

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.)

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Minister) Psalm 103:8-13

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering and of great goodness. He will not always chide us, neither will he keep his anger for ever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his mercy also toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he set our sins from us. As a father pities his own children, so is the Lord merciful to those who fear him.

***SONG OF ASCENT** (Unison) *The God of Abraham Praise*
Trinity Hymnal, 34 st. 1, 2, 3, 5

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION Ruling Elder

GLORIA PATRI (Unison) Trinity Hymnal, 734

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** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
Trinity Hymnal, 457

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Words of Institution
Introduction of the Covenant Child & Family
Biblical Promises
Questions to the Parents & Congregation
Prayer of Consecration
Baptism
Baptismal Benediction
Charge to the Congregation
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
Trinity Hymnal, 189

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruling Elder

Joel 2:12-13
Romans 1:18-21; 2:1-5

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Unison) *Psalm 32 st. 1, 2, 3, 5*

1. What bless - ed - ness be - longs to him who has for - giv - en been,
2. I lan - guished, si - lent in my guilt; my days were filled with groans.
3. Then you re - leased me from my sin, and took its guilt a - way.
4. In - struc - tion will I give to you, and teach the way to go.
5. How man - y griefs the wick - ed earns as part of his re - ward;

for whom trans - gres - sions have been cleared, and cov - ered is his sin.
On me your hand pressed day and night, and heat dried up my bones.
And there - fore while you may be found, let all the god - ly pray.
My watch - ful eye will guide your steps; my coun - sel you will know.
but cov - 'nant love sur - rounds the one whose trust is in the Lord.

Blest is the one for whom the Lord counts no in - i - qui - ty,
My sin I then con - fessed to you, not hid - ing guilt - i - ness;
They'll not be harmed by ris - ing floods. In you I hide in peace;
Be not like sense - less horse or mule, which if you would sub - due,
Be glad and shout, you right - eous ones, and in the Lord re - joice;

and in whose spir - it is no taint of in - sin - cer - i - ty.
I said, "I will be - fore the Lord trans - gres - sions now con - fess."
you keep me safe, sur - round - ing me with songs of my re - lease.
you must with bit and bri - dle hold to bring him close to you.
and let all those with up - right hearts sing out with joy - ful voice.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) *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

Abide with Me
The Fort Smith Firefighters Pipe and Drum Corps

***DOXOLOGY** (Unison) Trinity Hymnal, 731

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Deacon

SERMON *The Lavish Love of God* Dr. John Clayton
Luke 15:11-32 (Pew Bible, 874-875)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (Unison) *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all mea - sure that
2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders; Ash -
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing, no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but

He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His trea - sure. How
amed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It
I will boast in Je - sus Christ, His death, and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

great the pain of sear - ing loss, the Fa - ther turns His face a - way, as
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer; but

wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring ma - ny sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath has brought me life; I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart: His wounds havepaid my ran - som.

***BENEDICTION** (Responsive) *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Congregation: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Sermon Notes

The Lavish Love of God

Luke 15:11-32 (Pew Bible, 874-875)

I. Introduction

II. The Ingratitude of Depravity

III. The Presumptuous Pride of Self-righteousness

IV. The Lavish Love of God

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 the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper as well as Christmas, Easter, and other days to represent the purity of Christ and the joy and peace believers find in Him.

March 15th Nursery Volunteers

Worship Service — Lauren, Gillian, and Georgia Good

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 evening at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Sunday School: Join us each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our series on Church History.

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

Ordination Service and Reception: Join us this evening at 5:00 p.m. for the ordination of Elder-elect Steve Rowland and Elder-elect Ryan Feero. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Sacrament of Baptism: Today, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with the covenant child baptism of *Agnes Elaine McCoy*, daughter of Jacob and Kelsie McCoy. Please be in prayer in preparation for today's baptism.

The Westminster Larger Catechism reminds us: "The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; and by endeavoring to live by faith, to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body" (Question 167).

