



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

The Lord's Day
March 24, 2024
9:00 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

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Scripture

based on John 12:13

Leader: A great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

All: In praise we adore you, King Jesus. Enter our hearts today as you entered Jerusalem long ago, and lead us by faith in the way everlasting. Amen.

Prelude

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Alan Bullard
Chancel Choir

Hosanna to the Son of David!
For blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Prayer of Invocation

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let all Israel say:

All: "His love endures forever."

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success.

Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

All: The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

Leader: You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

All: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Hymn of Praise No. 325

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

ST. THEODULPH

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Silent Prayer of Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn of Reflection No. 354

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

FESTAL SONG

OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“The Holy City”

Stephen Adams

Cameron LeJeune, baritone

*Last night I lay a-sleeping, there came a dream so fair,
I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there.
I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang,
Me thought the voice of angels from heaven in answer rang.*

Refrain:

*Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing,
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to your King!*

*And then me thought my dream was changed, the streets no longer rang,
Hushed were the glad Hosannas the little children sang.
The sun grew dark with mystery, the morn was cold and chill,
As the shadow of a cross arose upon a lonely hill.*

*And once again the scene was changed; new earth there seemed to be;
I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea;
The light of God was on its streets, the gates were open wide,
And all who would might enter, and no one was denied.
No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day;
It was the new Jerusalem that would not pass away.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Ezra 6:1-12 ESV

1 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in Babylonia, in the house of the archives where the documents were stored. 2 And in Ecbatana, the citadel that is in the province of Media, a scroll was found on which this was written: "A record. 3 In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king issued a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt, the place where sacrifices were offered, and let its foundations be retained. Its height shall be sixty cubits and its breadth sixty cubits, 4 with three layers of great stones and one layer of timber. Let the cost be paid from the royal treasury. 5 And also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought back to the temple that is in Jerusalem, each to its place. You shall put them in the house of God." 6 "Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and your associates the governors who are in the province Beyond the River, keep away. 7 Let the work on this house of God alone. Let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site.

8 Moreover, I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the rebuilding of this house of God. The cost is to be paid to these men in full and without delay from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province from Beyond the River. 9 And whatever is needed—bulls, rams, or sheep for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, as the priests at Jerusalem require—let that be given to them day by day without fail, 10 that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons. 11 Also I make a decree that if anyone alters this edict, a beam shall be pulled out of his house, and he shall be impaled on it, and his house shall be made a dunghill. 12 May the God who has caused his name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who shall put out a hand to alter this, or to destroy this house of God that is in Jerusalem. I Darius make a decree; let it be done with all diligence.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Hand of God for our Blessing”
Dr. Bill Pardue

SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Hymn of Response No. 333

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”
ELLACOMBE

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

“Toccata on Ellacombe”
Mark Thallander

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

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