



# First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

The Lord's Day

September 18, 2022

11:00 AM Worship Service

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# Vision for Worship

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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

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# God's People Gather for Worship

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## PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Gathering Song

"Echo Holy"

Welcome and Announcements

## DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Call to Worship

From Psalm 68

Rise up, O God, and scatter your enemies. Let those who hate God run for their lives... But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy. Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the Lord—rejoice in his presence!

Song of Praise

"Immortal, Invisible"

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
Of all Thy rich graces this grace, Lord, impart  
Take the veil from our faces, the vile from our heart.*

*All laud we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee,  
And so let Thy glory, almighty, impart,  
Through Christ in His story, Thy Christ to the heart.*

## CONFESSING OUR SINS AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Prayer of Confession

*Leader - Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.*

**All - We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.**

*Leader - We have offended against your holy laws.*

**All - We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.**

*Leader - O Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**All - Spare those who confess their faults.**

*Leader - Restore those who are repentant, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

**All - And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

## **CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT**

The Sacrament of Baptism

Miss Lucy Orr

## **OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS**

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading

Exodus 6:2-13 ESV

God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.'" Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

So the Lord said to Moses, "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land." But Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?" But the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"Delivered to Belief and Hope in Christ"

Dr. Bill Pardue

## SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Song of Response

"Psalm 62"

*My soul finds rest in God alone, my rock and my salvation,  
A fortress strong against my foes, and I will not be shaken.  
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and lies like arrows pierce me,  
I'll fix my heart on righteousness, I'll look to Him who hears me.*

*O praise Him, hallelujah, my Delight and my Reward;  
Everlasting, never failing, my Redeemer, my God.*

*Find rest, my soul, in God alone amid the world's temptations;  
When evil seeks to take a hold I'll cling to my salvation.  
Though riches come and riches go, don't set your heart upon them;  
The fields of hope in which I sow are harvested in heaven.*

*O praise Him, hallelujah, my Delight and my Reward;  
Everlasting, never failing, my Redeemer, my God.*

*I'll set my gaze on God alone and trust in Him completely;  
With every day pour out my soul and He will prove His mercy.  
Though life is but a fleeting breath, a sigh too brief to measure,  
My King has crushed the curse of death and I am His forever.*

*O praise Him, O praise Him, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
O praise Him, O praise Him, hallelujah, hallelujah,  
O praise Him, O praise Him, hallelujah, hallelujah.*

Commissioning and Benediction

Scriptures for further study:

Romans 8:15

Ephesians 4:22-24

Matthew 28:20

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Psalm 138:7

Romans 6:22

1 Peter 2:16

“Belonging to Christ involves repudiating an old life and embracing a new. The image is that of taking off frayed clothes and putting on a fresh set. We respond to God’s grace and seize upon this new life to make it our own. While the old form of existence in Adam was subject to corruption, the new one in Christ is continually being made new.”

*-The Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible*



*John Martin, The Seventh Plague of Egypt, 1823*

## **DELIVERED TO BELIEF AND HOPE IN CHRIST EXODUS 5:1-6:1 ESV**

### **BIG IDEA**

May the Spirit empower us today to put off the old shackles of doubt and despair as we believe again in the Son who has brought down his mighty hand upon death and its destructive tentacles in order to free us to a life of joyful slavery to the glory of God.

1. Doubt and Despair
2. The God of Angel Armies
3. Delivered from Slavery to Slavery

# SERMON NOTES

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. What animal has “tentacles”? What purpose do the tentacles serve? How does the animal use the tentacles to accomplish its purposes? In what way can death have tentacles?

2. What did “harsh” mean to the Israelites? What did it look like for the Israelites and Moses to be “broken”? What does your doubt and despair look like? Is there someone in your life who is in a season of doubt and despair? What gospel hope does Jesus offer those suffering under a “harsh” yoke?

3. How did God’s revelation of himself to Abraham and Isaac differ from his self-revelation to Moses and the people of Israel? Why is this specific revelation so important to Moses and to the Israelites at this moment in their history? The phrase “I am the Lord...God Almighty” means that “God in his passion comes to fight for His people to deliver them from Egypt. Can you recall a time in your life when you saw God fight for you? (Romans 6:9-14, Ephesians 1:15-23). Do you need to remember a time of God’s faithfulness and provision in this moment in your life? Is there someone whose faith’s you can bolster by coming along side of them and looking to the God of Heaven’s Armies?

4. How does the rule and reign of Pharaoh differ from God’s lordship? What is the picture of freedom which God had in mind for the Israelites? What is the societal definition of freedom? What are the benefits of the freedom society is envisioning? What is the reality of that freedom? What benefits does freedom in Christ afford? How are these benefits enjoyed to the fullest?

“We are never free. Everybody in the world is either a slave to sin and Satan or else a slave to Christ.”  
– Martin Lloyd-Jones

“One of the greatest rewards that we ever receive for serving God is the permission to continue serving Him for eternity.”  
– Charles Spurgeon

“This is a military metaphor, referring to God as a Warrior. I believe that this intended to reveal to Moses and to Israel that the ‘God of the Mountain’ is now going to come down and fight on behalf of his people.”

-Richard Pratt

“The book of Exodus is not about liberation in general or about political and religious freedom in particular, but about the deliverance from bad servitude to good servitude. The Israelites served Pharaoh but were called by God to serve him instead.”

- Daniel Stuart

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

"(Ex. 5:1–7:7) Moses and Aaron: Initial Request. This section describes Moses’ and Aaron’s initial audience and request before Pharaoh (5:1–21) and the Lord’s promises and encouragement in light of the response (5:22–6:9; 7:1–7). It also includes a genealogy of Moses and Aaron that records their particular antecedents in light of the roles that they will fill when Israel is brought out of Egypt (6:10–30)."

- ESV Study Bible

What does “God almighty” literally mean?

The Hebrew word translated here as “God almighty” literally means God of the mountain. You see there was a belief in the ancient near eastern culture that the gods dwelled on top of mountains. That belief eventually infiltrated Greek culture, which is why the Greeks believed the gods dwelled on top of Mount Olympus.

***PRAISE TO JESUS-*** Today praise the One who continues to be an ever-present King who is with you in your battles fighting with you and fighting for you.

***REPENTANCE THROUGH JESUS-*** Today confess and repent for the many times that when you, like the Hebrew people, have allowed your circumstances to overshadow God’s promises and passion to you in Jesus.

***CONSECRATION FOR JESUS-*** Rededicate ourselves to the incredible privilege of being a slave to Christ and the great freedom and joy that brings to our lives both now and throughout eternity.

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# Thank You for Worshiping with Us Today

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## 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](http://www.fpcrome.org/serve).

**ShelbyNext:** Visit our church website for access to our giving platform, membership directory, calendar, and more at [www.fpcrome.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:robd@fpcrome.org).