



First Presbyterian  
— R O M E —

The Lord's Day  
April 14, 2024  
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**

"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,"

- *Hebrews 12:28*

## **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

“Here For You”

Welcome and Announcements

## DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Affirmation of Faith

Ephesians 2:4-10

*Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Song of Praise

“Only A Holy God”

*Who else commands all the hosts of heaven, who else could make every king bow down.  
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles, only a Holy God.*

*What other beauty demands such praises, what other splendour outshines the sun.  
What other majesty rules with justice, only a Holy God.*

***Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.  
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God,  
Come and worship the Holy God.***

*What other glory consumes like fire, what other power can raise the dead.  
What other name remains undefeated, only a Holy God.*

***(chorus)***

*Who else could rescue me from my failing, who else would offer His only Son.  
Who else invites me to call Him Father, only a Holy God, only my Holy God.*

***(chorus)***

## CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Responsive Prayer of Confession

from Psalm 51

*Leader - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

**All - Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

*Leader - For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

**All - Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

*Leader - You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.*

**All - Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

*Leader - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.*

**(All) - Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Reflection

“Psalm 23: Surely Goodness Surely Mercy”

*The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. In green pastures He makes me lie down.*

*He restores my soul and leads me on for His name, for His great name.*

***Surely goodness surely mercy right beside me all my days.***

***And I will dwell in Your house forever, and bless Your holy name.***

*You prepare a table right before me in the presence of my enemies.*

*Though the arrow flies and the terror of night is at my door, I'll trust You Lord*

*And even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.*

*And even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death You are on my side, oh.*

## OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“How Sweet The Day”

## INTERCEDING FOR GOD'S WORLD

Prayers of the People

Mr. Braden Keith

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.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Ezra 7:11-26 ESV  
Mr. Josh Dollahite

*11* This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a man learned in matters of the commandments of the Lord and his statutes for Israel: *12* “Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven. Peace. And now *13* I make a decree that anyone of the people of Israel or their priests or Levites in my kingdom, who freely offers to go to Jerusalem, may go with you. *14* For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand, *15* and also to carry the silver and gold that the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, *16* with all the silver and gold that you shall find in the whole province of Babylonia, and with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests, vowed willingly for the house of their God that is in Jerusalem. *17* With this money, then, you shall with all diligence buy bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and you shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God that is in Jerusalem. *18* Whatever seems good to you and your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, you may do, according to the will of your God. *19* The vessels that have been given you for the service of the house of your God, you shall deliver before the God of Jerusalem. *20* And whatever else is required for the house of your God, which it falls to you to provide, you may provide it out of the king's treasury. *21* “And I, Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers in the province Beyond the River: Whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, requires of you, let it be done with all diligence, *22* up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much. *23* Whatever is decreed by the God of heaven, let it be done in full for the house of the God of heaven, lest his wrath be against the realm of the king and his sons. *24* We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God. *25* “And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God. And those who do not know them, you shall teach. *26* Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of his goods or for imprisonment.”

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“The Hand of God Provides for the Rebuilding of His People”  
Rev. Ken Chivers

## SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Song of Response

“Same God”

*I'm calling on the God of Jacob, Whose love endures through generations  
I know that You will keep Your covenant, I'm calling on the God of Moses  
The one who opened up the ocean, I need You now to do the same thing for me*

***O God my God I need You, O God my God I need You now  
How I need You now, O Rock O Rock of ages  
I'm standing on Your faithfulness***

*I'm calling on the God of Mary, Whose favor rests upon the lowly  
I know with You all things are possible, I'm calling on the God of David  
Who made a shepherd boy courageous, I may not face Goliath  
But I've got my own giant*

**(chorus)**

*You heard Your children then, You hear Your children now, You are the same God  
You answered prayers back then, And You will answer now, You are the same God  
You were providing then, You are providing now, You are the same God  
You moved in power then, God move in power now, You are the same God  
You were a healer then, You are a healer now, You are the same God  
You were a Savior then, You are a Savior now, You are the same God*

**(chorus)**

Commissioning and Benediction

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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

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## THE SESSION

### CLASS OF 2024

Mr. Mike Garrett  
Mr. Tommy Manning  
Dr. Ryland Scott  
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Dr. Eddie Johnston  
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Mr. Doug Holstein  
Mr. Emery Johnson  
Mr. Ryan Okubo

## TRUSTEES

Mr. King Askew

Mr. Walter Matthews

Mr. Charlie Williams