

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

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Minister)

Based on 1 Peter 1:3-4

Minister: According to God’s great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. In this rejoice and give thanks to Almighty God.

*SONG OF ASCENT (Unison)

I Sing the Almighty Power of God
Trinity Hymnal, 119

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruling Elder

Genesis 1:11-19, 8:22
James 4:13-16

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Trinity Hymnal, 32

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 25:6-7

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison)

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*HYMN OF REJOICING (Unison)

Amazing Grace
Trinity Hymnal, 460 vs. 1-4

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

* = 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

*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deacon

SERMON

What Is Your Life?
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 (Pew Bible, 553)

Dr. John Clayton

*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)

Take My Life, and Let It Be
Trinity Hymnal, 585 vs. 1, 3, 5, 6

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION (Responsive)

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

How Great Thou Art

Sermon Notes

What is Your Life?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 (Pew Bible, 553)

I. Introduction

II. Life Is Short

III. Life Is Ordinary

IV. Life Is Constant

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. 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.

Prayer Ministry: If you have a prayer request that you would like the church to pray for, you can send your request to pray@cpafs.org. If you would like to receive the prayer email, please go to <https://tinyletter.com/cpafs-prays>.

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.

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 four more volunteers. 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@cpafs.org or call (479) 242-7737.

VBS June 19th-21st: Parents, VBS child registration begins soon. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help. In addition to these volunteers, we will also need volunteers for set up on Sunday, June 18th. If you have any questions regarding VBS, please contact Liddia Bourlon.

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).

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – April 23rd: \$4,591

Designated giving: \$0

Total giving: \$4,591

General fund giving (YTD): \$157,219

Designated giving (YTD): \$850

Total giving (YTD): \$158,069

Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – jclayton@cpafs.org

Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – bbolin@cpafs.org

Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – scclayton@cpafs.org

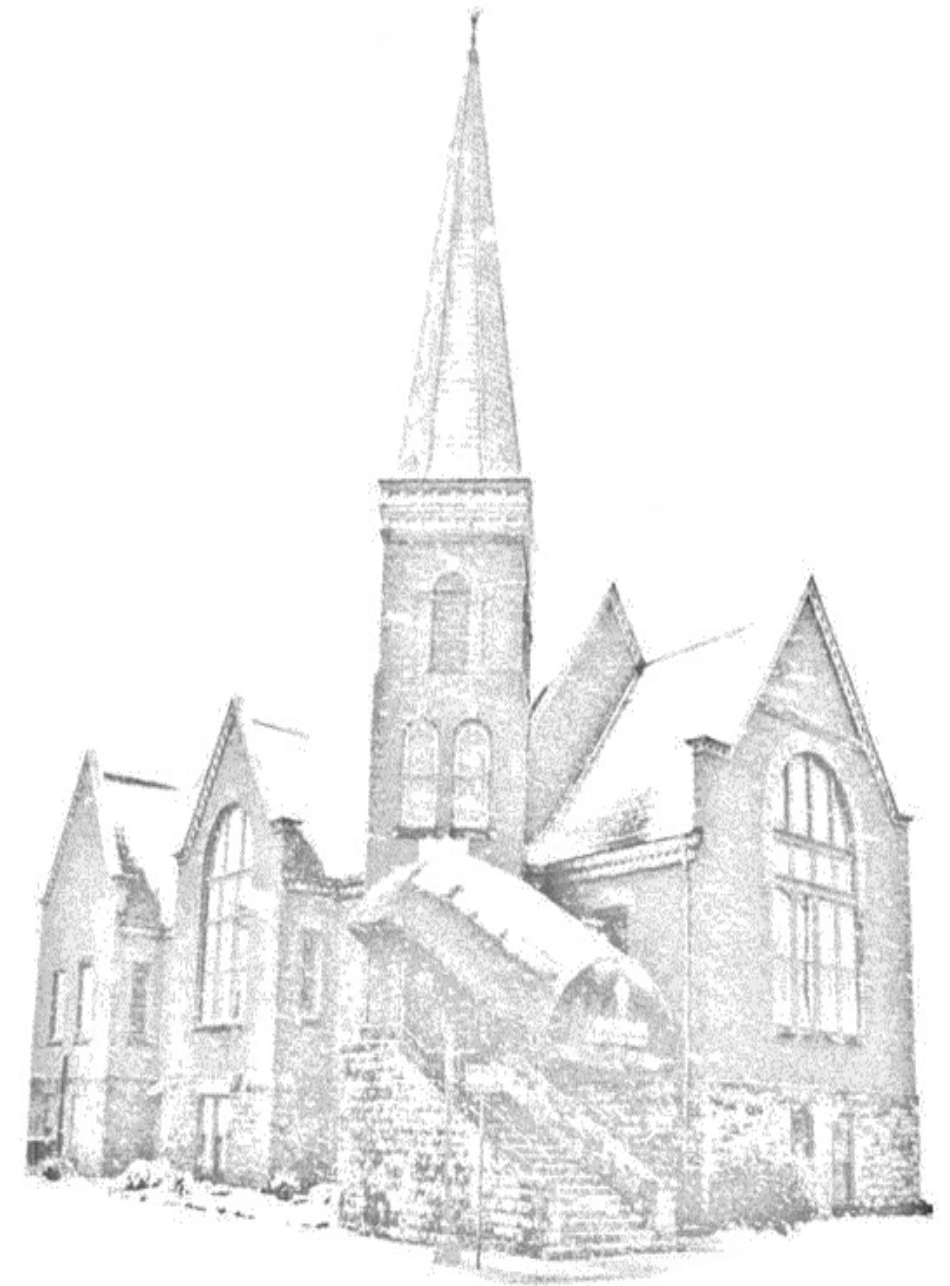
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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, April 30, 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