

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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

THE LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Matthew 24:42, 44

Minister: *Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Pray to the Lord, wait for him, and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

*SONG OF ASCENT (Unison)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear
Trinity Hymnal, 200

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruling Elder

Psalm 34:11-14
James 3:5b-8

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)

Once in Royal David's City
Trinity Hymnal, 225 vs. 1, 4, 5

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 25:16-18

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison)

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*HYMN OF REJOICING (Unison)

Immanuel

1. From the squal - or of a bor - rowed sta - ble, by the Spir - it and a
2. King of heav - en now the friend of sin - ners, hum - ble ser - vant in the
3. Through the kiss - es of a friend's be - tray - al, He was lift - ed on a
4. Now He's stand - ing in the place of hon - or, crowned with glo - ry on the

vir - gin's faith, to the an - guish and the shame of scan - dal,
Fa - ther's hands, filled with pow - er and the Ho - ly Spir - it,
cru - el cross. He was pun - ished for a world's trans - gres - sions;
high - est throne, in - ter - ced - ing for His own be - lov - ed

came the Sav - ior of the hu - man race. But the skies were filled with the
filled with mer - cy for the bro - ken man. Yes, he walked my road and He
He was suf - fer - ing to save the lost. He fights for breath, He
'til His Fa - ther calls to bring them home. Then the skies will part as the

praise of heav'n. Shep - herds lis - ten as the an - gels tell of the gift of God come—
felt my pain, joys and sor - rows that I know so well; yet His right - eous steps give me
fights for me, loos - ing sin - ners from the claims of hell; and with a shout, our
trum - pet sounds hope of heav - en or the fear of hell. But the bride will run to her

down to man, at the dawn - ing of Im - man - u - el.
hope a - gain. I will fol - low my Im - man - u - el.
souls are free; death de - feat - ed by Im - man - u - el.
Lov - er's arms, giv - ing glo - ry to Im - man - u - el.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Minister: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

Congregation: of all things visible and invisible.

Minister: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds,

Congregation: God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,

Minister: begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;

Congregation: by whom all things were made;

Minister: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;

Congregation: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried;

Minister: and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

Congregation: and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

Minister: And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

Congregation: who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

Minister: who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets;

Congregation: and we believe in one holy catholic** and apostolic Church;

Minister: we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

Congregation: and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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*

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS (Choir)

*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deacon

SERMON

Praying for Peace (amidst Strife)
Psalm 120 (Pew Bible, 516)

Dr. John Clayton

*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)

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

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION (Minister)

Isaiah 66:12-14

May the Lord extend peace to you like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; may he comfort you and make your heart rejoice; may he make your bones to flourish like the grass and make you know the work of his hand.

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

All Is Well

* = Please stand if able.

**The word "catholic" means universal.

Sermon Notes

Praying for Peace (amidst Strife)
Psalm 120 (Pew Bible, 516)

I. Introduction

II. A Blaze of Deceit

III. A World of Strife

IV. A Prayer for Peace

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 final Sunday of Advent our theme is Peace. At the beginning of our worship service the Angels' Candle, lighted as the celebration of the Incarnation nears, reminds us of the angelic announcement and calls us to focus on Christ's finished work on the cross and to anticipate His Second Coming.

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 11 th : \$12,291	General fund giving (YTD): \$496,726
Designated giving: \$50	Designated giving (YTD): \$4,874
Total giving: \$12,341	Total giving (YTD): \$501,600

Ministry Staff

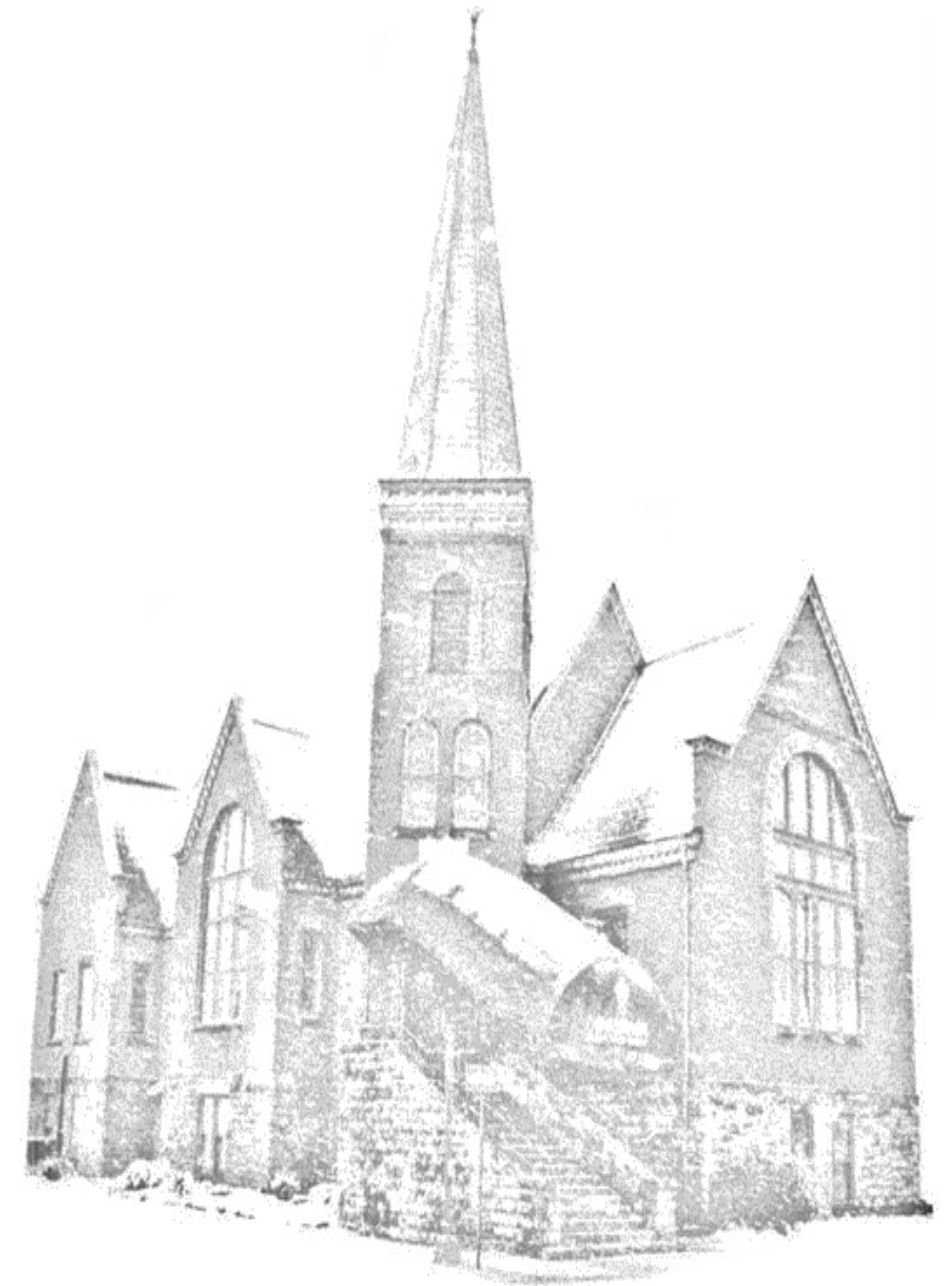
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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, December 18, 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