



take a
real rest
walk with me
work with me
- watch how I do it

MATT. 11:29

WORSHIP OF GOD | 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | JULY 9, 2023

First Baptist Church of Rochester

175 Allens Creek Road, Rochester, New York 14618

Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, senior pastor | Evann Hasenauer, student intern



*At **First Baptist Church** we **welcome and** affirm all people regardless of race, class, gender, physical challenge, place of origin, or sexual orientation in worship, in community, in membership, and in all aspects of congregational life. If you wish to be a part of the FBCR community, we have good news – we already consider you a part. Please sign our guest book or trade contact information with any member so we might get to know you better and help you connect more fully. If you wish to consider entering into a covenant relationship (membership) with FBCR, ask any member to tell you about their experience. Welcome.*

We're delighted you've joined us in worship today. If this is the first time or one of the first times you've worshiped with us, would you consider letting us know? We would love to get to know you better. If you are willing to trust us with your contact information so we may connect you soon, please sign the book in the narthex, complete the card found in the small pocket in your pew—placing it in the offering plate, or go to rochesterfbc.org/guest.

For the latest news and information, please go to our website to the *FBCR Connections* page at www.rochesterfbc.org/connections.

Chiming of the Hour**For Reflection as we gather:**

“It is the spiritual “infants” (v.25), the least theologically sophisticated people, those with the fewest illusions about their own powers of understanding, who know how to receive Jesus in humility and so gain access to the One He came to reveal (v.27).”

Lance Pape, Homeiletical Perspective, Feasting on the Word, Year A, Vol.3, p. 217

Gathering Music

Todd Haefele

WelcomeRev. Joanne
Gilbert-Cannon**Call to Worship**

Psalm 145:8-14
Adapted for worship-JGC

Kandee Tabor

One: Our God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love.

Many: God is good to all and has compassion on all of creation.

One: All your works praise you, God; your faithful people extol your goodness.

Many: We must tell of the glory of Your kingdom and speak of Your might...

One: so that all people may know of Your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

Many: For Yours is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations.

One: God is trustworthy, keeps promises and is faithful.

**All: We offer our thanks that God upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.
Let us worship God.**

**congregation sings*

***Hymn 31/Blue** *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* I. Watts, Gesangbuch
der H. W. K. Hofkapelle

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 NRSV* Kandee Tabor

Morning Prayer Rev. Joanne
Gilbert-Cannon

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 *I'll Fly Away* Albert E. Brumley
Todd Haefele, mandolin

Children's Time Evann Hasenauer

***Hymn 435/Blue** *Like a River Glorious* F. R. Havergal,
J. Mountain

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30* Rev. Joanne
The Message Gilbert-Cannon

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon *The Challenge of Faith* Rev. Joanne
Gilbert-Cannon

Giving our Gifts to God

In response for the gift of God's abundance, we return to God gifts of what we have and gifts of who we are. To contribute financially to the work of FBCR you may leave an offering in the plate as it is passed, or send an offering by mail or give at rochesterfbc.org/contribute.

Music in Response

Andante religioso

F. Mendelssohn

***Doxology #34**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Evann Hasenauer

Invitation to Mission and Ministry

Worshippers with information on the life of the church are invited to offer announcements. From Zoom simply unmute and speak up. From campus, come to one of the congregation microphones.

***Hymn 748/Blue**

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

attr. J. Fawcett
Sicilan melody

Benediction

Rev. Joanne
Gilbert-Cannon

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in B^b

J. L. Krebs



Thank you to those participating in today's service including: Kande Tabor reader; Bob McDonald and Richard Wien, ushers; Scott and Susen McClellan, and Janet Richardson, tech team; and our musicians: Todd Haefele, guitar, mandolin; and Rob Kerner, guest organist.

INVITATION TO MISSION AND MINISTRY

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. *It's Time To Share.* We have just two Sundays left to give to this year's OGHs special offering. There are envelopes in the pews if you would like to contribute to this 100% pass-through offering that provides supplies and services for disaster relief, project development, and displaced-person assistance. See details of how previous gifts have helped others and the results of that assistance on pages 7 & 8.

Wednesday Check-in: Our online Zoom room is available to anyone who wishes to check in and have a chat each Wednesday evening through the summer beginning at 5:30 PM.

