



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 22nd, 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 15th: \$9,879

Designated giving: \$0

Total giving: \$9,879

General fund giving (year-to-date): \$399,402

Designated giving (year-to-date): \$8,648

Total giving: \$408,050

Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lord's Day, December 22nd, 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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Striking of the Hour

****The Lighting of the Peace Candle**

Greeting

***Call to Worship (Minister)**

Isaiah 60:1-3, 19

Let us worship God.

Minister: *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.*

* = Please stand if able.

** = The fourth candle is the candle of Peace and is purple in color. Our Prince of Peace said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27). Also known as the Angels' Candle, we are reminded of the angelic announcement and calls us to focus on Christ's finished work on the cross and to anticipate His Second Coming.

***Song of Ascent** (Unison)

Once in Royal David's City
Trinity Hymnal, 225 vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

Scripture Reading

Ruling Elder Dr. Jon Hendrickson

Isaiah 9:2-7
John 14:27

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn of Praise** (Unison)

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
Trinity Hymnal, 227 vs. 1, 2, 4

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Ruling Elder Dr. Jon Hendrickson

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)

Daniel 9:4-5

*O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love
with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done
wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments
and rules.*

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon (Unison)

Romans 5:1

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***Hymn of Rejoicing (Unison)**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear
Trinity Hymnal, 200

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

Et in Terra Pax (And on Earth Peace)
Text adapted from Luke 2:13-14

***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 Greg Hartman

Sermon

Peace in Christ
John 16:25-33 (Pew Bible, 903)

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

NOTES

Peace in Christ

John 16:25-33 (Pew Bible, 903)

I. Introduction

II. The Prophecy of Peace

III. The Promise of Peace

IV. The Provision of Peace

“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

~John 16:25-33

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.

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.

Office Hours: The church will have limited hours over the next two weeks.

Nursery Workers:

December 22

Church Service – Sydney Clayton & Maddie Burgin

December 29

Church Service – Sydney Clayton & Judy Sagely

January 5

Church Service – Angel Hartman & Rebecca Dickens

January 12

Church Service – Lindsay Glover & Lauren Good

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	

Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) • 120 North 9th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901 • (479) 242-7737 • cpcfs.org