

# 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** *Be Thou My Vision*

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Based on 1 Timothy 3:16

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: The Lord Jesus was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. People of Zion, worship the risen, reigning Christ!

**\*SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*  
Trinity Hymnal, 53 vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ruling Elder

*Genesis 3:17-19*  
*Luke 12:13-21*

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

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *Psalm 49 (vs. 1-4, 16-20)*

1. Hear this, all you peo - ples; lis - ten, all who in the  
2. Do not quake be - fore a rich man, though he has much  
3. Though men praise you when you pros - per, when you for your -

whole world dwell. Low and high, both rich and need - y,  
wealth in store, glo - ry of his dwell - ing  
self do well, yet to fa - thers gone be - fore him

hear the mes - sage I will tell. From my heart comes  
still in creas - es and more and more. When he dies, he'll  
he will go and with them dwell. He will nev - er

un - der - stand - ing, I speak wis - dom from my mouth. I will lis - ten  
car - ry noth - ing; glo - ry won't with him des - cend, though he counts him -  
see the sun - light, ne'er a gain see light of day. Those with wealth and

to a pro - verb; mys - t'ries on my harp ex - pound.  
self as bless - ed while on earth his days he spends.  
no dis - cern - ment like the beasts will pass a - way.

**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 51:3-4

*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Unison) 1 John 1:9

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**\*HYMN OF REJOICING** (Unison) *Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ*  
Trinity Hymnal, 524

**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 THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

## 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** *Why Work?* Dr. John Clayton  
Ecclesiastes 2:18-26 (Pew Bible, 554)

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *All Glory Be to Christ*

1. Should noth - ing of our ef - forts stand, no leg - a - cy sur - vive; un -  
2. His will be done, His king - dom come, on earth as is a - bove, who  
3. When on the day the great I Am, the faith - ful and the true, the

less the Lord does raise the house, in vain its build - ers strive. To you who boast to -  
is Him - self our dai - ly bread; praise Him, the Lord of love. Let liv - ing wa - ter  
Lamb who was for sin - ners slain, is mak - ing all things new. Be - hold our God shall

mor - row's gain, tell me what is your life? A mist that van - ish - es at dawn; all  
sat - is - fy the thirst - y with - out price; we'll take a cup of kind - ness yet; all  
live with us and be our stead - fast light. And we shall e'er His peo - ple be; all

glo - ry be to Christ. All glo - ry be to Christ our king! All glo - ry be to  
glo - ry be to Christ. All glo - ry be to Christ our king! All glo - ry be to  
glo - ry be to Christ. All glo - ry be to Christ our king! All glo - ry be to

Christ! His rule and reign we'll ev - er sing, all glo - ry be to Christ!  
Christ! His rule and reign we'll ev - er sing, all glo - ry be to Christ.  
Christ! His rule and reign we'll ev - er sing, all glo - ry be to Christ!

**\*PASTORAL BENEDICTION** (Minister) Jude 1:20-21

*May the Lord build up your most holy faith and prayer, in the love of God, as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.*

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

**POSTLUDE** *All Glory Be to Christ*

\* = 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.

# Sermon Notes

## Why Work?

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26 (Pew Bible, 554)

### I. Introduction

### II. Why do we work?

### III. For whom do we work?

### IV. How should we work?

# 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.

**Nursery:** Our nursery is available for children up to three years old during Sunday School and the worship service.

**Prayer Ministry:** If you have a prayer request, please send your request to [pray@cpdfs.org](mailto:pray@cpdfs.org). If you would like to receive the prayer email, please go to <https://tinyletter.com/cpdfs-prays>.

**Sunday School Series:** In the Reformed tradition, we believe that God has chosen to work through outward and ordinary means of grace whereby we hear the gospel and are 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:** Volunteers are needed to run sound, slides, or the livestream on Sunday mornings. No experience is necessary. Please email Brandon at [bbolin@cpdfs.org](mailto:bbolin@cpdfs.org) or call the church office (479-242-7737) for more information.

**VBS June 19th-21st:** Parents, VBS child registration forms are on the foyer table. 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.

**Covenant Game Night:** Our next Game Night is Saturday, May 28th 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.

**Pray for the PCA:** Today, May 21, 2023, has been set aside as a Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for the PCA to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Convocation of Sessions held in Atlanta on May 18, 1973, marking one of the significant initial steps that led to the formation of the PCA in December of the same year. Let us join PCA churches across the country today in offering praise for Christ's enduring Church and thanksgiving for the foundations, rooted in God's faithfulness. A bulletin insert is provided to guide your praise and thanksgiving today in leading up to our General Assembly in June.

## Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – May 14th: \$6,974

Designated giving: \$0

Total giving: \$6,974

General fund giving (YTD): \$198,566

Designated giving (YTD): \$900

Total giving (YTD): \$199,466

## Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – [jjclayton@cpdfs.org](mailto:jjclayton@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)

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# Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



## Ascension Sunday, May 21, 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