Pride Weekend and more: One more week! It's time to get your name and information to Evann if you plan to march in the parade. The Pride Worship Service will be held at 3:00 PM at Immanuel Baptist Church on Park Avenue. Please sign up at the Vitality Table or you can email us at office@rochesterfbc.org to let us know you would like to participate and stay informed. We are trying to get an idea of those who may wish to march in the parade. Please speak with Evann who is coordinating this event for our congregation.

OWLS (Older Wiser Learning Seniors): OWLS returns this week on Thursday, July 13 at 11:30 AM with Silver Stretch led by Kathy Mulvelhill, 12:15 PM Lunch, and 12:30 PM Informational Program. This week we will be playing a group trivia game "In the Hot Seat." Please RSVP to Kande Tabor at (585) 520-6948 or email her at kandeetabor@gmail.com.

FBCR Book Club: We will meet on Tuesday, **July 18**, 11:30 AM in the Library to discuss *Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships* by Nina Totenberg. Totenberg shares in this memoir her personal successes, struggles, and life-affirming relationships, including her beautiful friendship of nearly fifty years with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Bring your own lunch; a beverage will be provided. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace: An early fall Mission experience is coming! Over the next several weeks we will begin to share tidbits of information about a wonderful hands-on and congregational-gifting mission project that is scheduled for September 9, 2023. There will be ways to participate before and on that date. So if you are 10 years-old or older and would like to have a hands-on mission-giving experience, you will want to save the date on your calendar. More details will be coming soon.

Nursery Care; We are seeking two or more individuals to work on Sundays in the nursery. The ages served are infants through toddlers. If you know of someone who enjoys working with young children and is available on Sundays and occasionally other days and times for special events, please let us know. The hours are 9:30 AM—12:00/12:30 PM and starts at \$15.00/hour. People willing to be a substitute in the nursery for unexpected absences are also needed. We currently have at least two interested families who need this type of care in order to be able to attend.

MISSION STORIES

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit."

Galatians 6:9



IT'S TIME TO SHARE

During a recent interview, Rev. Igor Bandura, Vice President of IM's Baptist partner in Ukraine shared, "There are more generators running in Ukraine than anywhere else in the world." This is just one reality of life one year into war.

Since Russia invaded on February 24, 2022, you generously gave \$1,366,000 to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)-Ukraine Relief. Your gifts combined with others around the world to provide for over \$5,700,000 in humanitarian aid. Most of the aid given has met basic needs: food, shelter, heating, transport, and psychological assistance. The aid has been delivered by Baptists partners in Ukraine and neighboring countries, by your International Ministries Global Servants, including Carmella Jones, Becky and Larry Stanton, John and Amanda Good, and Kristy Engel, by Church World Service staff in Moldova, and by L'Arche staff in Ukraine.

Many Ukrainians—those that remained and those that left—continue to live in the middle space between deep grief and deep gratitude. What Rev. Bandura shared most about is the gratitude and the signs of the "harvest" already emerging...

- Most churches are full on Sundays despite the fact that half of their members have left.



A baptism in the Belgorod-Dnistrovsky church in Odessa.



Ministering in the occupied Donetsk region, despite danger and limited electricity.

- There have been 3,000 baptisms in the last 6 months of 2022; 25,000 new people are attending churches.
- On seeing God in the midst of war...“It is hard to go through a war. Really hard. And it’s the best time for people to see the power of God.”
- On the future of the Baptist Union...“We continue to think about, dream about, and plan for our future.”
- On the transformation of the local church...“This war has brought a real chance to reform our churches. Our churches were good before the war. But we’ve become better.”
- On the Union’s own transformation...Before the war, this Baptist Union, made up of 2,300 churches, had an organizational capacity that was huge, but did no projects on a national level. Now they are coordinated to deliver a multimillion-dollar humanitarian relief program across their country. They never had to do anything like this. Now they not only know they can do it, they are doing it--and they developed this capacity under all the pressures of war.
- On compassion...“Before the war, when we heard about war or hard things in another part of the world, we prayed. Yes, we prayed. But this war has allowed us to truly understand compassion. Ukraine as a country will emerge from this war a more compassionate people.”

Thank you for not getting fatigued doing good. Thanks to your generosity, despite the continuation of the war, the harvest has already begun.

