



Christmas
EVE



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.



Anyone who ordered a Dedication Poinsettia, may take it home following worship today or next Sunday, December 31.

Celebrate with us next Sunday at 10 AM for Jammies and Jingles, where dress is casual (PJ's welcome) for a service of Carols and Stories.

We invite you to join us next Sunday or any Sunday at 10 AM for worship and a time of fellowship with Christian Education for children.



Fourth Sunday of Advent | Christmas Eve Service

WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 24, 2023

First Rochester | An American Baptist Church

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

Henry Griffin, music director | Samuel Baker, organist

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

*Allemande from the Bach
Cello Solo, Suite No. 3*
Joanna Frank, cello

J.S. Bach

For Reflection

*Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee; Sweetly the light has dawned upon me; Once
I was blind, but now I can see: The Light of the world is Jesus!*

- P. P. Bliss (1875), author, composer

*Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

John Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True, God of true God, Light from Light eternal,
Lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yes, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**congregation sings*

Call to Worship & Advent Candlelighting

Rev's. Peg & Ken Williams

One: The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.

ALL: We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

One: John pointed him out and called, "This is the One! The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me. He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word."

ALL: We all live off his generous abundance, gift after gift after gift.

One: We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding— all this came through Jesus, the Messiah.

ALL: No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day.

Unison Gathering Prayer

We give You thanks O God, on this special eve of Christ's coming into the world. Make us bold in our remembering and thankful in our living. Bless our practice that we might share the light of the world. Amen.

*Carol

Away in a Manger

James R. Murray

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love You, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Special Music *O Holy Night* Placide Cappeau (1847)
 Andrew Miller, tenor, Henry Griffin, piano Cantique De Noel

Invitation to Mission and Ministry Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Children’s Time Pastor Joanne and Evann

***Carol** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Charles Wesley,
 Felix Mendelssohn

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
 With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord.
 Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb:
 veiled in flesh the God-head see’ hail th’ incarnate Deity,
 pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

Hark! The herald angles sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing on his wings,
 Mild he lays his glory by, Born that [we] no more may die,
 Born to raise [us from the] earth, Born to give us second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

Hebrew Scriptures *Psalm 98* Rev’s. Peg & Ken Williams

Special Music *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Trad. Carol
 Henry Griffin, baritone; Samuel Baker, organ text: Edmund Sear

A Christmas Story

Giving Our Gifts to God

Music in Response *Who Could Imagine a King* Mervyn Warren, Hallerin
 Janelle Cannon, soprano; Henry Griffin, piano Hilton Hill

Prayer of Dedication Evann Hasenauer

***The Light of
Christ shared**

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr,
Franz Gruber

*Please remain seated for the singing of this Carol.
During the Carol, the Light of the Christ candle will be shared with all.
Please accept the light from your neighbor.
If you are able, keep your candle lit for the duration of the service.*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

Benediction

Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon



Go in peace,

MERRY
Christmas

and may you be blessed in the New Year.

2023 Advent Dedication Poinsettias

If you ordered a plant, it may be taken home following tonight's service or next Sunday.

<i>Given By</i>	<i>In Memory / Honor /Appreciation of</i>
Samuel Baker	Given in Memory of James Weaver
Peter and Suzette Boulay	Given in Memory of Susan Boulay, Diane and John McMaster
Ken Dodgson	Given in Memory of Sally Lewis Dodgson and Dr. Gene and Jean Bartlett
Ken Dodgson's daughters	With Appreciation to Flora and Jack Holt With Appreciation to Ken and Marcia McCarthy
Jack and Flora Holt	Given in Honor of Loved Ones
Her Loving Son, Ivan Marable	Given in Memory of My Mother, Ludie Will Hatten
Kenneth and Marcia McCarthy	Given in Memory of Francis and Amy McCarthy, Charles, and Edna Oaks, Nancy Oaks & Beverly McCarthy Campbell
The McClellan family	In Honor of Family Members and Friends
Tom and Betty Richards	Given in Memory of Tom and Mary Richards
Janet and Doug Richardson	Given in Honor of granddaughters: Maria, Genny, Ezzy, Abby, and Raya
Barbara and Gene Tiesler	Given in Memory of parents and sisters
JoAnn Trolley	Given in Memory of Dr. Richard Trolley
Ken, Peg, Erin, Gavin, Brendan, Adam, Molly and Mae Williams	Given in Memory of Brenda Williams, our parents and siblings