

We are honored you have chosen to join us in worship. There is a time in our service when we will welcome guests; we will not, however, ask you to stand, raise your hand or do anything that makes you feel awkward. We would like to know you were here, however. Please fill out the information request below and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or minister. We promise to use it only to contact you about our church.

This is my (our)...
___ First visit to First Baptist Church
___ Second (+) visit

Name
Spouse's Name
Address
City
State Zip Code

E-mail

Marital Status
___ Married ___ Single ___ Widow(er)

Telephone

Children at Home (Name/Age/Grade)

___ I am new to Rome.
___ I am interested in knowing more about First Baptist Church.
___ I would like to talk with a minister.
___ I would like to know how to become a Christian.
___ I am a guest of:

Sunday, December 27
8:00 a.m. COVID Task Force - Zoom
9:00 a.m. Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)
9:45 a.m. Virtual Bible Studies
Contact Tamara Smathers or John Uldrick for links.
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, December 28
FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Wednesday, December 30
FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Friday, January 1
Church Office Closed
FBC Serves Community Kitchen

HUNGER OFFERING
Help meet the needs of the homeless and hungry by contributing to the monthly hunger offering. Please put this offering in an envelope and mark it "WORLD HUNGER" and place it in the offering plate during the offertory time of the service. We will not be able to receive offering at the doors, as we usually do. Our gifts support Meals and More, World Vision, and The CBF Global Missions Hunger Relief.

2021 DISCIPLINES
Year-long devotional books are in the Narthex or may be picked up in the church office. A limited number of large print issues are available.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
December 28, 30, & January 1st is FBC Rome's normal week for serving at the Community Kitchen. Volunteer teams continue to prepare food each M/W/F and are still serving in a to-go fashion. Because many of our regular FBC volunteers are unavailable, we need your help! If you are willing to serve, please email, text, or call John at juldrick@fbcrome.org or 706-766-0430.

END OF YEAR GIVING
As you make plans to support various charities and organizations at the end of the year, please include your church in your plans. You can always make your gift by writing a check and mailing it to our office, or by using our secure giving page on our website before the end of the year. We can receive gifts of appreciated stock or other assets that you might give to support our daily mission and ministries, or this might be a good time for you to make a gift to our Foundation or to endow a fund in our FBC Foundation in honor or in memory of someone. If you have any questions about opportunities or about making a gift this year, please contact Linda Beard or Matt DuVall. For donations to count for this tax year they must either be in the office by close of business December 31 or postmarked by December 31. Thank you for your generosity.



December 27, 2020 11:00 a.m.

To help maintain a spirit of worship, please silence phones. We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44 and through the livestream over the church website and Facebook.

Preservice Music Gwen Stephens

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude Joan Hill
"Once in Royal David's City" ...arr. Robert A. Hobby

Welcome to Worship Matt DuVall
God is here!

The Messiah has come!
We open our eyes to see Him and lift our hearts to worship Him.
We have come to worship Christ, the newborn King!

*Carol of Praise No. 126 REGENT SQUARE
"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: [Refrain]

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen the Infant's star: [Refrain]

Call to Confession. Keith A. Reaves
Leader: For Christ was born of Mary, became flesh, like us. The Wondrous Gift is given, but was without sin, unlike us. Let us confess our sins to God.

People (Sung) : O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

People (Sung): How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
 No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

*Reading of Holy Scripture. Galatians 4:4-7
 Catherine Jackson, lay reader

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,
 born under the law,

5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive
 adoption as children.

6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
 hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir,
 through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri (Hymn 704)
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the
 beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen. Amen.

Musical OfferingChoral Ensemble
 “What Child Is This”...arr. Sandy Wilkinson

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ, the King,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
 where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spears, shall piece Him through,
 the cross be borne for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
 come, peasant, king to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings;
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Raise, raise the song on high,
 the virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Morning Prayer (with The Lord's Prayer)Rev. DuVall
 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 trespasses, as we forgive those
 who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
 kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

Special Music Maggie Inman
 “Gesu, Bambino”...Pietro Yon

SermonJohn Uldrick
 “What Holds You Captive?”

*Carol of Response No. 114.TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM
 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Gentle Mary laid her Child Lowly in a manger;
 There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger:
 Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
 Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;
 He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger:
 Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
 Praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

Prayer of Stewardship. Tamara Tillman Smathers
 Lord of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, we thankfully give these gifts as an
 expression of all that You have given us.

**As the prophets foretold, Your Son was born for the
 redemption of our sins.**

We humbly acknowledge that of all the gifts we have received, Your gift of
 a babe in a manger, is the one that truly matters.

**We prayerfully ask you to increase our ability to help
 others discover anew the best Christmas message ever,
 the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. In His
 name, we pray. Amen.**

OffertoryJoan Hill
 “O Come, Little Children”...arr. Diane Bish

Meditation Text

The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them.
 Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love
 for others is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that
 God not only gives God's Word but also lends us God's ear. . . . We do God's work
 for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Work of the Church.Rev. Smathers

Pastoral Blessing

Commissioning Doxology

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace. Praise God for gifts of joy and love.
 Praise God for sending Christ to dwell on earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.

Dismissal

*(Please exit the sanctuary through the narthex one row at a time,
 beginning with the back row and working to the front.)*

Postlude.Joan Hill
 “Jesus Christ is Born Today” ...Gilbert Martin

Worship Reminders

For those worshipping in the church building:

- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Please keep a social distance inside and outside the church building.
- For emergencies, restrooms are available in the narthex or by taking the stairs in the narthex to the Fellowship Hall.
- An offering will be received at the end of the service. Please bring your offering to the end of your pew and place it in the offering plate as the usher passes your pew.
- Listening devices are available for those who have hearing difficulties. See an usher for details.

Joining First Baptist

We receive new members in several ways. Those who have never publicly acknowledged Christ as Lord join by public profession of faith. Baptism is scheduled for a later date. Members of other Baptist congregations may transfer their membership to our congregation. We handle the details of contacting your current church. Members of other Christian faith traditions are invited to join by “statement of faith.” Because other traditions vary in belief and practice, those joining by statement of faith are invited to speak with a minister before joining so that they might answer questions.

Recording

All services are recorded and may be viewed on our website. If you would like a video or audio copy of today's service, please call the office.

Prayer Concerns

(Please place in offering plate or hand to an usher or minister.)

Matt DuVall, Pastor

Keith A. Reaves
 Senior Associate/Minister of Worship

Tamara Tillman Smathers
 Minister of Education/Administration

John H. Uldrick
 Minister to Students and Missions

Kristen Pope, Minister of Faith Development

Gwen Stephens
 Ministry Assistant/Interim Pianist

Joan Hill, Organist