



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

The Lord's Day

December 4, 2022

11:00 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

It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

- *Deuteronomy 6:13*

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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Scripture

Psalm 22:26-28

They who seek the Lord will praise him--may your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.

Prelude

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Wilber Held

Ms. Faye Kesler, organ

DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and Sarah Keene

The Advent candles represent Jesus who is the light of the world. Each week of Advent we light an additional candle to represent the progression of light coming into the world with the birth of Jesus. This year's Advent readings are taken from Christopher Ash's Advent devotional entitled Repeat the Sounding Joy. May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus this Advent season as we remember His coming that first Christmas and as we look forward to His return.

Call to Worship

Psalm 34:1-3

Hymn of Praise No. 244

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead: I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! AMEN*

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we confess that we have sinned against you in many ways. We have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with your kingdom and purposes. We have permitted our schedules to take priority over worship. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. We have been unfaithful in our relationship to you and one another. Forgive us of these sins and a thousand others. Holy Spirit renew us. Father, help us to find joy in your commands, that we may walk more fully in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm of Reflection

Psalm 80
HURSLEY

*Great Shepherd of Thine Israel, Who didst between the cherubs dwell,
And lead the tribes, Thy chosen sheep, Safe through the desert and the deep,*

*Thy church is in the desert now. Shine from on high, and guide us through;
Turn us to Thee, Thy love restore, We shall be saved, and sigh no more.*

*Hast Thou not planted with Thy hands A lovely vine in this our land?
Did not Thy power defend it round, And heavenly dew enrich the ground?*

*Return, almighty God, return, Nor let Thy bleeding vineyard mourn;
Turn us to Thee, Thy love restore, We shall be saved, and sigh no more.*

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT

The Sacrament of Baptism

Jane Campbell Edwards

OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

by Harold Darke

Chancel Choir

Dr. Timothy Renner, director

Ms. Faye Kesler, organ

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 1:18-21 ESV

And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns! And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" And he said to me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem." Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen. And I said, "What are these coming to do?" He said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one raised his head. And these have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"The Stronghold"

Dr. Bill Pardue

SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Hymn of Response No. 250

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

"People Look East!"

Kristina Langlois

Ms. Faye Kesler, organ

"NIGHT VISIONS OF THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

"THE STRONGHOLD"

ZECHARIAH 1:8-21 ESV

BIG IDEA

Because of the sufficient strength of Jesus Christ, let us cling to the life-giving power of the Gospel when surrounded by opposition, oppression, or difficulty.

Jesus is the stronghold in our struggles.

OUTLINE

I. Four Horns

II. Four Craftsman

III. Conclusion

SERMON NOTES

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 Tracy Dupree at tracyd@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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