

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 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Elder) Isaiah 60:1-3, 19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
Trinity Hymnal, 194 vs. 1, 3, 4, 5

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

Psalm 146
Romans 15:13

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *Psalm 89*

1. Of God's love I'll sing for - ev - er, To each age Your faith - ful - ness.
2. I'll keep love for him for - ev - er, My oath to him will not fail.
3. I'll main - tain My faith - ful prom - ise. I'll not break my cov - e - nant,

I'll de - clare Your love's for - ev - er, Found - ed in the word from heav'n:
I'll his line es - tab - lish al - ways, And his throne for - ev - er - more.
Nor take back the words I've ut - tered. This I've pledged in hol - i - ness;

"With my Cho - sen I've made cov' - nant, To my __ ser - vant Da - vid sworn:
If his sons for - sake my __ teach - ing, Break My __ laws, com - mands, and rules,
And I'll not be false to __ Da - vid. Like the __ sun his line will last;

I'll your line con - firm for - ev - er, To each age build up your throne."
I'll their sins se - vere - ly pun - ish, But not take my love from him.
Like the moon his throne be - fore Me; Heav - en's wit - ness faith - ful stands.

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) *On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing*
Trinity Hymnal, 227

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.

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 *A Seed of Hope* Aaron Raines
Genesis 3:1-15 (Pew Bible, 2-3)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*
Trinity Hymnal, 311 vs. 1-3

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION (Minister)** Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE *Hope of the World*

* = 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).

Sermon Notes

A Seed of Hope
Genesis 3:1-15 (Pew Bible, 2-3)

I. The Snare Prepared

II. The Sin Perpetrated

III. Shalom Polluted

IV. The Seed Promised

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.

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.

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 Advent season. Purple represents hope, expectation, confidence, and anticipation. During Advent, we are reminded of the significance of the threefold advent of Christ in His incarnation, His dwelling in our hearts by His Spirit, and His glorious return at the last day.

Advent: In this first Sunday of Advent, our theme is hope. At the beginning of our worship service the first candle will be lit, which is purple, also known as the prophet's Candle, representing Christ's royalty and the sinner's repentance. As the candle is lit, we are to be reminded that the coming of Christ was indeed foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament hundreds of years before the incarnation of Christ.

Guest Preacher: Our guest preacher today is Aaron Raines from Christ Church of Bentonville (PCA), where he currently serves as a Ruling Elder and ministry intern. Aaron and his wife Bonnie have been married for 13 years and have three daughters, Campbell, Anastasia, and Zoe. Aaron and Bonnie have served the local church in a variety of capacities for over 10 years.

Adult Sunday School Series: Please join us in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for our series, *Proverbs: Words of Wisdom*, a topical study of select proverbs.

Women's Evening Bible Study: The monthly evening study will be Thursday, December 2nd in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm. We're using *Alive in Him: How Being Embraced by the Love of Christ Changes Everything* by Gloria Furman.

Parish Group Gatherings: Our Nov/Dec Parish Groups will meet Sunday evening, December 5th. Check with your parish leader for more information.

Women In the Church Christmas Fellowship: Please mark your calendars for a Women's Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 9th. We will meet at Susan Haines' house at 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Please bring a savory or sweet to share. Contact Rebecca Garrett with any questions, (479) 719-2203.

Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – jclayton@cpcfs.org
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Covenant Presbyterian Church Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, November 28, 2021

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