



First Presbyterian
— R O M E —

The Lord's Day
December 1, 2024
11 AM Worship Service

Vision for Worship

Foundational to the mission of FPC Rome is the proclamation that, “By God’s grace alone and to his glory alone, we exist to worship God in his greatness and his holiness with Gospel-driven passion and integrity...”

GOSPEL CENTERED

Our worship services are ordered in such a way that the Gospel story is proclaimed anew each week through the elements of Word and sacrament, creed and confession, prayer and song, with each service having its distinctive way of doing so.

BIBLICALLY BASED

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

- *John 4:23-24*

ROOTED IN REFORMED TRADITION

Natural understanding reveals that there is a God, who is lord and sovereign over everything, who is good and does good to everyone, and who is therefore to be held in awe, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served with all our heart, soul, and might. The acceptable way of worshiping the true God is established by God himself. God’s revealed will so defines and outlines proper worship that neither the imaginations and devices of men nor the suggestions of Satan are to be followed. God is not to be worshiped under any visible representation or in any other way than that prescribed in Holy Scripture.

Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and only to him, not to angels, saints, or any other creature. Since the fall this worship must involve a mediator, and there is no other mediator than Christ alone.

- *WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH CHAPTER 21, 1-2*

God's People Gather for Worship

GATHERING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Gathering Song

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Welcome and Announcements

DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey and Ashlie Harper

This morning, we start the Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Lord's birth. God had promised back in Genesis 3:15 after Adam and Eve sinned that He would provide a seed from Eve who would bruise or crush the head of the serpent. God's people had waited for this promised One to come into the world. With the birth of Jesus, the Promised One had come. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). We worship Him and give thanks for His earthly ministry and look forward to His return. Today we cry out with the hymn writer, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”.

Call to Worship

Galatians 4:4–5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Song of Praise

“Joy Has Dawned”

*Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary
Sounds of wonder fill the sky, with the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life, shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, Vulnerable and helpless.
Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands, prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today, incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, his death will make a way, by His blood He'll win us.*

*Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom,
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem, Now the Lord of history.*

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Reflection

“The Power Of The Cross”

*Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.*

*Oh, to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning Your bloodstained brow.*

***This, the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath— We stand forgiven at the cross.***

*Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life; "Finished!" the vict'ry cry.*

(chorus)

*Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love.*

(chorus)

OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“Come Thou Long Expected”

(As a reminder, the congregation will join the praise team on the second verse.)

*Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, Glad tidings of a birth
Go to him, your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to Earth*

*Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.*

*Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all!*

*Born thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king
born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal spirit; rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to thy glorious throne*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1-17 ESV

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. 12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
Dr. Bill Pardue

CELECRATING THE SACRAMENT

Song of Preparation

"We Will Feast In The House Of Zion"

We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast, and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God.

We are not consumed by the flood — upheld, protected, gathered up.

(chorus)

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Partaking of the Elements

SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Song of Response

"We Will Feast In The House Of Zion"

In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid;

For the promised morning, Oh how long! O God of Jacob, be my strength!

We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored.

"He has done great things," we will say together.

We will feast, and weep no more.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the faithful One;

A-aand from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

(chorus)

Commissioning and Benediction

Thank You for Worshiping with Us Today

OUR MISSION

By God's grace alone and to His glory alone, the First Presbyterian Church of Rome exists to worship God in His greatness and holiness with Gospel-driven passion and integrity, to know Jesus Christ in his fullness, to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to be united together as a community of faith.

In grateful response to the privilege of knowing God and being called according to His purpose, we long to grow as faithful, fruitful followers of Jesus Christ. To this end, through joyful submission, we will emphasize and strive as a corporate body:

- to live together in authentic and loving fellowship,
- to make and mobilize disciples,
- to share the Gospel in word and action locally and around the world, and
- to serve sacrificially the community in which God has placed us.

* We acknowledge that Christ has given the church universal its 'mission' in the call to fulfill the Great Commission and honor the Great Commandment. Our Mission Statement sets forth how our particular church, at this season and place, shall emphasize its part in this greater, corporate calling. Our Mission Statement is to serve as our means of testing and direction in particular ministry without, in any way, limiting what God may otherwise do in leading us. It is subordinate to the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, which consists of the Book of Order (comprised of The Book of Government, The Book of Discipline and the Book of Worship), the Westminster Confession of Faith (including the Larger and Shorter Catechisms) and the document "Essentials of Our Faith". In turn all of these documents are subordinate to Scripture, the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks.

LET'S CONNECT

If you are visiting with us today, we would love to have the opportunity to answer any questions you may have about our ministries. Please fill out our Connect Card and our Connections team will contact you. We look forward to connecting with you!

Ministry Opportunities: Discover how God has gifted you for His service and shows you potential areas of service in the church and community. Complete our Serve Profile at www.fpcrome.org/serve.

ShelbyNext: Visit our church website for access to our giving platform, membership directory, calendar, and more at www.fpcrome.org.

Sunday Mornings at FPC: We offer several Sunday studies for all ages. For a complete list visit our website.

Prayer Requests: To submit a Prayer Request for you or someone you know that is in need, you may do so on our website, or you may contact the church office. If you would like to receive updated prayer requests please contact LeAnn McDaniel at leannm@fpcrome.org.

Missions: FPC supports several local and global missions. For more details please visit our website or contact Mr. Rob Davis at robd@fpcrome.org.

Pray for Our Church Leaders

CHURCH STAFF

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THE SESSION

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