

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.

SAFETY

Safe zones for severe weather are in preschool hallways for children and the Fellowship Hall for others. If there is a need to evacuate, parents should pick up children at the bus parking lot on the far side of First Presbyterian Church.

David Brooks
Pastor

Keith A. Reaves
Senior Associate/Minister of Worship

Tamara Tillman Smathers
Minister of Education/Administration

Kristen Mathis (*on sabbatical until May 11*)
Minister of Faith Development

Gwen Stephens
Minister to Extended Family

Nick Georgian
Minister to Students and Missions

Joan Hill, *Organist*

Beverly Harris, *Pianist*

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

WELCOME, MARY!

We welcome Mary McDonald as our musical guest today! With a career that spans more than 40 years, Mary's songs appear in the catalogs of every major publisher of church music. More than 1,200 compositions testify to her significant contribution to church music. Mary has performed three times on the grand stage of Carnegie Hall, both as pianist and conductor. Be sure to come back today at 4 p.m. for a concert with Mary, the Sanctuary Choir and Children's Choir.

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

OUR NOON GATHERINGS BEGIN WEDNESDAY!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch and a brief devotion.

- May 3 - David Brooks
- May 10 - Keith Reaves
- May 17 - Tamara Smathers
- May 24 - Kristen Mathis
- May 31 - Nick Georgian
- June 7 - Doris White Grant recipient

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Our fifth Getting Ahead cohort has launched! The success of Bridges depends on volunteers to provide childcare, meals and transportation on Thursday evenings. If you are interested, use the QR code to sign up. Contact Keith Phillips with questions.

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 with a basket at the exits following worship.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 30

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study Leaders Meeting
- 9:45 a.m. Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 2:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Mary McDonald Concert - Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Student Small Groups - Hunt Home

Monday, May 1

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Dining Room
- 5:15 p.m. First Baptist Ringers

Tuesday, May 2

- 5:30 p.m. Committee on Committees - Conference Room

Wednesday, May 3

- 12:00 p.m. Prayers and Reflections
- 5:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Suite

Thursday, May 4

- 6:00 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty Class - Dining Room & Community Room

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

The flowers in the Narthex today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Nell Coffman by Karen and Peter Jordan and Family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Joanne Owens on the occasion of her birthday by her Family.

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

EASTER PROMISES

A WORSHIP SERIES

TODAY'S PROMISE:
ABUNDANT LIFE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA

APRIL 30, 2023
11:00 A.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PIANO PRELUDE

Mary McDonald, guest pianist
"All Hail the Power" ...arr. Mary McDonald

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Keith Reaves

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth; burst into jubilant song with music.

Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing.

With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn

shout for joy before the Lord, the King. Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 349

"To God Be the Glory"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through.

We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope.

Help us stop and listen to the Shepherd's voice. Let us place our trust in the Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives.

Forgive us our stubbornness and foolishness. Lord, hear our prayers...

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Sanctuary Choir

“The Cross of Christ” ...arr. Chris McDonald and Mary McDonald

(This anthem is donated to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. J. Harold Parker, by Cindy Parker Childs and Rick Childs.)

In the lowland of my fallen heart, I could find no place of rest,
Ever climbing on the futile path of my own righteousness.
Then I fixed my gaze upon one hill and saw the sacrifice.
And grace was given there to me upon the cross of Christ.

By the cross of Christ, I am justified and free.
By the blood of Love’s pure Lamb,
I can rise as one now ransomed from the fall.
By the cross of Christ I stand.

In the rags of my unworthiness, I approach His holy throne,
Though a slave, He takes me in His arms and claims me as His own.

I stand forgiven and reconciled.
Though once his enemy, now I’m His child.

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READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-10

David Brooks, reader

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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 FAITH NO. 68

“He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought”

(Children ages four through third grade may 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

“Sing Forth His Glorious Name” ...Mary McDonald

(This anthem is donated to the glory of God and in honor of Hank Dobson, by his family.)

Let all the people sing out His praise; let every nation rejoice!
Glorious praise will fill the sky, the heavens break forth in song!
Mountains and hills will sing out His praise; all of the earth will rejoice!
Trees of the field will clap their hands, and the rocks will sing the joy!

Alleluia! Let every voice proclaim! Alleluia! Lift up His holy Name!

Jesus, Savior, ever His truth shall reign!

Alleluia! Hail the King! Sing forth His glorious Name!

Glory and honor we bring to You; praises we joyfully sing!
All power and praise be given You, our Savior, our Lord and King!
Tender, compassionate are Your ways, righteous, exalted and true.
Mighty defender, our strength and shield, forever Your kingdom will reign!

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SERMON

Rev. Brooks

“Easter Promises: Abundant Life”

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 620

“Because He Lives”

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

Nick Georgian

PIANO OFFERTORY

Mary McDonald

“Fairest Lord Jesus” ...arr. Mary McDonald

Meditation Text:

Jesus is the passageway - the boundary transition point - through whom we are able to find abundant life. In this context, "abundant life" does not mean "lots of toys." It refers to the quality of life that comes through attachment to Jesus - believing / trusting into Jesus; abiding in Jesus; eternal life. — David Ewart

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Nick Georgian

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

BENEDICTION

Sanctuary Choir and Congregation

“Fly Away Home” ...arr. Mary McDonald

(The congregation will please sing along when prompted.)

Some glad morning when this life is o’er I’ll fly away
to a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away!
I’ll fly away, O glory, I’ll fly away!
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I’ll fly away.

In the sweet by and by,
we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

In the sweet by and by,
we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

WELCOME!

We are honored you are with us today!
Please fill out this form if you are a guest or in need of prayer support and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a minister. We promise to use it only to contact you about our church.

First visit to First Baptist Church

Returning guest

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.

Please have a minister contact me.

I am interested in becoming a member of First Baptist Church.

Add me to the newsletter email list.

I am a guest of:

Please pray for:
