



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

The Lord's Day

August 23, 2026

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**

"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

Announcements

Mr. Martin Foster, Director of Seniors & Visitation

Mrs. Evelyn Storey, PIPs Ministry Council Member

Welcome

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Song of Praise

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be!*

***Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see;  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided,  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!***

*I have no merit to woo or delight Thee,  
I have no wisdom or pow'rs to employ;  
Yet in thy mercy, how pleasing thou find'st me,  
This is Thy pleasure: that Thou art my joy.*

**(chorus)**

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.*

**(chorus)**

## CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Response

“The Power of the Cross”

*Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.*

*Oh, to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning Your bloodstained brow.*

***This, the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us;  
Took the blame, bore the wrath— We stand forgiven at the cross.***

*Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life; "Finished!" the vict'ry cry.*

***(chorus)***

*Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love.*

***(chorus)***

## OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“King of My Heart”

*(As a reminder, the congregation will join the praise team on the second verse.)*

*When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest upon unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry rough and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

*His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When I shall launch in worlds unseen, O may I then be found in him;  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Psalms 56 NIV '84

Be merciful to me, O God, for men hotly pursue me; all day long they press their attack. <sup>2</sup>My slanderers pursue me all day long; many are attacking me in their pride. <sup>3</sup>When I am afraid, I will trust in you. <sup>4</sup>In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? <sup>5</sup>All day long they twist my words; they are always plotting to harm me. <sup>6</sup>They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, eager to take my life. <sup>7</sup>On no account let them escape; in your anger, O God, bring down the nations. <sup>8</sup>Record my lament; list my tears on your scroll – are they not in your record? <sup>9</sup>Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me. <sup>10</sup>In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise – <sup>11</sup>in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? <sup>12</sup>I am under vows to you, O God; I will present my thank offerings to you. <sup>13</sup>For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

“From Fear to Trust”  
Dr. Jonathan Schwartz

## CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT

Song of Preparation

“Keep the Feast”

*Joyfully we join You at Your table, pleading not our righteousness.  
By Your wealth of mercy we are able now to feast in confidence.*

***Take this bread and eat. Take this cup and drink.  
Remember how He loved us. Rejoice and keep the feast.***

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Partaking of the Elements

## SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Song of Response

“Keep the Feast”

*Who is fit to feast with such a Savior? Who His sandals could untie?  
Who are we that He would show us favor, granting us this gift of life?*

***Take this bread and eat. Take this cup and drink.  
Remember how He loved us. Rejoice and keep the feast.***

*Happy sign of friendship and reunion with the blessed Three in One.  
Foretaste of that glorious communion, vision of the world to come.*

***(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 the church office at [info@fpcrome.org](mailto:info@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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## THE SESSION

### CLASS OF 2027

Mr. Dave Abernathy  
Mr. Rusty Chadwick  
Mr. Sam Echols  
Mr. Frank Fleming  
Mr. Tony Pemerton

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Mr. John Goodrich  
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Mr. Cooper Evans  
Mr. Jeff Giddens  
Mr. Blake Hall  
Mr. Kris Palin  
Mr. Chase Tolbert

## TRUSTEES

Mr. King Askew

Mr. Walter Matthews

Mr. Charlie Williams

## CHURCH STAFF

|                           |                                                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Bill Pardue           | Senior Pastor                                     |
| Dr. Jonathan Schwartz     | Associate Pastor Evangelism and Outreach          |
| Rev. Ken Chivers          | Associate Pastor Family Ministry                  |
| Dr. Paul Neal             | Director of Classic Music Ministry                |
| Mr. Brandon Trapp         | Director of Convergent Music/Ministry Technology  |
| Ms. Judy Powell           | Classic Music Ministry Associate                  |
| Ms. Jordan Walker         | Pianist - Classic Music Ministry                  |
| Mrs. Pamela Radford       | Organist - Classic Music Ministry                 |
| Mr. Rob Davis             | Director of Adult Discipleship and Missions       |
| Mrs. Mandy Williams       | Director of Women's Ministry                      |
| Mr. Martin Foster         | Director of Seniors and Visitation                |
| Mrs. Nell Milner          | Director of Nursery Ministry                      |
| Mrs. Andrea Sartorato     | Director of Children's Ministry                   |
| Mr. Rob Edens             | Senior Director of Student Ministries             |
| Mrs. Mabrey Couch         | Co-Director of Student Ministries, Girls          |
| Mr. Caleb Sanders         | Co-Director of Student Ministries, Guys           |
| Mrs. Sarah Pope           | Admin. Asst. to Senior Pastor/Operations Director |
| Mrs. Cheri McElroy        | Admin. Asst. to Pastor Evangelism/Outreach/Adults |
| Ms. Tina Wilson           | Admin. Asst. to Pastor Family/Shepherding         |
| Mrs. Lisa Claytor         | Financial Director                                |
| Mrs. Jessica Baker        | Communications Coordinator                        |
| Mrs. Brenda Lacey         | Director of Building and Grounds                  |
| Mrs. Blanca Cruz          | Custodial Team Member                             |
| Mrs. Jessy Suriel-Lagares | Custodial Team Member                             |
| Mrs. Berta Mazariegos     | Custodial Team Member                             |

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