

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 All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Based on Deuteronomy 4:39; Revelation 14:7

Know today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. Fear God and give him glory; worship him who made the heaven and the earth, the sea and the springs of water.

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Trinity Hymnal, 38

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

Psalm 34:4-17
2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) Psalm 128

1. How blessed are all who fear the LORD,
2. Your wife will be a fruitful vine;
3. May you be - hold Jer - u - s'lem's good;

who walk the way that he has shown.
and round your ta - ble will be placed
from Zi - on may God's bless - ing flow.

Suc - cess and bless - ing will be yours;
your chil - dren like young o - live shoots.
Your chil - dren's chil - dren may you see.

you'll eat the fruit that you have grown.
Thus he who fears the LORD is blessed.
May God on Is - r'el peace be - stow!

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 130:1-2

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison)

Isaiah 53:5

[Christ] was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

***HYMN OF REJOICING** (Unison) How Sweet and Awesome is the Place
Trinity Hymnal, 469 vs. 1, 4, 5, 6

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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

* = 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.

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 (Choir)

*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deacon

SERMON The Blessings of Fearing the Lord Dr. John Clayton
Psalm 128 (Pew Bible, 518)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) Rock of Ages (When the Day Seems Long)

1. Rock of Ag - es when the day seems long, from this
2. Rock of Ag - es you have brought me near, you have
3. Rock of Ag - es, when in want or rest, my des - p'rate
4. Rock of Ag - es, bro - ken, scorned for me, Who am
5. Rock of Ag - es, "It is done!" you cried. The cur - tain's
6. Rock of Ag - es, my great hope se - cure, your prom - ise

la - bor and this heart - ache I have come; the skies will wear out, but you re -
poured out your life - blood, your love, your tears to make this stone heart come a -
need for such a Sav - ior I con - fess. Pull these i - dols out from my
I that you would die to make me free? To give me glo - ry, you took the
torn and I see jus - tice sat - is - fied. Now write your mer - cy here on my
holds just like an an - chor to my soul. Bind your child - ren with cords of

main the same. Rock of Ag - es, I praise your name.
live a - gain; Rock of Ag - es, for - give my sin. Rock of
heart em - brace. Rock of Ag - es, I need your grace.
death and pain. Rock of Ag - es, my Of - fer - ing.
heart and hands. Rock of Ag - es, in faith I stand.
9 love and grace; Rock of Ag - es, we give you praise.

14 Ag - es, Rock of Ag - es, bind your child - ren un - til the
king - dom comes; Rock of Ag - es, your will be done.

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION** (Minister) Based on Philippians 4:7

Minister: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

You Righteous, in the Lord Rejoice

Sermon Notes

The Blessings of Fearing the Lord
Psalm 128 (Pew Bible, 518)

I. Introduction

II. Godly Fear and Labor

III. Godly Fear and Family

IV. Godly Fear and Community

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. Green is displayed during "ordinary time" which includes the period between Epiphany and Lent and the period between Pentecost and Advent. Green represents spiritual growth and world missions.

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.

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@cpcfs.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/cpcfs-prays>.

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – January 22nd: \$13,145
Designated giving: \$0
Total giving: \$13,145

General fund giving (YTD): \$46,701
Designated giving (YTD): \$120
Total giving (YTD): \$46,821

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

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, January 29, 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