

Sermon Notes

Until Shiloh Comes

Genesis 49:8-12 (Pew Bible, 42-43)

I. Introduction

II. Judah's Power

III. Judah's Kingdom

IV. Judah's Glory

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.

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: Advent is a four-week period in which the Church, rejoicing in Christ's first coming, eagerly looks forward to Christ's coming again.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, our theme is peace. At the beginning of our worship service the fourth candle will be lighted, the candle of Peace which 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.

The Advent Wreath: In the celebration of Advent and the coming of Christmas, we light the candles of the Advent wreath. The circle of greenery reminds us that God is eternal, the Alpha and Omega without beginning or end, and also of the hope we have in God, of newness, renewal and eternal life. The candles symbolize the light of God entering the world through the birth of Jesus. The light from the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives, and it also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's love and grace to others.

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.

December 21st Nursery Volunteers

Worship Service — Miranda and Dahlia Collier and Kaydence Robinson

The Midweek: The Midweek will resume January 14, 2026.

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service: Please join us Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. for our annual Lessons & Carols service as we hear lessons from Scripture and then sing the corresponding carols, concluding in song by candlelight.

Midweek Announcements: If you would like to be on our church-wide email list, please call the church office.

2026 Devotional Guide: Our 2026 devotional guide is available at the back of the Sanctuary. This plan will lead you in reading through the Old and New Testament once and the Psalms twice. It also includes daily prayers, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 98 to 107.

Cry Room and Nursery Available: Parents, if your baby begins to fuss or cry, we have resources available for you and your child: a nursery (for children up to 36 mos.) and "cry rooms" are available, outfitted with service audio, downstairs in rooms 1, 2, & 7.

Weekly Giving Summary

General fund giving – December 14th: \$9,149

General fund giving (YTD): \$792,875

Designated giving: \$395

Designated giving (YTD): \$23,674

Total giving: \$9,544

Total giving (YTD): \$816,549

Ministry Staff

Dr. John Clayton, Senior Minister – jclayton@cpdfs.org

Greg Bailey, Executive Director – gbailey@cpdfs.org

Brandon Bolin, Director of Music & Media – bbolin@cpdfs.org

Carol Sikes, Assistant Director of Music – csikes@cpdfs.org

Sydney Clayton, Administrative Assistant – sclayton@cpdfs.org

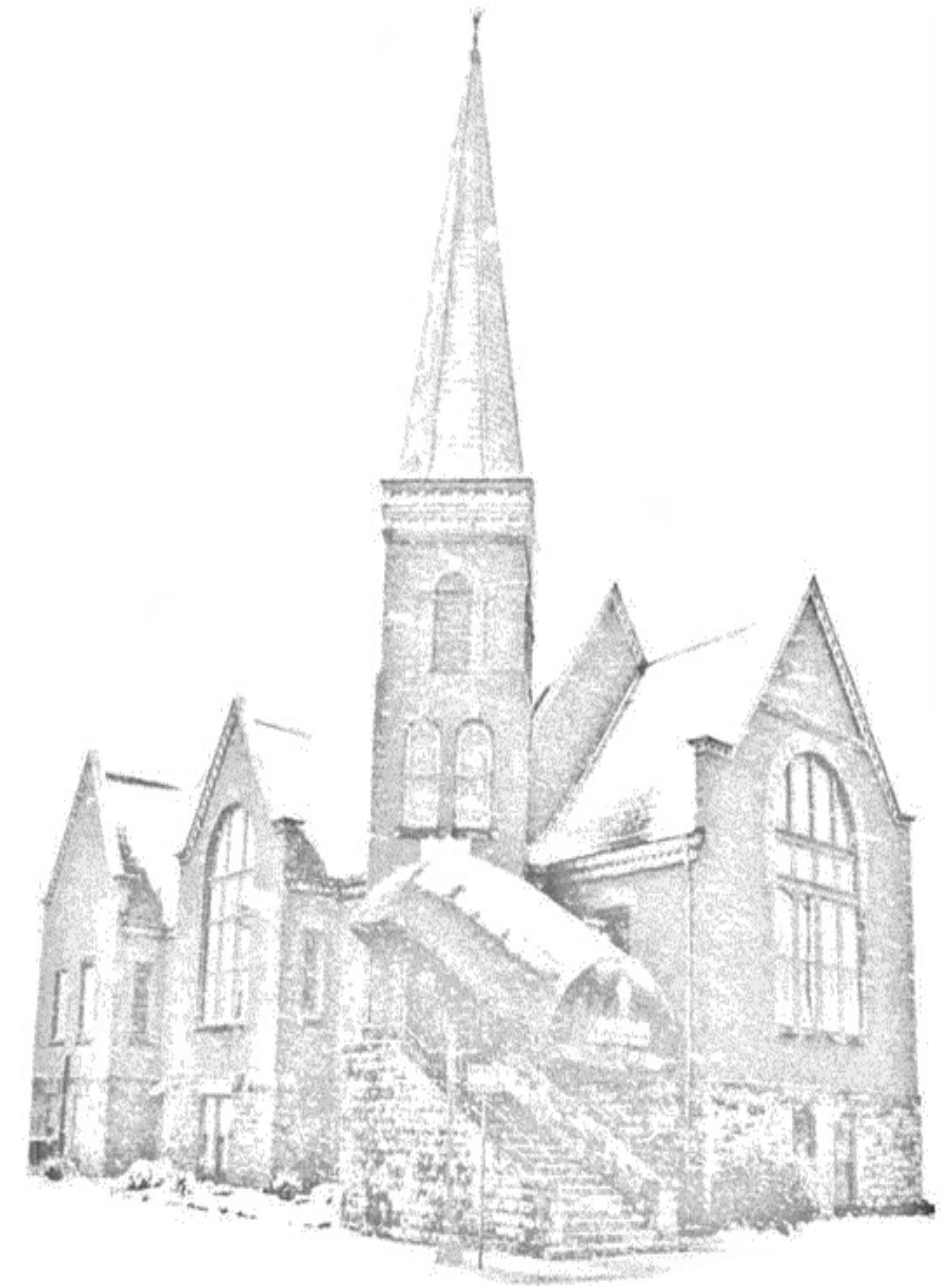
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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, December 21, 2025

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