

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

IT'S BBQ TME!

Student Ministry 2023 Barbeque Fundraiser

You have the chance to purchase some of the best barbecue in Rome now through Sunday, January 29. We tried to make the ordering process convenient for you by providing several different ways to access the ordering questionnaire. Visit the church website to click on the link that can be found on the It's BBQ Time! slider or you may look for one of the several BBQ signs placed around the church to scan the QR Code with your smart phone. If you are having difficulty please call the church office so that Nick or Karen can assist you in placing your order.

GETTING READY CLASS

We will have a baptism education class on Sunday, January 8, directly following worship from noon until 1:30 p.m. Pizza lunch will be served, so please let Kristen know if your child will attend.

CANADIAN MARITIMES

The Senior Adult Ministry is hosting a trip to the Canadian Maritimes (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island) in July 2023. Please contact Keith Reaves for a brochure or for more information. A \$300 per person discount is offered if you register by January 9. Less than 10 spots remain.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, January 1

No Regular Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Bible Trivia - Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

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 and provided by the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary January 1 are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Willie and Mary Sue Barron by the Family.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA**

JANUARY 1, 2023

11:00 A.M.

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

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ORGAN PRELUDE

"For All the Blessings of the Year" ...arr. Karin Ford

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Kristen Mathis

O Come, Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

The Star in the dark sky heralded His Coming.

Led by the light of the Star, the Wise Ones came to pay homage.

We, too, come to the stable, seeking the infant King.

Come, Arise! Shine! The Light has come.

God's Light of love is shining upon us. AMEN.

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 140

"Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us"
HARLAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction.

We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.

We fail to follow the signs You provide. Forgive our waywardness, O God.

Lead us to Christ and hear our prayers, so that we may follow His way to You. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS NO. 150 “As with Gladness Men of Old”
DIX

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12

David Brooks, reader

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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.

HYMN OF EPIPHANY NO. 137 “Sing We Now of Christmas”
FRENCH CAROL

(Children through third grade are invited to depart for Children’s Worship.)

MORNING PRAYER (with the Lord’s Prayer) Tamara Tillman Smathers

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING Sanctuary Choir

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”...arr. Keith Christopher

Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem, shining afar through shadows dim,
Giving a light for those who long have gone.
Guiding the wise men on their way unto the place where Jesus lay,
Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on,

*Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine upon us until the glory dawns.
Give us a lamp to light the way unto the land of perfect day.
Beautiful star of Bethlehem, shine on.*

Oh beautiful star, the hope of light, guiding the pilgrims through the night,
Over the mountains 'till the break of dawn.
And into the light of perfect day, it will give out a lovely ray.
Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on.

Oh beautiful star, the hope of rest for the redeemed, the good, the blessed,
Yonder in glory when the crown is won.
For Jesus is now the star divine, brighter and brighter He will shine.
Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on.

SERMON Rev. Brooks
“Where Is Jesus?”

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 144 “Oh, Come, Little Children”
SCHULZ

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP Nick Georgian

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world.
May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness.

Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves.

Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. In Christ’s name, Amen.

PIANO OFFERTORY “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” (Huron Carol)...arr. Joseph Martin

Meditation Text:

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart. -Howard Thurman

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH Nick Georgian

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

COMMISSIONING HYMN NO. 151 (Stanza Five) “We Three Kings”

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

ORGAN POSTLUDE “The Solid Rock”...arr. Michael Burkhardt

WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

Today we enter the third season of the church year: Epiphany. The word *epiphany* is Greek for “to manifest” or “to reveal.” In this season, which lasts until Ash Wednesday, the church celebrates God showing himself in the person of Christ to the Gentiles. For this reason during this season we remember the visit from the Magi, Christ’s baptism and His transfiguration. It celebrates that Christ came as Savior for all people.

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP

Children ages four through third grade are invited to Children’s Worship on the second floor of the Education Building. The children return to the sanctuary following worship.

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.

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
Minister to Students and Missions

Beverly Harris, Pianist

Joan Hill, Organist