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 – March 8th: \$11,192

Designated giving: \$0

Total giving: \$11,192

General fund giving (YTD): \$142,329

Designated giving (YTD): \$1,078

Total giving (YTD): \$143,407

Ministry Staff

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

Greg Bailey, Executive Director – gbailey@cpdfs.org

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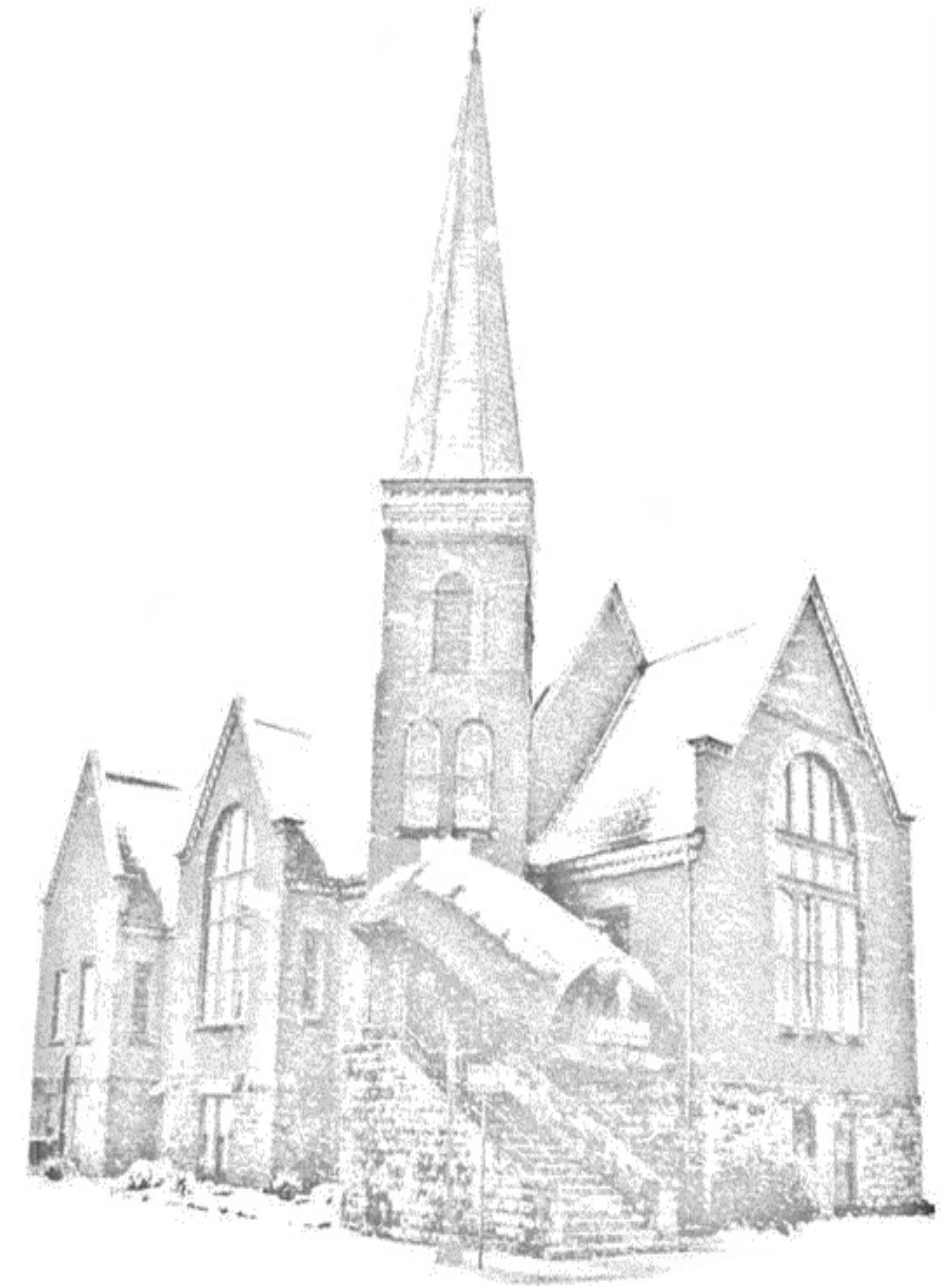
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Covenant Presbyterian Church

Fort Smith, Arkansas



Lord's Day, March 15, 2026

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