

## OUR WORSHIP

*Our worship follows what is known as the "regulative principle." That is, we seek to ensure our worship is regulated by God's Word—our only infallible rule of faith and practice.*

**Prelude:** A time for preparing our hearts and minds to worship God. *I Peter 1:13 "prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

**Welcome and Silent Prayer:** The greeting of God's people. *Phil. 4:21 "Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you."* We continue to prepare for worship as we pray silently. *Ps. 37:7 "Be still before the LORD."*

**Call to Worship the Lord:** A text of Scripture calling us to begin our worship. *Deut. 31:12 "Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God."*

**Opening Hymn:** A hymn of praise as we enter God's presence. *Ps. 100:2 "Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing."*

**Prayer of Praise:** Declaring our praise to God. *Ps. 100:4 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name."*

**Prayer of Confession:** This is a corporate prayer of confession. *Matt. 6:9 "After this manner, therefore, pray ye: 'Our Father...'"* We confess our sin to God, depending on the merits of Christ to obtain forgiveness. *Ps. 35:2 "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord." I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

**Assurance of Pardon:** As we have confessed our sin before God through Christ, he assures us of forgiveness. *John 20:23 "If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."*

**Scripture Reading:** God addresses His people through the reading of His Word. *Ex. 24:7 "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient."*

**Giving of Tithes and Offerings:** We respond to God's promises with our possessions. *I Cor. 16:1-2 "Now about the collection for God's people...[o]n the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."*

**Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving:** Praising God for his provision. *Ps.150:1 "Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens."*

**Reading of Psalms:** These are responsive readings, and the texts are usually found in the Trinity hymnal. *Ps. 95:2 "Let us shout joyfully to him with Psalms."*

**Hymn of Response:** We respond to God's word to us by worshipping him in song. *Col. 3:16 "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."*

**Prayer of Supplication:** We present our requests to God in boldness, claiming the grace which Jesus has purchased for us, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. *John 14:13 "Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do." Heb. 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Matt. 6:9*

**Hymn of Response:** *Col. 3:16*

**Confession of Faith:** We confess our faith by reciting together our belief in essential Biblical doctrines, such as the deity, virgin birth, bodily resurrection, and ascension of Christ, and the Church he has called out for himself from every nation ("catholic" means "universal" Church, not "Roman Catholic"). *Luke 12:8 "everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God."*

**Scripture Reading:** This is the text upon which the sermon is based. *2 Tim. 4:2— "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."*

**Message:** The preaching of the Word of God and salvation by Christ alone; the explanation and application of the Scripture reading. *I Cor. 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."*

**Hymn of Commitment:** We commit to God that we will live that which we have learned from him. *Ex. 19:8 "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD."*

**Benediction:** God gives us his blessing as we depart. *Num. 6:23-24 "Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: The LORD bless you, and keep you..."*

**Response of God's People Sung:** *Col. 3:16*

## EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship ..... Psalm 112:1

Opening Hymn PH#310—While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Scripture Reading ..... Romans 4:13-25

Hymn of Preparation ..... PH#323—O Little Town of Bethlehem

Scripture Reading: ..... Numbers 25:1-13

Message ..... What Are You Doing With That?

Closing Hymn ..... PH#314—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Benediction

### Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Natchitoches, LA 71457

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**Web Page:** [www.cpenatchitoches.org](http://www.cpenatchitoches.org)

**OPC web page:** [www.opc.org](http://www.opc.org)

**Pastor:** Warren R. Bennett III

**Ruling Elder:** Joel Mertens

#### Services

Sunday School—10:00am

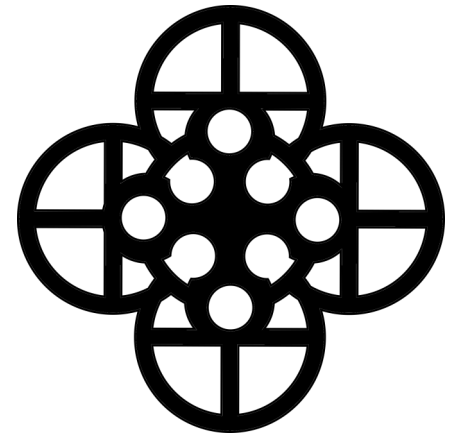
Sunday Morning Worship—11:00am

Sunday Evening Worship—5:00pm

### THE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The OPC was established in 1936 as a testimony to the Bible when its authority was denied. "Orthodox" (meaning "straight thinking") signifies our holding steadfastly to the inerrancy of Scripture, not in a thoughtless faith, but one that recognizes God's Word as the foundation for consistent "straight thinking." "Presbyterian" signifies that we believe the Scriptures to teach that local church elders along with a pastor, form a "session" to care for the spiritual welfare of the members of the Church, while maintaining freedom of conscience in matters of Christian liberty. There are about 320 OPC churches with 29,000 members across the U.S. and active mission works in several foreign countries.

# COVENANT Presbyterian Church



*"I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you."  
Genesis 17:7*

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
December 17, 2023

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements, followed by Silent Prayer

\*Call to Worship the Lord ..... Psalm 107:15-16

\*Opening Hymn ..... #218—Angels, from the Realms of Glory

\*Prayer of Praise

The Prayer of Confession

*Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon ..... Colossians 1:13-14

\*Scripture Reading ..... Ezra 3

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

\*Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving ..... #731—Doxology

\*Reading of Psalms ..... Psalm 96, p.819

\*Hymn of Response ..... #62—Sing to the Lord, Sing His Praise

Prayer of Supplication, concluding with The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father which 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.*

\*Hymn of Response ..... #226—As with Gladness Men of Old

\*The Confession of Faith ..... The Apostles' Creed  
(inside front cover of hymnal)

\*Scripture Reading ..... Mark 1:16-28

Message—Warren R. Bennett III ..... What is this?

\*Hymn of Commitment ..... #162—Of the Father's Love Begotten

\*Benediction

\*Response of God's People Sung .....

#735, "Gloria Patri"

*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.*

\*Congregation Standing

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**We're Glad You're Here!**

We hope you consider yourself among friends who care. Please take a moment to complete a visitor's card, place it in the offering plate, and if you are able, stay for fellowship following the worship service, that we may get to know each other better. We welcome you and encourage you to visit again soon or call us if we can be helpful in any way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday Evening Service** today at 5:00 PM.

**Community Bible Study** every other Monday at 7:00 PM at the Mahala's home. **Next on 1/8.**

**Ladies' Bible Study** on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM via Zoom. See Pastor Bennett for a Zoom invitation. **Next on 1/9.**

**Prayer request slips** are on the table near the front door. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate if you have a prayer request.

**We have a weekly prayer letter.** If you would like to receive the prayer letter, please let Pastor Bennett know.

**Few sounds are as pleasant** as the sound of children in God's house. If you have young ones, you are always welcome and encouraged to have them worship with you in the service. They are no disturbance to us, but a joy. There is a nursery located to the right of the pulpit, if you would like to use it.

NOTES