



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 31st, 2019

We are a gospel-centered church of theological depth,
intimate relationships, joyous worship, relentless evangelism,
and sacrificial service.

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without
wavering, for he who promised is
faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one
another to love and good works, not neglecting
to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another, and all the more
as you see the Day drawing near.*

- Hebrews 10:23-25

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

Welcome & Information

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith! We are glad 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. 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.

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.

Giving: We give as an act of worship. We give because God first gave to us (1 John 4:10-11). We are to give freely, sacrificially, and abundantly. We encourage you to give during our offertory today as an act of worship of our Almighty God.

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.

Covenant Email List: Please subscribe to our Covenant email list for church information and announcements. <https://tinyletter.com/cpcfs>

Covenant Church App: Available on Apple and Android devices, download the MyChurchApp, and search for **Covenant Presbyterian Church Fort Smith**.

WEEKLY GIVING SUMMARY

General fund giving – March 24th: \$2,479
Designated giving: \$202
Total giving: \$2,681

General fund giving (year-to-date): \$93,289
Designated giving (year-to-date): \$2,139
Total giving: \$95,428

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

Lord's Day, March 31st, 2019

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

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Striking of the Hour

Greeting

***Call to Worship¹** (Responsive)

Psalm 135:1-6, 13-14²

Let us worship God.

Minister: *Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God! Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!*

Congregation: *For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.*

Minister: *For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.*

Congregation: *Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.*

Minister: *Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.*

Congregation: *For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.*

* = Please stand if able.

¹We believe that God always initiates with sinners, so we begin worship with His invitation and command to us to gather in His name.

²The Bible is the means by which God, by the power of the Holy Spirit reveals Himself to His people. We respond to His grace by praising Him through praying, singing, reading, and preaching the Bible.

***Song of Ascent (Unison)**

*Psalm 150*³

1. O hal - le - lu - jah! Praise the Lord! Praise God with-in his sa - cred courts! Hal - le -
2. Praise God whose maj - es - ty a - bounds! O praise him with the trum - pet sound! Hal - le -
3. With sound - ing cym - bals praise the Lord! With clash - ing cym - bals praise a - loud! Hal - le -

5
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise, praise him in his heav'n - ly height! Praise,
lu - jah! Ha - le - lu - jah! Praise God with lute and harp and strings, with
9
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Let all that breathes now praise the Lord! O
praise him for his deeds of might! O ___ praise him, O ___ praise him! Hal - le -
dance and pipe and tam - bour - ine! O ___ praise him, O ___ praise him! Hal - le -
13
praise the Lord for - ev - er - more! O ___ praise him, O ___ praise him! Hal - le -
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Scripture Reading⁴ (Elder)

Jeremiah 17:9-10
1 Corinthians 2:9-12

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn of Praise (Unison)**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Trinity Hymnal, 38

* = Please stand if able.

³Praise is the dominant theme of the final psalm. There are thirteen commands to praise the Lord in the six verses that make up the psalm. As we sing, we are proclaiming that we are to praise God with all that we are and with all that we have through worship, because of who he is and what he has done.

⁴The Word of God is sharper than a double-edged sword. When the Word goes out it will not return empty. The Word of God remains forever. Therefore, we read God's Word that God may be glorified and that we may be strengthened as His people.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation (Elder)

Gloria Patri (Choir)

Confession of Sin (Unison)⁵

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)⁶

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.

⁵The Bible teaches us to confess our sin to one another. Here, having heard the warning and way of salvation, with the help of the Spirit we corporately confess our sins and our need for the mercy of the Father, which comes only through Jesus Christ.

⁶God has not left us, His people, to wallow in our sin, so we announce and hear the wonderful promises of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

***Hymn of Rejoicing (Unison)**

Holy Spirit

1. Ho-ly Spir-it, Liv-ing Breath of God, breathe new life in-to my will-ing soul.
2. Ho-ly Spir-it, come a-bide with-in; may Your joy be seen in all I do.
3. Ho-ly Spir-it, from cre-a-tion's birth, giv-ing life to all that God has made.

