

# 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** Fort Smith Firefighters Pipe and Drum Corps

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Based on 1 Peter 1:6-7

**Minister:** People of God, rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**\*SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *Crown Him with Many Crowns*  
Trinity Hymnal, 295 vs. 1, 2, 4

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ruling Elder

*Isaiah 53:3-11*  
*1 Peter 1:10-12*

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

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*  
Trinity Hymnal, 247

**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) *Psalms 102 vs. 17-27*

1. The Lord has heard and answered prayer  
2. The Lord, ex - alt - ed on his throne,  
3. All men in Zi - on shall de - clare  
4. The earth and heav'ns shall pass a - way,  
5. You, O Je - ho - vah, shall en - dure,  
and saved his peo - ple in dis - tress;  
looked down from heav'n with pity - ing eye  
his gra - cious name with one ac - cord,  
like ves - ture worn and laid a - side,  
9 your throne for - ev - er is the same;  
this to the com - ing age de - clare,  
to still the low - ly cap - tive's moan  
when kings and na - tions gath - er there  
but change - less you shall live al - way,  
and to all gen - er - a - tions sure  
13 that they his ho - ly name may bless.  
and save his peo - ple doomed to die.  
to serve and wor - ship God the Lord.  
your years for - ev - er shall a - bide.  
shall be your great me - mo - rial name.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Responsive) *The Nicene Creed*

**Minister:** We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

**Congregation:** of all things visible and invisible.

**Minister:** And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds,

**Congregation:** God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

**Minister:** begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

**Congregation:** by whom all things were made;

**Minister:** who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;

**Congregation:** and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried;

**Minister:** and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

**Congregation:** and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

**Minister:** And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

**Congregation:** who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

**Minister:** who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets;

**Congregation:** and we believe in one holy catholic\*\* and apostolic Church;

**Minister:** we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

**Congregation:** and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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*

**WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS** (Choir)

**\*DOXOLOGY** (Unison)

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Deacon

**SERMON** *Momentary Affliction, Eternal Glory* Dr. John Clayton  
Psalm 102 (Pew Bible, 501-502)

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
Trinity Hymnal, 629

**\*PASTORAL BENEDICTION** (Responsive) Based on 2 Samuel 2:8;  
Psalm 37:28, 34, 40

**Minister:** *The Lord raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. May he deliver you, exalt you, and preserve you forever.*

**Congregation:** *Thanks be to God! Amen.*

**POSTLUDE** Fort Smith Firefighters Pipe and Drum Corps

\* = Please stand if able.

\*\*The word "catholic" means universal.

## Sermon Notes

*Momentary Affliction, Eternal Glory*  
Psalm 102 (Pew Bible, 501-502)

### I. Introduction

### II. Pleading for Mercy

### III. Praying for Provision

### IV. Praising Forever

## 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.

**Nursery:** We now have a nursery available starting at 9:00 a.m. for Sunday School and the worship service for children ages birth to 3 years old.

**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. According to the Shorter Catechism, the means of grace include "the word, sacraments, and prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for salvation" (WSC Q. 88). Join us next Sunday at 9:30 a.m. as we continue our study on the canon of Scripture.

**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](mailto: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>.

**Volunteers Needed:** Each Sunday morning as we gather in worship, volunteers serve us in worship by running our video slides and soundboard. We all benefit from this service. Out of gratitude to current volunteers and to the benefit of our fellow-members, we need more volunteers. As of today, we need a minimum of five. To be clear, no specific experience is necessary, even on the soundboard. So, please consider serving the church by volunteering today. Please contact Brandon Bolin at [bbolin@cpdfs.org](mailto:bbolin@cpdfs.org) or call (479) 242-7737.

**Parish Groups:** Our Parish Groups will meet today. Check with your parish leader for time and location.

**Covenant Game Night:** Game Night is Saturday, March 25th from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. To reserve your spot, please contact Marian Henry at 918-728-5844 so she can coordinate the food.

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS IS COMING the mornings of June 12th-14th for K-5th grades. We need lots of volunteers to make it happen. Sign up to volunteer at the back of the sanctuary. Children older than 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to volunteer.

### Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – March 12th: \$5,092

Designated giving: \$50

Total giving: \$5,142

General fund giving (YTD): \$113,481

Designated giving (YTD): \$440

Total giving (YTD): \$113,921

### Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – [jclayton@cpdfs.org](mailto:jclayton@cpdfs.org)  
Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – [bbolin@cpdfs.org](mailto:bbolin@cpdfs.org)  
Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – [sclayton@cpdfs.org](mailto:sclayton@cpdfs.org)

Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) \* 120 N 9<sup>th</sup> Fort Smith, AR 72901

Office (479) 242-PRES

[www.cpdfs.org](http://www.cpdfs.org)

## Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



## Lord's Day, March 19, 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