

# 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 Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Based on Psalm 149:4-5, 6, 9

**Minister:** *The Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy, let the high praises of God be in their throats. Praise the Lord!*

**\*SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul (Ps. 146)*  
Trinity Hymnal, 57 vs. 1, 2, 4

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ruling Elder

*Job 11:7-8*  
*Matthew 11:25-26*

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

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *O Father, You Are Sovereign*  
Trinity Hymnal, 75

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION** Ruling Elder

**GLORIA PATRI** (Unison) Trinity Hymnal, 734

**CONFESSION OF SIN** (Unison) Daniel 9:18b-19a

*For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive.*

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Unison) Romans 5:8-9

*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*

**\*HYMN OF REJOICING** (Unison)

*Blessed Assurance*  
Trinity Hymnal, 693

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION** Minister

**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)  
*Lord, My Weak Thought in Vain Would Climb*

**\*DOXOLOGY** (Unison)

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Deacon

**SERMON** *Life Is Beautiful* Dr. John Clayton  
Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10 (Pew Bible, 557-558)

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION** *God Moves in a Mysterious Way* vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way, his  
2. Ye fear - ful saints fresh cour - age take, the  
3. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but  
4. His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, un -  
5. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, and

won - ders to per - form. He plants his foot - steps on the  
clouds you so much dread, are big with mer - cy, and shall  
trust him for his grace. Be - hind a frown - ing prov - i -  
fold - ing ev - 'ry hour. The bud may have a bit - ter -  
scan his work in vain. God is his own in - ter - pre -

— sea, and rides up - on the storm. He plants his foot - steps  
— break, with bless - ings on your head, are filled with mer - cy  
— dence, he hides a smil - ing face, be - hind a frown - ing  
— taste, but sweet will be the flow'r. The bud may have a  
— ter, and he will make it plain. God is his own in -

on the sea, and rides up - on the storm.  
and shall break with bless - ings on your head.  
prov - i - dence he hides a smil - ing face.  
bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.  
ter - pre - ter, and he will make it plain.

## 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.*

**The Sanctus** (Unison)

*Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!*

**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

**\*BENEDICTION** Hebrews 13:20-21

**Congregational Response:** Thanks be to God! Amen

**POSTLUDE** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

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

# Sermon Notes

*Life Is Beautiful*

Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:10 (Pew Bible, 557-558)

## I. Introduction

## II. The Deep Things of God

## III. The Sad Reality of Death

## IV. The Happy Pleasures of God

# 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, celebration of the sacraments, 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 Volunteer:** We need a volunteer to teach our 1st and 2nd graders in Sunday School. If you would be interested in teaching or being on a rotation to teach, please call the church office.

**Membership:** The Session will be conducting membership interviews on Sunday mornings in August and September. If you are interested in becoming a member, please first watch our Membership Matters videos (<https://cpcfs.org/intimate-relationships/membership/membership-matters>) and then call the church office to schedule your interview.

**Fall Bible Studies:** This fall we will not be holding weekly bible studies on campus or in individual homes. We are however encouraging everyone interested to take part in Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), beginning in early September. This semester, men's and women's classes will be studying the Gospel of John. You may sign-up at <https://join.bsfindernational.org/>.

**Disaster Relief for Maui:** The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) has five congregations in Hawaii who are working together to provide relief to Maui. Although outside volunteers are discouraged at this time, financial gifts are needed. Please write "Maui" on the outside of your giving envelope.

