

# 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

*Joy to the World!*

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Minister)

Hebrews 1:1-3a

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

## \*SONG OF ASCENT (Unison)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Trinity Hymnal, 208

## SCRIPTURE READING

Ruling Elder

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3;*  
*Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7*

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

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)

*The First Noel*

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the  
3. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

6  
shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their  
east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great  
12 to our heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of  
sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - well, No -  
18 nought, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.  
well, No - well, No - well, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

Ruling Elder

\* = Please stand if able.

## 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)

*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

4  
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;  
7 high - est throne, in - ter - ced - ing for His own be - lov - ed

11  
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

15  
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;

\*\*The word "catholic" means universal.

**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

*Light in the Darkness*  
John 1:1-13 (Pew Bible, 886)

Dr. John Clayton

## \*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Trinity Hymnal, 203

## \*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

*See, amid the Winter's Snow*

**I. Introduction**

**II. Life in Light**

**III. Witness to Light**

**IV. Children of Light**

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.

**Paraments:** Liturgical colors have an instructional purpose and point us to the life of Christ and the great acts of redemptive history. White paraments adorn the pulpit and communion table during the celebration of Christmas, Easter, and other days to represent the purity of Christ and the joy and peace believers find in Him.

**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.

**Prayer Ministry:** If you have a prayer request that you would like the church to pray for, you can send your request to [pray@cpdfs.org](mailto:pray@cpdfs.org). Your prayer request will be sent out in our weekly prayer ministry email. If you would like to receive the weekly prayer email, please go to <https://tinyletter.com/cpdfs-prays>.

**Adult Sunday School Series:** Please join us in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. as we continue with Proverbs: Words of Wisdom, a topical study of select proverbs.

**Parish Groups:** Our January Parish Groups will meet Sunday evening, January 9th. Check with your parish leader for more information.

**Jail Ministry:** Johnny Clayton, Chaplain of Crawford County jail, is needing volunteers to take the library cart from pod to pod for residents to check-out books. The immediate need is for Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Johnny directly or call the church office.

**Daily Bible Reading:** Join us in 2022 as we will be using the Everyday in the Word plan which provides a daily reading from the Old and New Testaments as well as Psalms and Proverbs. Copies of the reading plan are available in the sanctuary foyer or in the Fellowship Hall.

Weekly Giving Summary

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| General fund giving – December 19th: \$79,295 | General fund giving (YTD): \$551,052 |
| Designated giving: \$0                        | Designated giving (YTD): \$6,948     |
| Total giving: \$79,295                        | Total giving (YTD): \$558,000        |

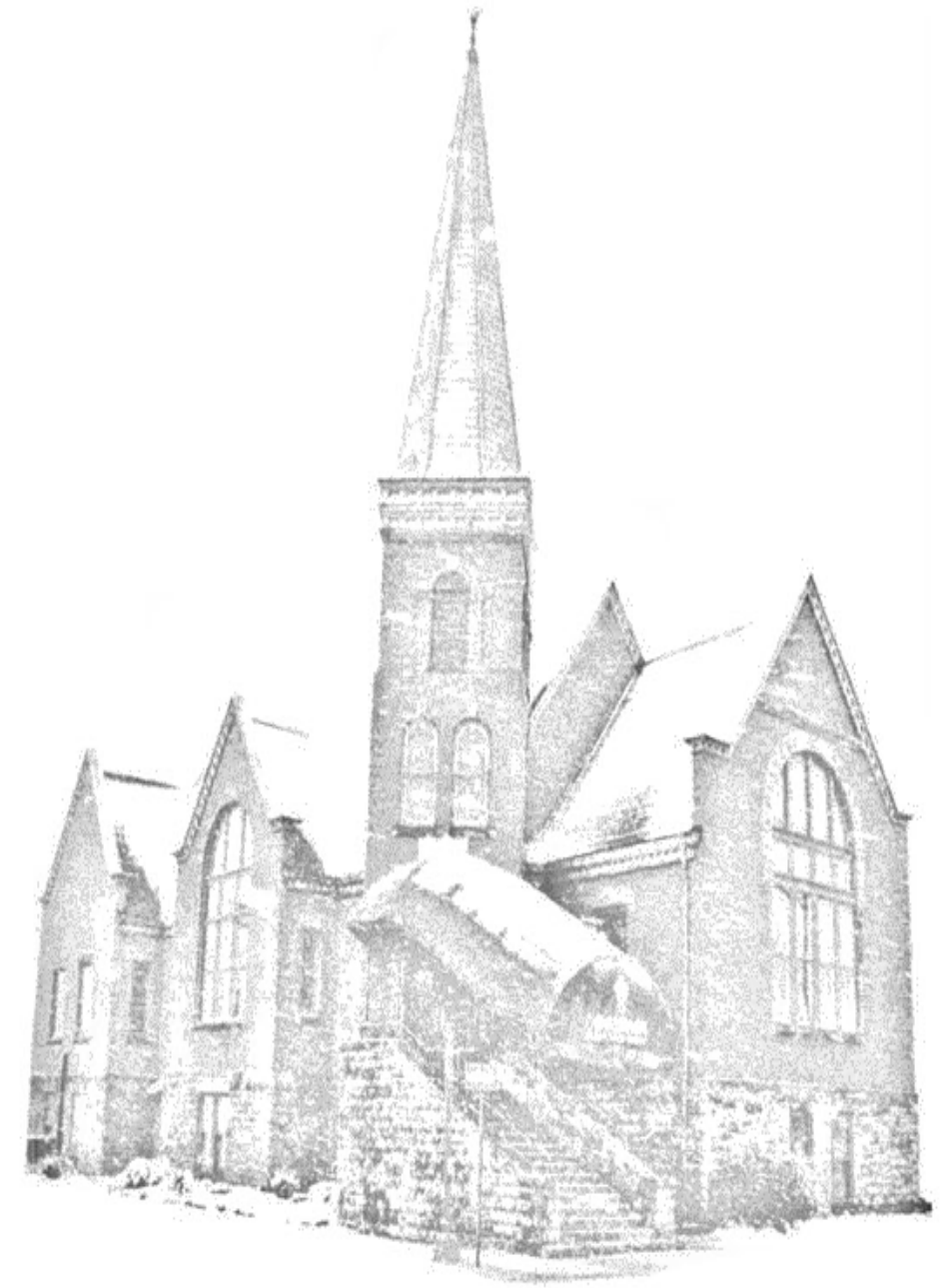
Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – [yclayton@cpdfs.org](mailto:yclayton@cpdfs.org)  
Rev. Jason Glover, Asst. Minister of Chaplain Ministry  
Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – [bbolin@cpdfs.org](mailto:bbolin@cpdfs.org)  
Nancy Krehbiel, Director of Women's Ministry, ESL,  
& Counseling – [nkrehbiel@cpdfs.org](mailto:nkrehbiel@cpdfs.org)  
Greg and Angel Hartman, Directors of Children's Ministry  
Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – [sclayton@cpdfs.org](mailto:sclayton@cpdfs.org)

Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) \* 120 N 9<sup>th</sup> Fort Smith, AR 72901

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Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, December 26, 2021

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 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 72901