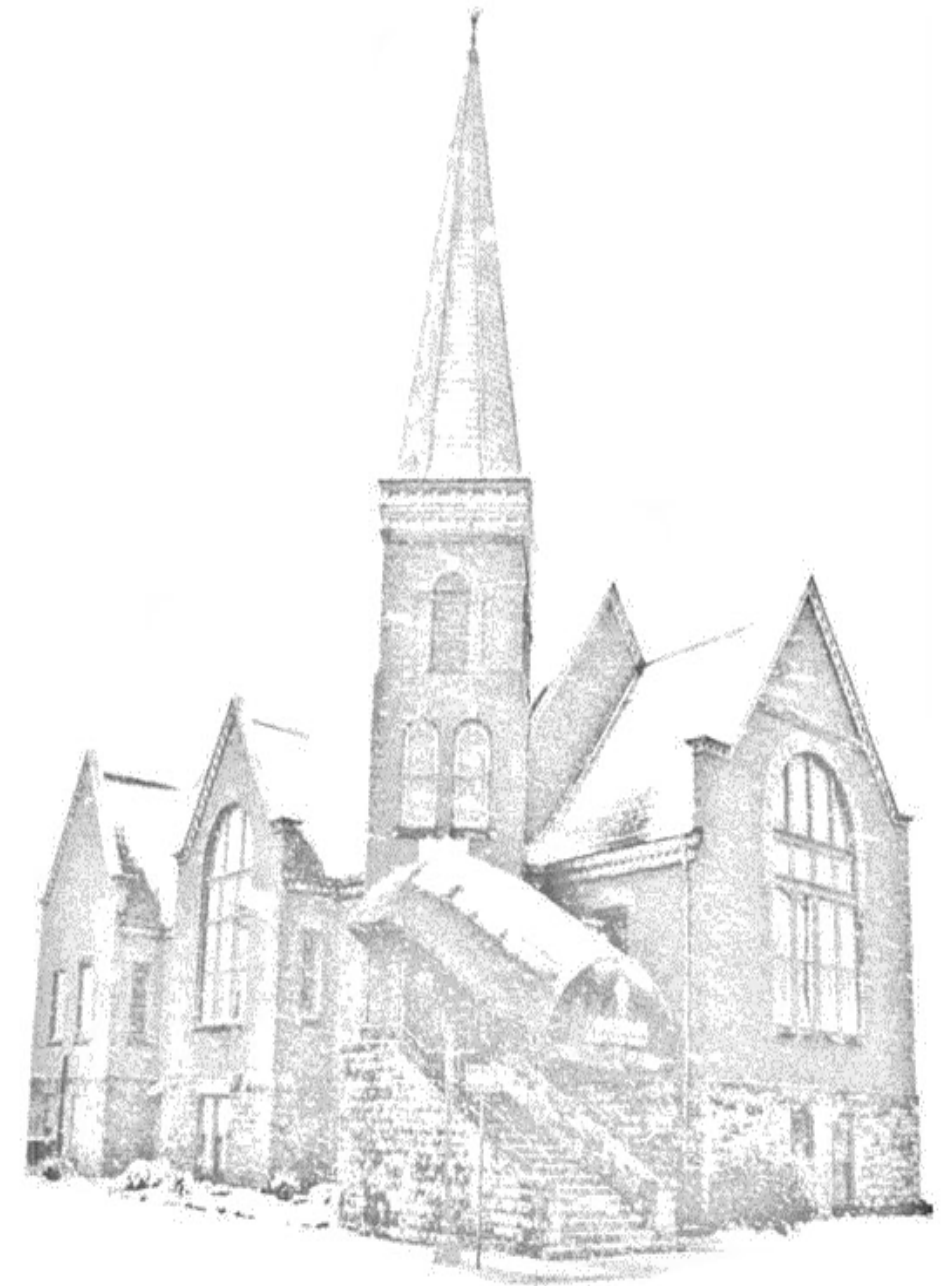
Dr. John Clayton, Minister – jclayton@cpdfs.org
Rev. Jason Glover, Asst. Minister of Chaplain Ministry
Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – bbolin@cpdfs.org
Nancy Krehbiel, Director of Women's Ministry, ESL,
& Caregiving – nkrehbiel@cpdfs.org
Greg and Angel Hartman, Directors of Children's Ministry
Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – sclayton@cpdfs.org

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, January 10, 2021

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