

# 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

*Great God of Wonders!*

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Minister)

Based on Joel 2:12-13, 15-16, 32

**Minister:** “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

### \*SONG OF ASCENT (Unison)

*To God Be the Glory*  
Trinity Hymnal, 55

## SCRIPTURE READING

Ruling Elder

*Psalm 1*  
*1 John 1:9-10*

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

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)

*Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners*  
Trinity Hymnal, 498 vs. 1, 2, 5

## 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 25:16-18

*Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.*

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison)

Colossians 1:13-14

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

### \*HYMN OF REJOICING (Unison)

*Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord*  
Trinity Hymnal, 465

## 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

## 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*

\* = 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.

## WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS (Choir)

### \*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deacon

## SERMON

*Confessions of a Forgiven Sinner*  
Psalm 32 (Pew Bible, 462-463)

Dr. John Clayton

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)

*Psalm 130 (From the Depths of Woe)*

1. From the depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lam - en - ta -  
2. To wash a - way the crim - son stain, Grace, grace a - lone a - vail -  
3. There - fore my trust is in the Lord, And not in my own mer -  
4. Though great our sins and sore our woes, His grace much more a - bound -  
tion; Lord, turn a gra - cious ear to me And hear my sup - pli - ca -  
eth; Our works, a - las! Are all in vain; In much the best life fail -  
it; On Him my soul shall rest, His word Up - holds my faint - ing spir -  
eth; His help - ing hand no lim - it knows, Our up - most need it sound -  
tion; If Thou in - i - qui - ties dost mark, Our se - cret sins and mis -  
eth; No man can glo - ry in Thy sight, All must a - like con - fess  
it; His prom - ised mer - cy is my fort, My com - fort, and my sweet  
eth. Our Shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His Is -  
deeds dark, O who shall stand be - fore Thee? O who  
Thy might, And live a - lone by mer - cy, And live  
sup - port; I wait for it with pa - tience, I wait  
rael free From all their sin and sor - row, From all  
shall stand be - fore Thee?  
a - lone by mer - cy.  
for it with pa - tience.  
their sin and sor - row.

### \*PASTORAL BLESSING (Minister)

Numbers 6:24-26

**Minister:** *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

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

# Sermon Notes

*Confessions of a Forgiven Sinner*  
Psalm 32 (Pew Bible, 462-463)

## I. Introduction

## II. The Blessing of Forgiveness

## III. The Necessity of Confession

## IV. The Way of Righteousness

# 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.

**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. Purple paraments are displayed during the Season of Lent. Purple represents royalty as well as repentance, prayer, and suffering, and points to both the humility and regal authority of Christ the Servant-King.

**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. 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:** In the Reformed tradition, we believe that God has chosen to work through outward and ordinary means of grace whereby we may hear the gospel and be nurtured in our faith. The Westminster Shorter Catechism states, "The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation" (WSC Q.88). Join us next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. as we consider the Word of God.

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:** We will be observing the Lord's Supper next Sunday. In preparation, let us consider what is required of us: "It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves" (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 97).

**Covenant Women Connect:** We will have our next fellowship on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Susan Haines'. If you would like to bring a savory or sweet item to share, please do so.

## Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – February 19th: \$17,938  
Designated giving: \$150  
Total giving: \$18,088

General fund giving (YTD): \$70,076  
Designated giving (YTD): \$270  
Total giving (YTD): \$70,346

## Ministry Staff

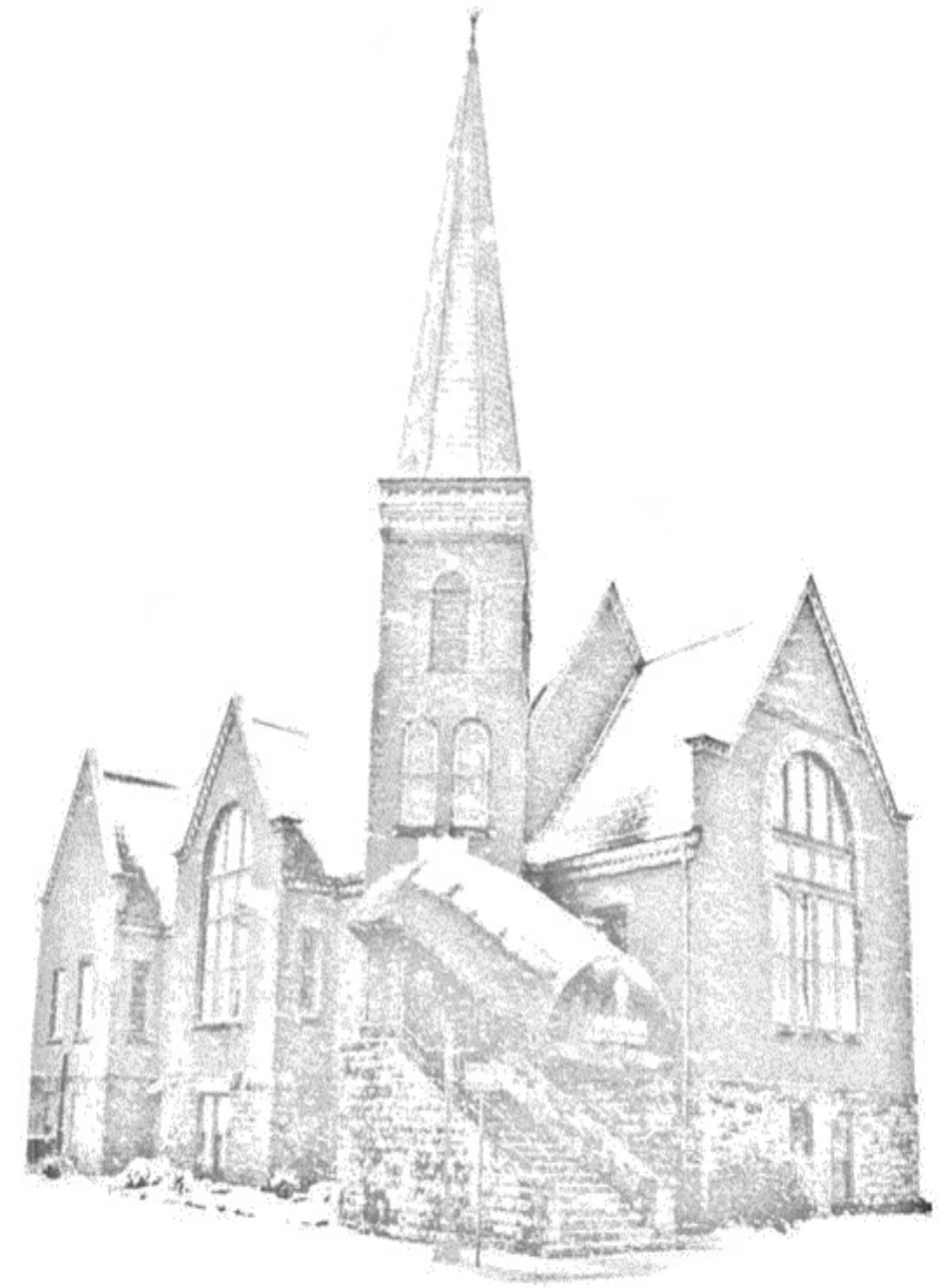
Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – [yclayton@cpdfs.org](mailto:yclayton@cpdfs.org)  
Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – [bbolin@cpdfs.org](mailto:bbolin@cpdfs.org)  
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# Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



## Lord's Day, February 26, 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 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 72901