



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

The Lord's Day
March 31, 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

"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*

God's People Gather for Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: Glory and honor, dominion and power, be to God for ever and ever.

All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Prelude

“Resurrection Hymn”

arr. Steven Strite

Chancel Choir

Alleluia!

*See what a morning, gloriously bright with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen! See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice, fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!*

*See Mary weeping: "Where is He laid?" As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name: It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years, Speaking life, stirring hope,
Bringing peace to us, Will sound till He appears,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!*

*One with the Father, Ancient of Days, through the Spirit
Who clothes faith with certainty, honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with Him, death is dead, love has won,
Christ has conquered; and we shall reign with Him,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!*

DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Prayer of Invocation

Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1, 5, 14, 17, 22-24

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

All: his love endures forever.

Leader: In our anguish we cried to the Lord, and he answered by setting us free. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

All: his love endures forever.

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

All: his love endures forever.

Leader: We will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;

All: his love endures forever.

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

All: The Lord has done this; and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn of Praise No. 360

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN

arr. James Biery

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

Affirmation of Faith

This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Savior, our Lord, and our God.

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Silent Prayer of Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant. Bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn of Reflection No. 512

“Jesus Lives, and So Shall I”

JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT

arr. Colin Howland

OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“Litany for Easter”

Gordon Young

Chancel Choir

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Ezra 6:19-22 ESV

19 On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover. 20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean. So they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves. 21 It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by everyone who had joined them and separated himself from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land to worship the Lord, the God of Israel. 22 And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the Lord had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Hand of God for Our Renewal”
Dr. Bill Pardue

SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Hymn of Response No. 365

“Thine Be the Glory”
MACCABAEUS
arr. Aaron David Miller

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

“Easter Anthem”
arr. Todd Marchand
Brass Quintet

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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