



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

Christmas Eve Candlelight
December 24, 2025
6 PM 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

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Christmas Carols

String Quartet

Welcome and Prayer of Invocation

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray: He came as a baby in a manger.

All: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: He came in a lowly stable.

All: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Shepherds brought their worship.

All: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Angels sang his praise.

All: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Magi brought their gifts.

All: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: What shall we do?

All: O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.

DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mr. & Mrs. Ron and Daina Abbott

All the candles represent Jesus who is the light of the world, but each has a more specific meaning. We began the Advent season by lighting the "Prophecy Candle" (Candle of Hope) to remind us of the promises and prophecies found in Scripture which God kept and fulfilled when he sent his Son Jesus into the world; followed by the "Bethlehem Candle" (Candle of Faith) to remind us of the place and circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth; followed by a lighting of the "Shepherds Candle" (Candle of Joy) to remind us that the message of Jesus' birth was first announced to "common" men who showed themselves ready to respond to the message of joy; on the final Sunday of Advent, we lit the "Angels Candle" (Candle of Peace) to remind us that the message of Jesus' birth was proclaimed from heaven and that what seemed to be a simple birth of a child has an eternal purpose: to call men and women into a relationship of forgiveness and peace with God. Finally, tonight, we light the "Christ Candle" to remember the birth of God's Son Jesus the Christ, who brings light and hope to a dark world through forgiveness of sins and the healing of our souls.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn of Praise No. 318

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Song of Response

*Gloria, In Excelsis Deo,
Gloria, In Excelsis Deo.*

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us all good desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn of Reflection No. 321

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W ZLOBIE LEZY

OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP AND OUR GIFTS

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Special Music

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

Dr. Paul Neal, tenor

Mrs. Amy Neal, piano

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

2 Peter 3:11-13 ESV

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Waiting for Eternal Things”
Dr. Bill Pardue

THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

All: Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Hymn of Reflection No. 315

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”
STILLE NACHT

SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Sending Prayer

All: Dear Lord, on a wondrous night you sent your Son to take on frail human flesh in order that all who believe in him might be saved. You sent angels to herald his birth in Bethlehem and a star to proclaim it to the ends of the earth. Send us now as messengers of your good news and proclaimers of your peace. In that Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Response No. 299

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”
ANTIOCH

Benediction

Postlude

“Echo Noel”
Louis Claude D'Aquin

*First Presbyterian Church extends a special thank you to our guest musicians:
Nicholas Lindell and Joe Lester, Violin; Samantha Lester, Viola; Spencer Brewer, Cello*

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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THE SESSION

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