



First Presbyterian

ROME

The Lord's Day
December 22, 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

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."

- *1 Peter 1:3*

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 CONFESSIO OF FAITH CHAPTER 21, 1-2*

God's People Gather for Worship

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Gathering Song

“Good Christian Men Rejoice”

Welcome and Announcements

DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Dr. & Mr. Kit and Brad Stockton

Today is the 4th Sunday of the Advent season. The prayer for our church is that we would use this Advent season to prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and to look ahead for the return of Christ. Our focus this morning is on the long expected Lamb. The focus of the earthly ministry of Jesus was to fulfill the Law of God and part of that fulfillment is that He would be the sinless Lamb sacrificed for the sins of His people. In Genesis 22 Abraham passed God's testing of his faith to being willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac. On that mountain God declared that He would provide the sacrifice in place of Isaac. Ultimately God would provide His Son, Jesus, to be the atoning sacrifice for the sin of His people. With the coming of Jesus into the world to be the “Passover Lamb” (1 Corinthians 5:7), we see that God has indeed provided the long expected Lamb.

Call to Worship

John 1:29

John the Baptist said when He saw Jesus, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Revelation 5:12-13

The angels cry out “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!...To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Song of Praise

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Reflection

“How Deep The Father's Love For Us”

*How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son, to make a wretch His treasure;
How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the chosen One, bring many sons to glory.*

*Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders,
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice, call out among the scoffers;
It was my sin that held Him there, until it was accomplished,
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.*

*I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r's, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection;
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.*

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT

The Sacrament of Baptism

Master Jack Ross York

OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“O Come O Come Emmanuel”

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

*O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o’er the grave.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

*O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.*

(chorus)

*O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery!*

(chorus)

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:13-23 ESV

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Leader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Come Thou Long Expected Lamb”
Rev. Ken Chivers

SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Song of Response

“All My Boast Is In Jesus”

*What wonder of wonders, what love is this that Christ would die for me?
His goodness, His merit, His righteousness, this sinner's only plea.
O foolish pride, be crucified the work is finished.*

***All my boast is in Jesus. All my hope is His love.
And I will glory forever in what the cross has done.***

*Now fully forgiven, my life is filled with graces undeserved.
For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill, let praises now return.
Rise up my soul, and bless the Lord. Who else is worthy?*

(chorus)

*O praise the One, forever blessed. Him alone my heart adores.
And I will boast in nothing less than the love of Christ my Lord.*

*I boast not in riches, in strength or might, but in the grace of God.
I glory in weakness, to live is Christ In plenty or in want.
That I may know, that all may see His pow'r within me.*

(chorus)

*Now I stand in this freedom, ransomed clean in His sight.
And I cannot be ashamed for my boast is Jesus Christ.
My boast is Jesus Christ. Forever, my boast is Jesus Christ.*

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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