**Music Ministry:** Choir practice will resume on September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and the handbell choir will begin practicing on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

## Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – August 27th: \$2,788	General fund giving (YTD): \$339,196
Designated giving: \$200	Designated giving (YTD): \$1,550
Total giving: \$2,988	Total giving (YTD): \$340,746

## Ministry Staff

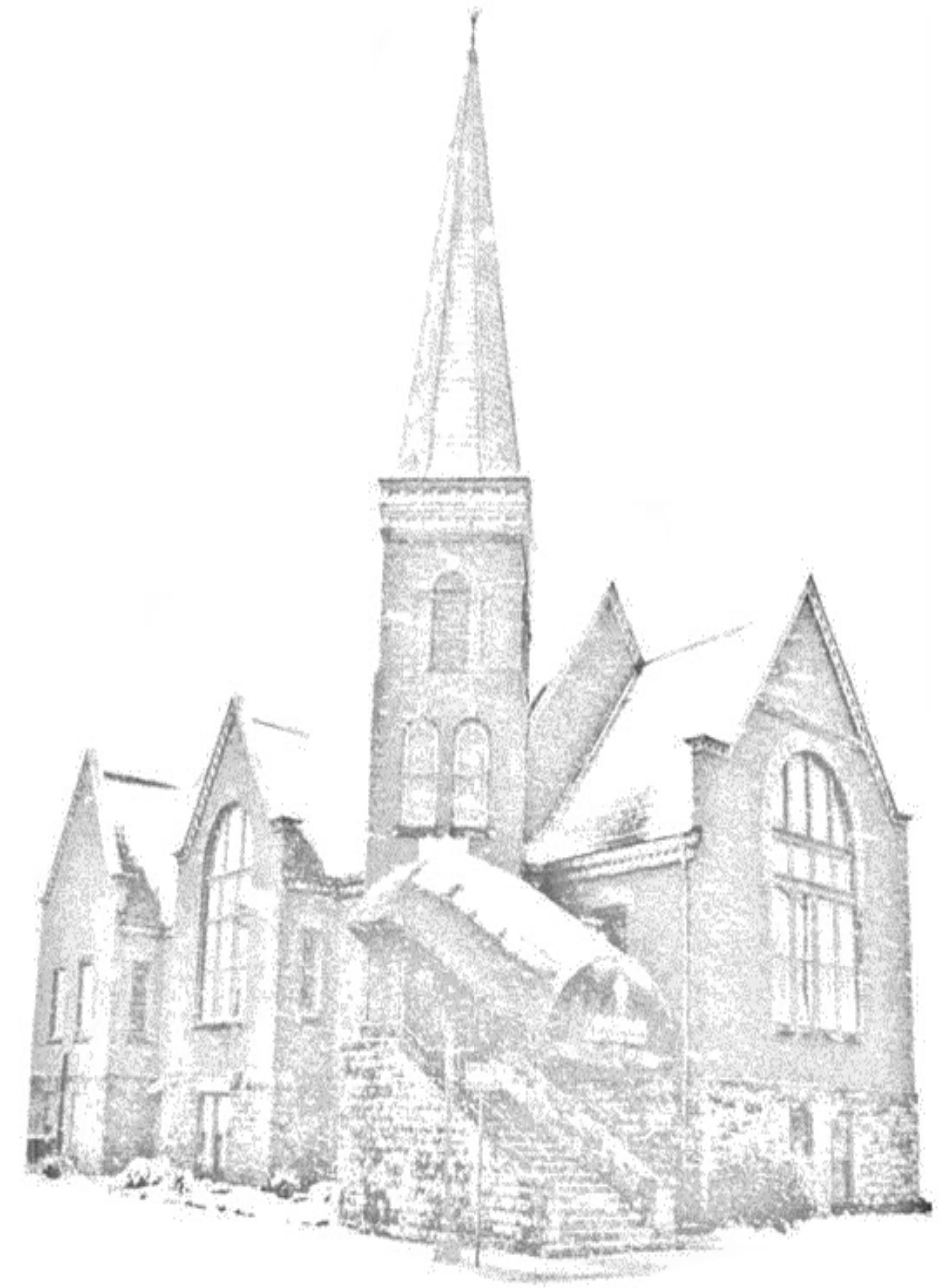
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# Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



## Lord's Day, September 3, 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