

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 *Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

THE LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Based on Zechariah 9:9-10, 17

Minister: *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he. His rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. How great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty!*

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*
Trinity Hymnal, 207

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

Psalm 30:1-5
1 Peter 1:3-9

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *While by the Sheep We Watched at Night*
Trinity Hymnal, 215

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) *Psalm 30 (verses 1-5, 11-12)*

1. O LORD, I will ex - alt your name for you have res - cued me; you
2. You ho - ly ones, sing to the LORD; sing out with joy - ful voice. When
3. You turned my wail - ing in - to dance; no long - er was I sad. My
5 did not let my foes re - joice and gloat tri - umph - ant - ly. LORD God, in need I
you re - call his ho - ly name, then praise him and re - joice. His an - ger but a
10 sack - cloth gone, you gave me clothes of joy, and I was glad. There - fore my heart will
cried to you and you re - stored my health. O LORD, you brought me from the
mo - ment lasts; life - long his fa - vor stays. Though tears may last through the
15 sing to you and nev - er cease to praise; to your great name, O Lord my
grave, from the grave, and saved my soul from death.
night, through the night, joy comes with mor - ning's rays.
God, LORD my God, I will give thanks al - ways.

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 *With Shouts of Joy* Dr. John Clayton
Psalm 126 (Pew Bible, 517-518)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*
Trinity Hymnal, 195

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION (Minister)** Psalm 67:1-2

May God be gracious to you and bless you and make his face to shine upon you, that his way may be known on earth, his saving power among all nations.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

* = 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).

*** "catholic" refers to the universal church at all times and all places.

Sermon Notes

With Shouts of Joy
Psalm 126 (Pew Bible, 517-518)

I. Introduction

II. Reflect on God's Faithfulness

III. Realize your witness

IV. Rejoice in God's provision

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.

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.

Children & Restrooms: Parents, please accompany your children to the restroom during the worship service.

Self-service Nursery: Parents who wish to attend to their children outside of the worship service will find a nursery room available downstairs, equipped with a changing table, rocking chairs, toys, and an adjustable-volume speaker to listen to the worship service.

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. 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: On this third Sunday of Advent our theme is Joy. At the beginning of our worship service the Shepherd's Candle, the pink candle, is lighted to remind us that the birth of the Messiah was announced to humble shepherds, and that we, straying sheep, must go to our Good Shepherd, believe in Him and tell to others the Good News of salvation.

Parish Groups: Our Parish Groups will meet in December. Please contact your parish leader for date, time, and place.

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

Sunday School Announcement: There will be no children's or adults' Sunday School on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – December 4th: \$6,650
Designated giving: \$40
Total giving: \$9,475

General fund giving (YTD): \$484,435
Designated giving (YTD): \$4,824
Total giving (YTD): \$489,259

Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – jclayton@cpafs.org
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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, December 11, 2022

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