

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 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive) Based on 2 Samuel 22:7, Psalm 143:1

Minister: *In your distress, call upon the Lord your God. From his temple he will hear your voice, and your cry will come to his ears.*

Congregation: *Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!*

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare*
Trinity Hymnal, 628 vs. 1, 3, 4

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

*2 Samuel 12:1-7a
1 John 1:9-10*

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *O Thou That Hear'st When Sinners Cry*
Trinity Hymnal, 485

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 51:1-2

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison) 2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

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 *Conviction, Contrition, and Community* Dr. John Clayton
Psalm 51 (Pew Bible, 474)

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** *Thy Mercy, My God*

1. Thy mer - cy, my God, is the theme of my song, the
2. With - out Thy sweet mer - cy I could not live here;
3. Thy mer - cy is more than a match for my heart, which
4. Great Fa - ther of mer - cies, Thy good - ness I own, and the
joy of my heart, and the boast of my tongue. Thy
sin would re - duce me to ut - ter dis - pair. But
won - ders to feel its own hard - ness de - part. Dis -
cov - e - rant love of Thy cru - ci - fied Son; all
free grace a - lone from the first to the last hath
through Thy free good - ness my spir - its re - vive, and
praise by to Thy good - ness I fall to the ground, and
13 won my af - fec - tions and bound my soul fast.
He that first made me still keeps me a - live.
weep for the praise of the mer - cy I found.
mer - cy and par - don and right - eous - ness mine.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation and Instruction

Words of Institution

Sursum Corda** (Responsive)

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

Congregation: *And with your spirit.*

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

Congregation: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

Congregation: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Prayer of Consecration

Prayer of Humble Access (Unison)

*We do not presume to come to this your table,
O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your abundant and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under your table;
but you are the same Lord
whose character is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

Distribution of the Elements

Ministration of Communion

Post Communion Prayer (Unison)

*Heavenly Father,
We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work
you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *Benediction*
Trinity Hymnal, 730

***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 *Softly and Tenderly*

* = Please stand if able.

**=*Sursum Corda* means "Lift up your hearts." Its liturgical use dates back at least to the third century.

Sermon Notes

Conviction, Contrition, and Community
Psalm 51 (Pew Bible, 474)

I. Introduction

II. Merciful Forgiveness

III. Cleansed Contrition

IV. Confessing 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 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. 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.

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.

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.

Sunday School Series: At the conclusion of Peter's second epistle, he commands the church "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). The command is clear but the question is: How? Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we consider this question and what we call the ordinary means of grace.

Covenant Women Connect: We will have our next fellowship on March 16th 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 26th: \$5,336
Designated giving: \$0
Total giving: \$5,336

General fund giving (YTD): \$83,940
Designated giving (YTD): \$290
Total giving (YTD): \$84,250

Ministry Staff

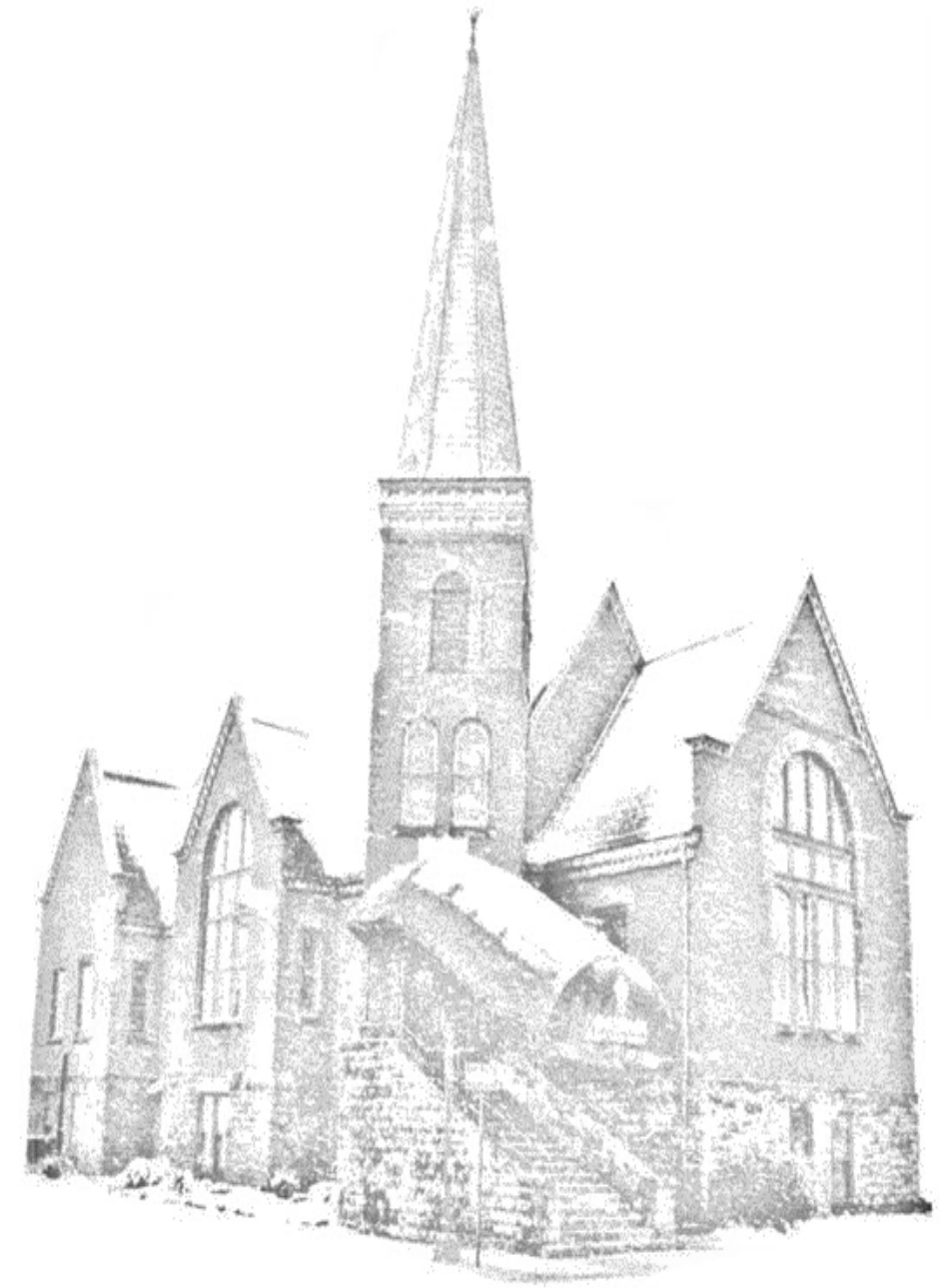
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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, March 5, 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