



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 8th, 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.

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.

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>

WEEKLY GIVING SUMMARY

General fund giving – December 1st: \$9,265

Designated giving: \$170

Total giving: \$9,435

General fund giving (year-to-date): \$381,334

Designated giving (year-to-date): \$7,973

Total giving: \$389,307

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

Second Sunday of Advent

Lord's Day, December 8th, 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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Striking of the Hour

****The Lighting of the Love Candle**

Greeting

***Call to Worship (Minister)**

Isaiah 7:14; John 3:16-17

Let us worship God.

Minister: *The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

* = Please stand if able.

** = The second candle is the candle of Love and is purple in color. Also known as the Bethlehem Candle, the second candle is lighted pointing to the Messiah being born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem as foretold by the prophet Micah.

***Song of Ascent (Unison)**

Of the Father's Love Begotten



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac -
4. O ye heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his praise-es

4
be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing
grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our
cord, whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful
sing; all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and

8
he, of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture years shall
race; and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred
word; now he shines, the long - ex - pec - ted; let cre - a - tion praise its
King; let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert

12
see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Scripture Reading

Ruling Elder Greg Bailey

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

James 4:1-4

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn of Praise (Unison)**

Psalm 133

1. How ex - cel - lent a thing it is, how pleas - ant
2. For it is like the pre - cious oil poured out on
3. Like Her - mon's dew, up - on the hill of Zi - on

6
and how good, when broth - ers dwell in u - ni -
Aa - ron's head, that, run - ning o - ver, down his
12
it de - scends. The Lord com - mands his bless - ing

ty and live as broth - ers should!
beard, up - on his col - lar spread.
there the life that nev - er ends.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Ruling Elder Greg Bailey

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 79:9-10a

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon (Unison)

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

***Hymn of Rejoicing (Unison)**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Trinity Hymnal, 229

Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

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

Dr. John Clayton

* = 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).

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 & Offering

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Music: 13th century Plainsong

Arr. by Hal. H. Hopson

***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

Love among Friends
John 15:12-17 (Pew Bible, 902)

Dr. John Clayton

***Hymn of Response (Unison)**

Benediction
Trinity Hymnal, 730

Pastoral Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

Minister: *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

Within a Crib My Savior Lay

NOTES

Love among Friends

John 15:12-17 (Pew Bible, 902)

I. Introduction

II. Sacrifice Demands Obedience

III. Election Produces Fruit

IV. Friendship Enables Love

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

- John 15:12-17

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.

Community Groups: Our Community Groups will meet tonight, at 5:30 p.m. Community Group locations are: south (Leraris), east (Haines), 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 & Lilly Smith

December 15

Church Service – Jill Rowland & Beth 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	Justin Horne, Deacon
Bradley Burgin, Deacon	Joshua Lochala, Deacon
Blain Blaylock, Deacon	Brian Maurer, Deacon
Chandler Garrett, Deacon	Steve Rowland, Deacon
Jeremy Good, Deacon	Drake Smith, Deacon
Greg Hartman, Deacon	

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