



# First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

The Lord's Day  
December 7, 2025  
11 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**

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable."

- *Psalm 145:3*

## **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 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

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“People Look East”  
arr. Sondra Tucker  
Brass Quintet and Organ

## DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Dr. & Mrs. Ryan and Amy Cox

*All the candles represent Jesus who is the light of the world, but each has a more specific meaning. Last week we began the season with the “Prophecy Candle” to remind us of the promises and prophecies God kept and fulfilled when he sent his Son into the world. Today we light the “Bethlehem Candle” (sometimes called the candle of faith or the candle of love) to remind us of the place and circumstances surrounding Jesus’ birth. The prophets foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, and the fact that this came true indicates that God in his sovereignty planned and prepared every detail for Jesus’ coming. The light of this candle, therefore, reminds us to prepare carefully for the coming of Jesus into our own hearts and homes.*

Call to Worship

Micah 5:2-4

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Peace and Greetings

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

Bidding Prayer

*Beloved in Christ, we come by this service to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and to see the loving-kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in a manger:*

*Let us therefore open the Holy Scriptures and read the earliest tale of that disobedience to God's holy will, which is common to us all; and then the story of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord, to save us from our sins and make us pure and happy; and let us thank him with our carols of praise.*

*But first let us pray:*

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who 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 No. 322

“Once in Royal David's City”

IRBY

## FIRST LESSON

## GENESIS 3:8-12

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Carol

“Sussex Carol”

*arr. Rene Clausen*

Chancel Choir & Brass

## SECOND LESSON

## ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone...<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn No. 293

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

## THIRD LESSON

## LUKE 2:1-7

<sup>2</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

*arr. Trevor Manor*

Chancel Choir

Ms. Jordan Walker, piano

## FOURTH LESSON

## LUKE 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn No. 311

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

## FIFTH LESSON

## 2 PETER 1:12-21 ESV

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. <sup>13</sup> I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, <sup>14</sup> since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. <sup>15</sup> And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. <sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“The Light in Our Waiting”  
Dr. Bill Pardue

## SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Hymn No. 319

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”  
ADESTE FIDELES

Commissioning and Benediction

*Leader: May the One who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with you always. Go forth in peace and joy.*

**All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from “Christmas Oratorio”  
Camille Saint-Saens

*First Presbyterian Church extends a special thank you to our guest musicians:*

*Brass Ensemble: Dustin Burgess, trumpet; Kyle Freeman, trumpet; Jeannie Blakey, horn;  
Andrew Neal, trombone; Ben Stringfellow, tuba; John Goodrich, timpani*

*Handbell Ensemble: Lauren Brewster, Donna Chadwick, Susie Garrett, Suzanne Garrett,  
Dawn Irmischer, Yvonne Miller, Jennifer Talley, Beth Tharp*

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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 LeAnn McDaniel at [leannm@fpcrome.org](mailto: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](mailto:robd@fpcrome.org).

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# Pray for Our Church Leaders

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## CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Bill Pardue	Senior Pastor	billp@fpcrome.org
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## THE SESSION

### CLASS OF 2025

Dr. Paul Brock  
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Dr. Dan Pate  
Dr. Eddie Johnston  
Mr. Charlie Williams

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Dr. John Pittman  
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Mr. Powell Fulton  
Mr. Doug Holstein  
Mr. Emery Johnson  
Mr. Ryan Okubo

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Mr. Chris Congdon  
Mr. Chris Earnest  
Mr. Travis Hill  
Mr. Jackson Keene  
Mr. Braden Keith

## TRUSTEES

Mr. King Askew

Mr. Walter Matthews

Mr. Charlie Williams