



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —

Christmas Eve Candlelight
December 24, 2025
4 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

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

DECLARING GOD'S PRAISE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Mr. and Mrs. Kuannas and Abby Walker

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.

Call to Worship

John 1:1-14

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.

Songs of Praise

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior's birth.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND EMBRACING OUR FORGIVENESS

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have often lived as though this world will last forever, clinging to what is temporary instead of longing for Your coming kingdom. We admit that our hopes are easily captured by comfort, success, and distraction rather than by the promise of the new creation where righteousness dwells. Forgive us for failing to live holy and godly lives that reflect the beauty of Christ in a world that desperately needs His light. Cleanse our hearts and renew our desires, that we may wait patiently and walk faithfully in the power of Your Spirit. Lead us to live now for the world made new, shining with the beauty of the Gospel until the day of Christ's return.

Assurance of Pardon

OFFERING OUR FELLOWSHIP

Peace and Greetings

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

“O Holy Night”

Ms. Rose Hill

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.

Song of Response

“Silent Night”

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Silent Night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent Night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

SCATTERING AS CHRIST'S CHURCH

Commissioning and Benediction

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

Dr. Bill Pardue	Senior Pastor	billp@fpcrome.org
Dr. Jonathan Schwartz	Associate Pastor Evangelism and Outreach	jonathans@fpcrome.org
Rev. Ken Chivers	Associate Pastor Family Ministry	kenc@fpcrome.org
Mrs. Phyllis Pemerton	Executive Director of Operations	phyllisp@fpcrome.org
Mr. Rob Davis	Director of Adult Discipleship and Missions	robd@fpcrome.org
Mrs. Mandy Williams	Director of Women's Ministry	mandyw@fpcrome.org
Mr. Martin Foster	Director Seniors and Visitation	mfoster78@comcast.net
Mrs. Mabrey Couch	Co-Director Student Ministries, Girls	mabreyc@fpcrome.org
Mr. Caleb Sanders	Co-Director Student Ministries, Guys	calebs@fpcrome.org
Mrs. Andrea Sartorato	Director of Children's Ministry	andreas@fpcrome.org
Mrs. Nell Milner	Director of Nursery Ministry	nellm@fpcrome.org
Dr. Paul Neal	Director of Classic Music Ministry	pauln@fpcrome.org
Mr. Brandon Trapp	Director of Convergent Music and Ministry Technology	brandont@fpcrome.org
Mrs. Brenda Lacey	Director of Building and Grounds	brendal@fpcrome.org
Ms. Judy Powell	Classic Music Ministry Associate	1jcjpowell@att.net
Ms. Jordan Walker	Pianist - Classic Music Ministry	jordandwa@gmail.com
Mrs. Pamela Radford	Organist - Classic Music Ministry	pamelaradford@comcast.net

THE SESSION

CLASS OF 2025

Dr. Paul Brock
Mr. Sandy Hosea
Dr. Dan Pate
Dr. Eddie Johnston
Mr. Charlie Williams

CLASS OF 2026

Mr. Dennis Darville
Mr. Greg Davidson
Mr. Jonathan Johnson
Dr. John Pittman
Mr. Dathan Sorrow

CLASS OF 2027

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

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2025

Mr. Garrett Cochran
Mr. Jim Dent
Mr. Josh Dollahite
Mr. Jeff Giddens
Dr. Paul Hillesheim
Mr. Nate King

CLASS OF 2026

Mr. David Baker
Mr. Ben Culbertson
Mr. Brant Evans
Mr. Powell Fulton
Mr. Doug Holstein
Mr. Emery Johnson
Mr. Ryan Okubo

CLASS OF 2027

Mr. Gary Burkhalter
Mr. Chris Congdon
Mr. Chris Earnest
Mr. Travis Hill
Mr. Jackson Keene
Mr. Braden Keith

TRUSTEES

Mr. King Askew

Mr. Walter Matthews

Mr. Charlie Williams