

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
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

WEAR RED NEXT SUNDAY

Remember to wear red in worship on May 28 as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, marking the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost literally means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter. Red, the color associated with this day, recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. Red also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs. These are the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

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

• May 24 - Kristen Mathis • May 31 - Nick Georgian • June 7 - Doris White Grant recipient

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Calling All Superheroes! June 12 - 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

VBS Registration is open! Our theme this year is "Hero Hotline." We will explore our Hero Handbook - the Bible - and discover everything that we are called to do as God's heroes. Children ages 3 years to 4th grade are invited to join us. Older elementary kids and youth are also welcome to come serve as volunteer and leaders! Register on our website or through the link posted on our Facebook and Instagram.

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.



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 21

8:30 a.m. Senior Mission Immersion Trip Meeting - Conference Room
9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn Luncheon - Dining Room

Monday, May 22

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Dining Room

Wednesday, May 24

FBC Serves Community Kitchen
12:00 p.m. Prayers and Reflections

Thursday, May 25

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

Friday, May 26

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

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 Robert Payne by Mary Louise Payne, Kevin, Chad and Family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edd and Bea Richards by Sharon Baker.

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



ASCENSION DAY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROME, GEORGIA

MAY 21, 2023
11:00 A.M.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ORGAN PRELUDE

"Welcome Voice" ...arr. James Pethel

CALL TO WORSHIP NO. 594 (STANZA 1)

Sanctuary Choir

"Before the Throne of God Above"

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea;
a great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is written on His hands, my name is written on His heart.
I know that while in heaven He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

David Brooks

THE COVENANT OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Led by the Spirit of God to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and having entered into the fellowship of the Spirit through His Church,

we, the members of the Church, prayerfully make this covenant with one another and with our Heavenly Father.

We respect all faith traditions, but we shall cherish our heritage as Baptist Christians.

We shall hold dear the principles of soul competency, the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local Church, and the Bible as our trusted and authoritative guide in matters of faith and practice.

As a group of gathered believers, we understand ourselves to be a part of a family of faith.

Therefore, we shall love, forgive, admonish, encourage, serve, and pray for one another—always in the spirit of being sisters and brothers in Christ.

Jesus Christ shall be our model for living.

We recognize that none of us shall ever attain his perfection; yet, we shall always strive to grow in likeness of Him. His heart shall be our guide for the way we minister, organize ourselves, conduct our business, and treat others.

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ on earth; therefore, we are the hands of Christ.

Knowing this about ourselves, we shall be satisfied with nothing less than being leaders in Christian service. We can only accomplish this goal by serving more.

Our Master is our example. We know that we serve Christ himself when we minister to the least, the last, the lost, and the overlooked.

We believe that, on our own, we are not strong enough, wise enough, nor good enough to accomplish our mission as a Church. Therefore, we trust in God’s strength, God’s wisdom, and God’s righteousness to empower us. Only through prayer do we accomplish our mission as a Church.

ORDINANCE OF BELIEVER’S BAPTISM Nick Georgian, candidate
(Please respond with “Amen” following the baptism.)

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 215 “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

A CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus ascended in triumph to His heavenly throne.

There He hears our prayers and pleads our cause before the Father.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

HYMN 594 “Before the Throne of God Above (Stanza 2)

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN 594 “Before the Throne of God Above (Stanza 2)

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:1-11

Kristen Mathis, reader

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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 ADORATION NO. 360

“We Will Glorify”

(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

“We Shall See Jesus”...arr. Tom Fettke

Once on a hillside, people were gathered hoping to see Him, as thousands were fed.

He touched the blind eyes, healed broken spirits.

Moved with compassion, He raised up the dead.

Once on a hillside, people were gathered watching as Jesus was crucified.

No one showed mercy, to the one who had healed them.

Yet, Jesus loved them, as He suffered and died.

Once on a hillside, people were gathered, for Jesus had risen and soon would ascend.

Then, as He blessed them, He rose to the heavens

and gave them His promise to come back again.

We shall see Jesus, just as they saw Him. There is no greater promise than this!

When He returns in power and glory we shall see Jesus, just as He is!

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SERMON

Rev. Brooks

“Easter Promises: Power and Purpose”

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 209

“The Head that Once Was Crowned”

PRAYER OF STEWARDSHIP

Nick Georgian

PIANO/ORGAN OFFERTORY

“All Hail the Power ”...arr. Marilyn Ham & Kenneth Varner

Meditation Text:

“[As we consider his ascension], we are not permitted the luxury of gazing at Jesus’ feet. No, we must get on with Jesus’ work, and so it is our vision of the world that is to be that calls us to service in the world that is.” -Peter J. Gomes

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Nick Georgian

AFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC DECISIONS

PASTORAL BLESSING

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN OF COMMISSIONING NO. 223 (STANZA TWO)

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave,

and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save;

His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,

who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

“Allegro Maestoso” ...Felix Mendellsohn

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:
