

WELCOME!

We are honored you have joined us in worship. 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 interested in becoming a member of First Baptist Church.

I am a guest of:

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

WORLD 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 or give it to one of our youth at the exits following worship. Gifts support World Vision and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions Hunger Relief.

WELCOMING ADVENT

Join us today at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will make Advent wreaths to use in our homes and enjoy Christmas music and delicious goodies. A family Advent devotional book will also be distributed. Please bring fresh greenery and pruning shears from home.

HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

Hands of Christ Christmas Signup Genius is available on the website. Please sign up and deliver gifts to the Dining Room through December 11. All gifts should be wrapped, (as gift allows), with a temporary tag taped on the bottom with family letter, gender and age.

CHRISTMAS AT FIRST BAPTIST CONCERT

Our annual concert featuring the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, with the Youth Choir, Children's Choir and First Baptist Ringers is December 4 at 4 p.m.

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon is Thursday, December 8 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Attendees are encouraged to bring a nativity set to display. The program will include special music from FBC music interns Sydney Godfrey and Matthew Becher and stories about the nativity sets. Cost of the lunch is \$10. Sign up by December 1.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 27

9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Welcoming Advent - Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 28

9:00 a.m. Flower Committee Work Day
5:15 p.m. First Baptist Ringers

Tuesday, November 29

9:00 a.m. Flower Committee Work Day

Wednesday, November 30

FBC Serves Community Kitchen
5:00 p.m. Family Night Dinner
5:45 p.m. Younger Children's Choirs - Classrooms
Older Children's Choir & Youth Choir - Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
Student Life and Discipleship
Sanctuary Choir w/Orchestra Rehearsal - Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Kids J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

Thursday, December 1

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Friday, December 2

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

For information on these and other activities see www.fbcrome.org or The Spire.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God through the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of John Byron Reeves by Sue Reeves and Family.

First Baptist Church, 100 East Fourth Avenue, Rome, GA 30161
Phone: 706.291.6850 Website: www.fbcrome.org



Walking in the Light

Advent 2022

First Baptist Church

Rome, Georgia

Let us walk in the Light of the Lord.

-Isaiah 2:5

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

11:00 A.M.

We welcome a larger congregation through Comcast Channel 44,
streaming through the church website and YouTube.
As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ORGAN PRELUDE "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"...arr. Carolyn Hamlin

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 2:1-5) David Brooks
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

CAROL OF PRAISE NO. 83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE Bunk and Vicki Gee

Choral Introduction

"Christ, Be Our Light!"...arr. Joel Raney

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your Word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your Church gathered today.

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During Advent, God's promise illuminates our hope.

On these living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of fear, we place our hope in the One who brings life.

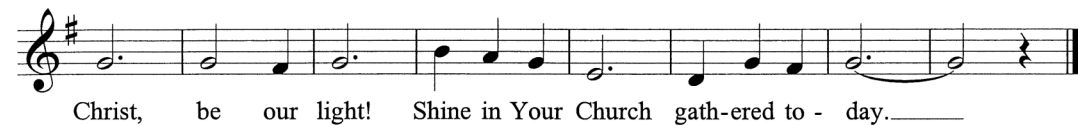
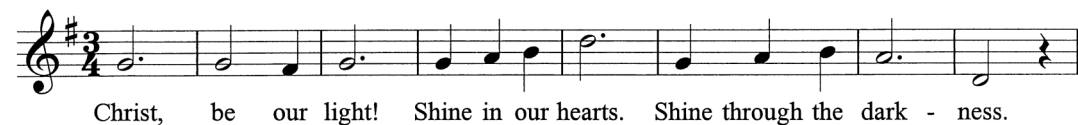
On these living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of grief, we place our hope in the One who offers comfort.

On these living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.

In times of wondering, we place our hope in the One who speaks truth.

On these living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.



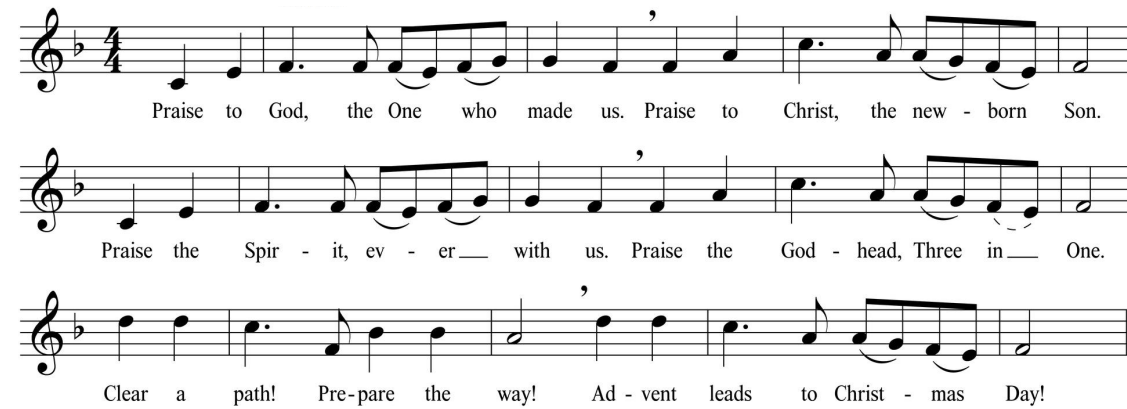
READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:1-13
Tamara Tillman Smathers, reader

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

ADVENT DOXOLOGY



CAROL OF FAITH NO. 96 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

MORNING PRAYER (with the Lord's Prayer) Nick Georgian

MUSICAL OFFERING Sanctuary Choir

"Advent Alleluia"...arr. Keith Christopher

Salvation is created. O Lord, God almighty we offer praise to Thee above.
Praise to Thee, O holy Lord God.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. Alleluia!

SERMON Rev. Brooks
"Walking in the Light: Be Prepared"

CAROL OF RESPONSE NO. 87 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP Kristen Mathis

FIRST BAPTIST RINGERS OFFERTORY "Still, Still, Still"...arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH Rev. Mathis

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

COMMISSIONING HYMN "Christ Be Our Light"

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in Your Church gathered today.

ORGAN POSTLUDE "Fanfare Fugue"...J. S. Bach

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The observance of Advent began in about the sixth century. Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day and the inclusive weekdays. The word, ADVENT, consists of two Latin words: ad-venie, "to come to". Therefore, the message of Advent is that God in Christ is coming to the world. One of the most beautiful traditions of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath. The wreath is circular in shape to represent the eternity of God, without beginning or end. Evergreens are used to symbolize God's gift of life and growth and life to come. The candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, symbolize God's Son as the light of the world. Individual attributes (hope, faith, joy, love) are linked with the individual candles. Three of the candles are purple, representing royalty. One candle is pink and is lit on the third Sunday and symbolizes joy. The fifth candle is white and larger and is in the center of the wreath to represent Christ and is therefore called the Christ Candle. We light this candle on Christmas Eve. The flame reminds us that Christ is the light of the world, the light which dispels all darkness and fear.

FAMILY WORSHIP

Today is the last Sunday of the month. These days are designated as "Family Worship" days and all children sit with their families. Nursery care is available to children four and younger. Children's Worship will return next Sunday.

David Brooks
Pastor

Keith A. Reaves
Senior Associate/Minister of Worship

Tamara Tillman Smathers
Minister of Education/Administration

Kristen Mathis
Minister of Faith Development

Gwen Stephens
Minister to Extended Family

Nick Georgian
Interim Minister to Students and Missions

Joan Hill, Organist

Beverly Harris, Pianist