

# LORD'S DAY 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

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Based on Hebrews 1:1-2

**Minister:** 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. All you who hear, draw near to his temple and adore the Son of God.

### \*SONG OF ASCENT (Unison)

*How Firm a Foundation*  
Trinity Hymnal, 94 vs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

## SCRIPTURE READING

Ruling Elder

*Isaiah 35:3-6;*  
*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

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

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE (Unison)

*O Word of God Incarnate*  
Trinity Hymnal, 140 vs. 1-3

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

Ruling Elder

## GLORIA PATRI (Unison)

Trinity Hymnal, 734

## CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Psalm 79:9-10a

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Unison)

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

### \*HYMN OF REJOICING (Unison)

*Psalm 18:30-36*

1. How per - fect is the way of God!  
2. For who is God ex - cept the LORD?  
3. He makes my feet as swift as deer's,  
4. You gave me your sal - va - tion's shield;

5  
The LORD's word has been prov - en sound;  
Be - sides our God, who is a Rock?  
and sets me up - on held the heights to stand.  
I am by the right hand.

9  
He is a shield to ev - 'ry one  
The God who can bend me with all strength,  
My arms can bend a bow of bronze;  
Your gen - tle - ness has made me great;

13  
who has in him a ref - uge found.  
he makes me per - fect in my walk.  
in skills of war, he trains my hand.  
you clear my way, se - cure I stand.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*  
Trinity Hymnal, 845

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Minister

## 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 (Chancel Choir)

### \*DOXOLOGY (Unison)

Trinity Hymnal, 731

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deacon

## SERMON

*When in Doubt*  
Luke 7:18-23 (Pew Bible, 863-864)

Dr. John Clayton

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Unison)

*Speak, O Lord*

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You To re - ceive the food of Your Ho - ly Word.  
2. Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty;  
3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us:

5  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fash - ion us in Your like - ness, That the  
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes In the ra - di - ence of Your pur - i - ty. Cause our  
9 Truths un - changed from the dawn of time That will e - cho down thro' e - ter - ni - ty. And by  
light of Christ might be seen to - day In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.  
13 grace we'll stand on Your prom - is - es, And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us All Your pur - pos - es for Your glo - ry.  
Words of power that can nev - er fail, Let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built And the earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

## \*BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

**Congregational Response:** Thanks be to God! Amen.

## POSTLUDE

*Speak, O Lord*

\* = Please stand if able.

# Sermon Notes

*When in Doubt*

Luke 7:18-23 (Pew Bible, 863-864)

## I. Introduction

## II. When in doubt...

## III. Look and listen to the Word

## IV. Believe and follow Him!

# 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. Green is displayed during "ordinary time" which includes the period between Epiphany and Lent and the period between Pentecost and Advent. Green represents spiritual growth and world missions.

**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.

**Seating:** Please be courteous by moving toward the front of the sanctuary providing room in the back for those arriving late.

**January 26<sup>th</sup> Nursery Volunteers**

**Worship Service** — Janice Bailey and Nan Hudson

**Covenant Youth:** Our youth meet Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for grades 7th-12<sup>th</sup> downstairs in the youth girls' Sunday School classroom.

**The Midweek:** Join us for Bible study and prayer on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Choir:** The choir practices every Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

**Membership:** Are you interested in becoming a member? The Session will be conducting membership interviews in the months of February and March. Please call the church office if you would like to schedule an interview.

**Parish Groups:** If you have never attended a Parish Group now is the time! It's a great way to connect on a deeper level with people in the church. Please let us know if you aren't sure which parish you are in. Our Parish Groups will meet on the following Sundays:

**January 26<sup>th</sup>:** Clayton/Coan Parish in the Fellowship Hall after the service

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Hudson Parish in the Fellowship Hall after the service

**Men's Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are currently studying 1 Peter.

**Women's Bible Study:** Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We are reading *Flourish: How the Love of Christ Frees Us from Self-Focus* by Lidia Brownback.

**Missional Focus of the Week:** Covenant College – The mission of Covenant College is to explore and express the preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things, offering the world biblically grounded men and women equipped to live out extraordinary callings in ordinary places. For more information visit [covenant.edu](http://covenant.edu).

### Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – January 19<sup>th</sup>: \$30,817

Designated giving: \$40

Total giving: \$30,857

General fund giving (YTD): \$63,237

Designated giving (YTD): \$40

Total giving (YTD): \$63,277

## Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – [jclayton@cpcfs.org](mailto:jclayton@cpcfs.org)

Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – [bbolin@cpcfs.org](mailto:bbolin@cpcfs.org)

Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – [sclayton@cpcfs.org](mailto:sclayton@cpcfs.org)

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

Office (479) 242-PRES

[www.cpcfs.org](http://www.cpcfs.org)

# Covenant Presbyterian Church Fort Smith, Arkansas



## Lord's Day, January 26, 2024 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