5
Bring the pres-ence of the Ris-en Lord, to re-new my heart and make me whole.
Love e-nough to cov-er ev-'ry sin in each thought and deed and at-ti-tude.
Show Your pow-er once a-gain on earth; cause Your church to hun-ger for Your ways.

9
Cause Your Word to come a-live in-me; give me grace for what I can-not see;
Kind-ness to the great-est and the least; gen-tle-ness that sows the path of peace.
Let the fra-grance of our prayers a-rise; lead us on the road of sac-ri-fice,

13
give me pas-sion for Your pur-i-ty; Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe new life in me.
Turn my stri-vings in-to works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.
that in un-i-ty the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

Based on the Athanasian Creed

Minister: Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

Congregation: We believe and trust in him.

Minister: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

Congregation: We believe and trust in him.

Minister: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

Congregation: We believe and trust in him.

Minister: This is the faith of the Church.

Congregation: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

* = Please stand if able.

Pastoral Prayer of Intercession & 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 & Offerings⁷ Cello Suite No. 6, Mvmt. 4: Sarabande

***The Doxology (Unison)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

* = Please stand if able.

⁷Music by J. S. Bach; Patrick Bellah, cellist.

Sermon

Eyes to See and a Tongue to Speak
Matthew 12:22-37 (Pew Bible, 817)

***Hymn of Response (Unison)**

Benediction
Trinity Hymnal, 730

Pastoral Benediction⁸

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

Who Is On the Lord's Side?

* = Please stand if able.

⁸Having proclaimed the glory of God, having confessed our dependence on Him, having sat under the authority of God's Word, we receive God's blessing that we may walk in faith in holiness. Just as God has the first word in worship, He also has the last word. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing. We look up and extend our hands out in a posture of receiving the blessing of God.

NOTES

Eyes to See and a Tongue to Speak
Matthew 12:22-37 (Pew Bible, 817)

I. Introduction

II. Visible Evidence

III. Veracious Void

IV. Verbal Blasphemy

Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons." Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers!

How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

- Matthew 12:22-37

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Short-term Mission Trip Inquiry: We are currently considering a possible short-term mission trip to Costa Rica later this year. While we do not have many details at this time, we would like to hear from any church member who might be interested in this mission trip. Please contact the church office or email info@cpcfs.org.

New On-line Class: From the days of the early church, Christians have wrestled with the relationship between the law and the gospel. Since salvation is by grace and the law cannot save, what relevance does the law have for Christians today? In this course, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson sheds light on this issue by showing that the antidote to both legalism and antinomianism is one and the same: the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ, in Whom we are simultaneously justified by faith, freed for good works, and assured of salvation. For the link to this study, please email info@cpcfs.org.

Covenant Photo Directory: Our photo directories are now available in Sunday School or in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Please limit one per family for church members.

Spring Fellowship Luncheon: Mark your calendar for our Spring Fellowship Luncheon following the service on April 28th. More details to follow.

Nursery Workers:

March 31

Church Service – Karen Fleming & Jeanne Wright

April 7

Church Service – Becky Horne & Teresa Parker

April 14

Church Service – Angel Hartman & Rebekah Krehbiel

April 21

Church Service – Lindsay Glover & Sydney Clayton

Staff

Reverend Dr. John Clayton, Minister

Reverend Jason Glover, Asst. Minister of Chaplain Ministry

Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media

Nancy Krehbiel, Director of Women's Ministry, ESL, and Caregiving

Session

Steve Clark, Ruling Elder
John Clayton, Teaching Elder
Jon Hendrickson, Ruling Elder
Mike Hudson, Ruling Elder
Greg Magness, Ruling Elder

Diaconate

Roger Ayers, Deacon
Greg Bailey, Deacon
Blain Blaylock, Deacon
Greg Hartman, Deacon
Justin Home, Deacon
Brian Maurer, Deacon
Steve Rowland, Deacon
Drake Smith, Deacon