

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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

THE LIGHTING OF THE HOPE CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Minister)** 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)** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
Trinity Hymnal, 196 vs. 1, 3, 4

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

Isaiah 40:27-31
Hebrews 6:10-12

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)** *Psalm 121*

1. To the hills I lift my eyes;— whence shall help for me a - rise?
2. Thy pro - tec - tor is the Lord, shade for thee he will af - ford.

5 From the Lord shall come my aid, — who the heav'n and earth has made.
Nei - ther sun nor moon shall smite; — God shall guard by day and night.

9 He will guide through dan - gers all, — will not suf - fer thee to fall. —
He will ev - er keep thy soul; — what would harm he will con - trol. —

13 He who safe his peo - ple keeps, slum - bers not and nev - er sleeps;
In the home and by the way he will — keep thee day by day;

17 he who safe his peo - ple keeps, slum - bers not and nev - er sleeps.
in the home and by the way he will — keep thee day by day.

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 51:1-2

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison) 2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

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 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*

SERMON *The Grace of God in Truth* Dr. John Clayton
Colossians 1:3-6 (Pew Bible, 983)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)** *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*
Trinity Hymnal, 521 vs. 1, 3, 4

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION (Minister)** Based on Philippians 4:7

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 *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

* = 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

The Grace of God in Truth
Colossians 1:3-6 (Pew Bible, 983)

I. Introduction

II. Thanksgiving to God

III. Faith in Christ

IV. Love for the Church

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.

Worship Service COVID-19 Protocol: Face masks will be required for the entirety of the service, including while sitting, standing, and singing. Face masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be provided in the foyer as you enter the church sanctuary, and seating will continue to be available on every other row, for proper distancing. At the conclusion of the service, we will dismiss by row.

As the coronavirus is spread primarily by airborne transmission and can be spread unknowingly by asymptomatic carriers, we encourage you to enjoy fellowshiping with one another outside after the worship service rather than inside the church sanctuary.

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.

Women's Bible Study: The Wednesday morning Bible study will meet for the last time this semester on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (In person and online). Contact Nancy for zoom login information. We will be covering the last two chapters.

Women's Evening Bible Study: Please join us Tuesday, November 3rd, for our next evening study at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and online via Zoom. We will be covering chapters 5 and 6.

Children's Catechism Club: Calling all children ages 4 years old to 6th grade! If you are interested in joining the fun, contact Angel Hartman or the church office. We are learning and memorizing the *First Catechism* and the *Shorter Catechism* this semester.

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – November 22nd: \$13,114	General fund giving (YTD): \$379,400
Designated giving: \$0	Designated giving (YTD): \$4,470
Total giving: \$13,114	Total giving (YTD): \$383,870

Ministry Staff

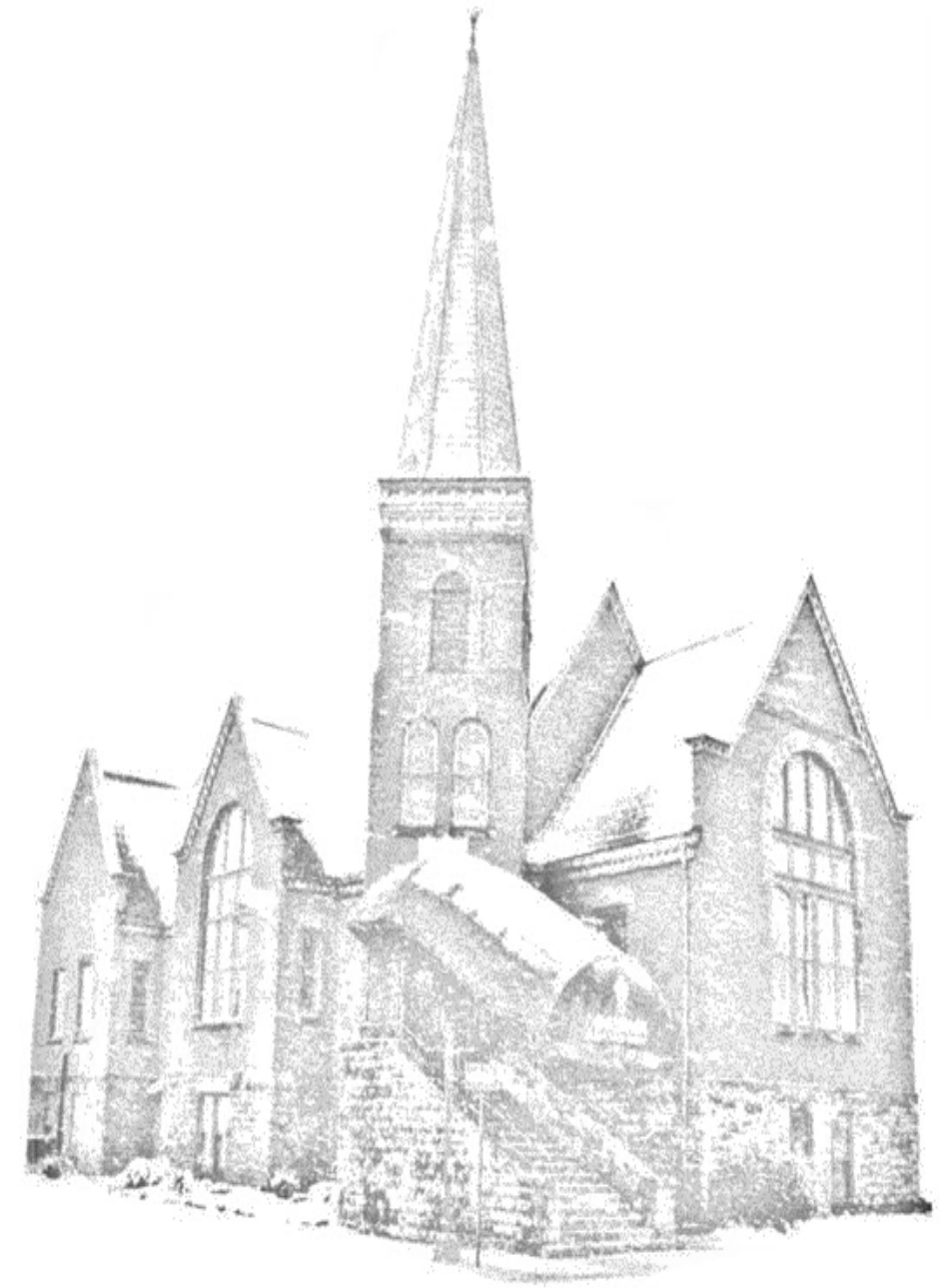
Dr. John Clayton, Minister – jclayton@cpdfs.org
Rev. Jason Glover, Asst. Minister of Chaplain Ministry
Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – bbolin@cpdfs.org
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Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – sclayton@cpdfs.org

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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, November 29, 2020

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