

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

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Minister)** Psalm 98:1-4

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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

SCRIPTURE READING Ruling Elder

Psalm 16:1-11
1 Peter 1:3-9

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)** *Psalm 16*

1. Pre - serve me, O God, for I'm trust - ing in you. "Yes,
2. Those run - ning to i - dols will mul - ti - ply griefs. I
3. The Lord ev - er pres - ent be - fore me I keep. He

5
you are my mas - ter," I said to the Lord; be -
will not pour out their drink of - frings of blood, nor
9 stands at my right hand; I shall not be moved. My

sides you I do not pos - sess an - y good. In
will I con - fess their vain names with my lips. The
13 glo - ry re - joic - es, my heart is made glad; and

your ho - ly mes - sen - gers I take de - light.
Lord's my in - her - it - ed por - tion and cup.
al - so my flesh will live safe - ly at ease.

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) 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)** *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*
Trinity Hymnal, 211 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 *Rejoice in the Lord Always* Dr. John Clayton
Philippians 4:4 (Pew Bible, 982)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*
Trinity Hymnal, 207

***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 *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).

Sermon Notes

Rejoice in the Lord Always
Philippians 4:4 (Pew Bible, 982)

I. Introduction

II. The Source of Joy

III. The Satisfaction of Joy

IV. The Sustainability of Joy

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.

Advent: In this third Sunday of Advent, our theme is joy. The third candle will be lit, which is pink in color representing the joy of Christ in His first coming, His incarnation, and the joyful anticipation of His second coming. Also known as the Shepherds' Candle, the third candle is lit to remind us that the birth of the Messiah was announced to the humble shepherds, and that we, straying sheep, must go to Him, believe in Him and tell others the Good News of salvation.

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.

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.

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.

Christmas Eve Service: Our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service will be online only this year. To provide the widest use for our members, the service has been prerecorded and will be available on our YouTube channel starting at 6:00 a.m. on Christmas Eve.

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – December 6th: \$13,521	General fund giving (YTD): \$397,994
Designated giving: \$1,160	Designated giving (YTD): \$5,650
Total giving: \$14,681	Total giving (YTD): \$403,644

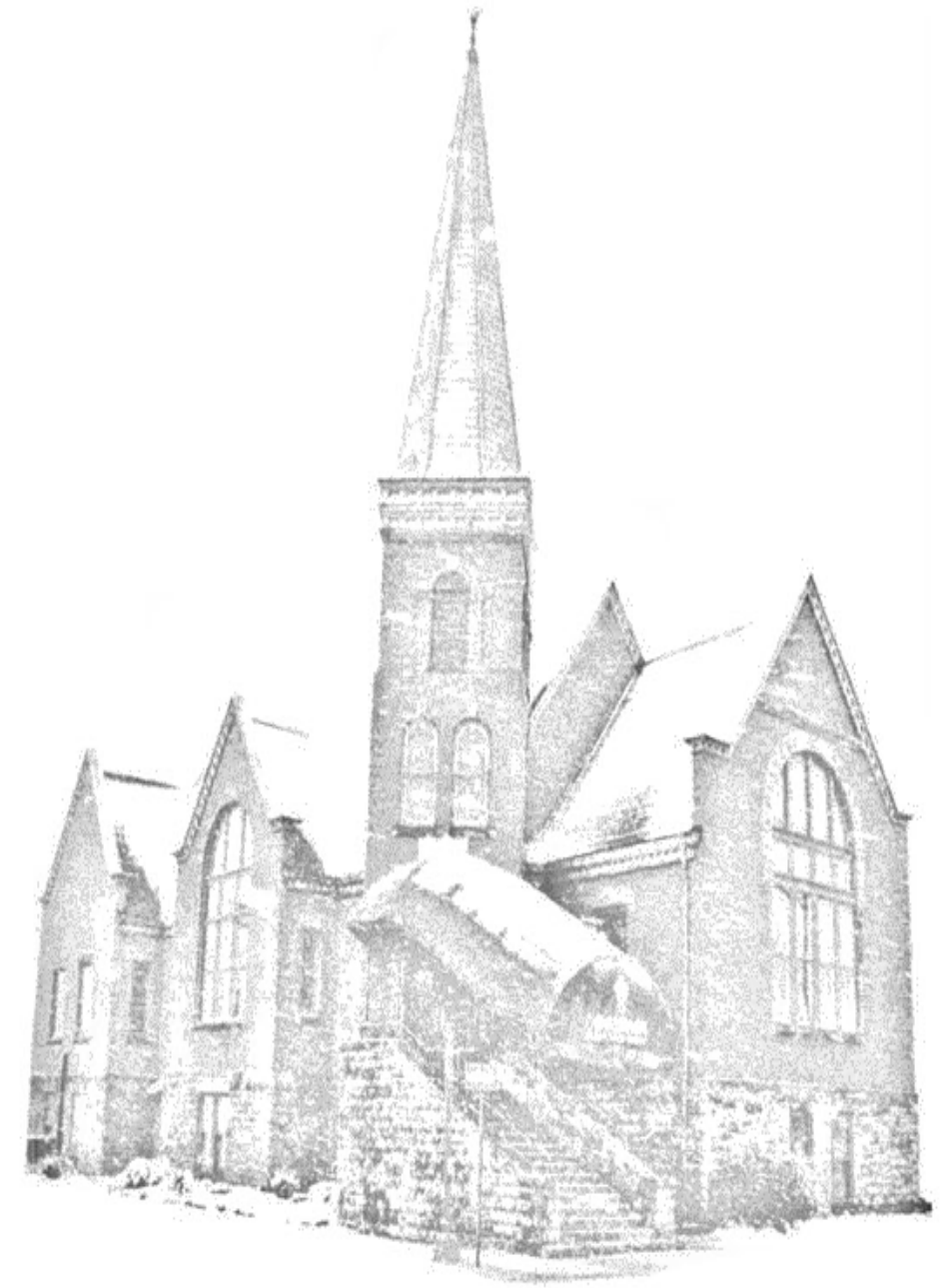
Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Minister – jlclayton@cpdfs.org
Rev. Jason Glover, Asst. Minister of Chaplain Ministry
Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – bbolin@cpdfs.org
Nancy Krehbiel, Director of Women's Ministry, ESL,
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Greg and Angel Hartman, Directors of Children's Ministry
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Covenant Presbyterian Church Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, December 13, 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