



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 1st, 2019

We are a gospel-centered church of theological depth,
intimate relationships, joyous worship, relentless evangelism,
and sacrificial service.

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without
wavering, for he who promised is
faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one
another to love and good works, not neglecting
to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another, and all the more
as you see the Day drawing near.*

- Hebrews 10:23-25

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

Welcome & Information

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith! We are glad 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.

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.

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.

Giving: We give as an act of worship. We give because God first gave to us (1 John 4:10-11). We are to give freely, sacrificially, and abundantly. We encourage you to give during our offertory today as an act of worship of our Almighty God.

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.

Covenant Email List: Please subscribe to our Covenant email list for church information and announcements. <https://tinyletter.com/cpcfs>

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

First Sunday of Advent

Lord's Day, December 1st, 2019

*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**

Greeting

***Call to Worship (Minister)**

From Psalm 132

Let us worship God.

Minister: *The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine."*

* = Please stand if able.

** = The first candle is the candle of Hope and is purple in color. Also known as the Prophet's Candle, the first purple candle represents 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.

***Song of Ascent (Unison)**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Trinity Hymnal, 194 vs. 1, 3, 4

Scripture Reading

Ruling Elder Mike Hudson

Psalm 13
2 Peter 3:8-13

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

***Hymn of Praise (Unison)**

Psalm 13

1. How long wilt thou for - get me, O Lord, thou God of grace? How
2. O Lord my God, be - hold me, and hear my ear - nest cries; lest
3. But I with ex - pec - ta - tion have on thy grace re - lied; my
5 long shall fears be - set me, while dark - ness hides thy face? How
sleep of death en - fold me, en - light - en thou mine eyes; lest
9 heart in thy sal - va - tion shall still with joy con - fide; and
long shall griefs dis - tress me and turn my day to night? How
now my foe in - sult - ing should boast of his suc - cess, and
13 I with voice of sing - ing will praise the Lord a - bove, who,
long shall foes op - press me and tri - umph in their might?
en - e - mies ex - ult - ing re - joice in my dis - tress.
rich - est boun - ties bring - ing, hast dealt with me in love.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Ruling Elder Mike Hudson

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)

Ezra 9:6

*O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our
iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the
heavens.*

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon (Unison)

Romans 8:1-2

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For
the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin
and death.*

***Hymn of Rejoicing (Unison)**

The Apostles' Creed

1. I be - lieve in God the Fa - ther, Ma - ker of the heav'n and earth, and in
2. Suf - fered un - der Pon - tius Pi - late, cru - ci - fied, en - dur - ing hell, laid with -
3. At God's right hand he is seat - ed, 'til his com - ing, as he said; fin - al
5 4. I be - lieve the church of Je - sus ho - ly, cath - o - lic re - mains; we are
Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior, God's own Son, of match - less worth; by the
in the grave so si - lent, as the proph - ets did fore - tell. But the
judg - ment will be met - ed to the liv - ing and the dead. I con -
9 one thro' all the ag - es, the com - mun - ion of the saints. I be -
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ed, vir - gin Mar - y bore God's Son, he in
stone - sealed tomb was emp - tied on the third day; he a - rose: in - to
fess the Ho - ly Spir - it has been sent thro' Christ the Son to ap -
13 lieve sins are for - giv - en, that our bod - ies will be raised, life with
whom I have be - liev - ed: God Al - might - y, Three in One.
heav - en made his en - try, Might - y Con - queror of his foes.
ply sal - va - tion's mer - it; God the Spir - it, Three in One.
God is nev - er end - ed. A - men, let his name be praised.

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*

* = Please stand if able.

Worship with Tithes & Offering

Long-Awaited One

Words and Music by Nicole Elsey

Arranged by Douglas Nolan

***The Doxology (Unison)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Deacon Drake Smith

Sermon

Hope: Believing God
2 Kings 9:1-13 (Pew Bible, 315)

Dr. John Clayton

Hymn of Preparation

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Trinity Hymnal, 196 vs. 1, 3, 4

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Instruction

Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn of Response (Unison)**

Benediction
Trinity Hymnal, 730

Pastoral Benediction

Hebrews 13:20-21

Minister: *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.*

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

NOTES

Hope: Believing God

2 Kings 9:1-13 (Pew Bible, 315)

I. Introduction

II. Hope Is Not Temporal

III. Hope Is Not Circumstantial

IV. Hope Is Believing God

Then Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets and said to him, "Tie up your garments, and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead. And when you arrive, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. And go in and have him rise from among his fellows, and lead him to an inner chamber. Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head and say, 'Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.' Then open the door and flee; do not linger."

So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead. And when he came, behold, the commanders of the army were in council. And he said, "I have a word for you, O commander." And Jehu said, "To which of us all?" And he said, "To you, O commander." So he arose and went into the house. And the young man poured the oil on his head, saying to him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, I anoint you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel. And you shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, so that I may avenge on Jezebel the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and I will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel. And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her." Then he opened the door and fled.

When Jehu came out to the servants of his master, they said to him, "Is all well? Why did this mad fellow come to you?" And he said to them, "You know the fellow and his talk." And they said, "That is not true; tell us now." And he said, "Thus and so he spoke to me, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.'" Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, "Jehu is king."

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Advent: Advent is a four week period in which the Church, rejoicing in Christ's first coming, eagerly looks forward to Christ's coming again. Beginning with the Sunday nearest November 30 and ending on the day before Christmas, the season is observed for the four Sundays prior to Christmas.

We observe Advent using an Advent Wreath. Specific candles are lit at the beginning of every worship service during Advent. More information is available within this bulletin.

Women's Evening Bible Study: Women, please join us and invite your friends for our book study on *Made for More* by Hannah Anderson. We will meet Thursday night, December 5th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall...come early to visit over coffee.

Community Groups: Our Community Groups will meet Sunday night, December 8th, at 5:30 p.m. Community Group locations are: south (Hudson), east (Hendrickson), central (Bailey), and Fellowship Hall (Clayton).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th. Please invite your friends and family to join us on this special evening.

Nursery Workers:

December 1

Church Service – Josie Taylor & Renee Turner

December 8

Church Service – Jill Rowland & Beth Smith

December 15

Church Service – Hannah Bush & Lilly Smith

December 22

Church Service – Nan Hudson & Maddie Burgin

December 29

Church Service – Sydney Clayton & Judy Sagely

Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Minister

Reverend Jason Glover, Asst. Minister of Chaplain Ministry

Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media

Nancy Krehbiel, Director of Women's Ministry, ESL, and Caregiving

Session

John Clayton, Teaching Elder
Greg Bailey, Ruling Elder
Jon Hendrickson, Ruling Elder
Mike Hudson, Ruling Elder
Greg Magness, Ruling Elder

Diaconate

Roger Ayers, Deacon
Bradley Burgin, Deacon
Blain Blaylock, Deacon
Chandler Garrett, Deacon
Jeremy Good, Deacon
Greg Hartman, Deacon
Justin Horne, Deacon
Joshua Lochala, Deacon
Brian Maurer, Deacon
Steve Rowland, Deacon
Drake Smith, Deacon

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