



**THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES ...**

*to teaching, fellowship,*  
**THE BREAKING OF BREAD,**  
*and prayer.*

**WORSHIP OF GOD | FEBRUARY 11, 2024**

**First Rochester | An American Baptist Church**

**175 Allens Creek Road, Rochester, New York 14618**

**Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, senior pastor | Eliecia Young, pastoral assistant  
Jiabao Guo, director | Samuel Baker, organist**



## Lord's Prayer

*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**      *Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place*      Keith Bissell

Section Leaders: Naomi Chad, soprano, Emma Unkrich, mezzo-soprano; Andrew Miller, tenor; Ashton Rapp, baritone; Samuel Baker, organ; Jiabao Guo, director

**Children's Time**      Eliecia Young

**\*Hymn 466**      *Take My Life and Let It Be*      F. R. Havergal  
Henri A. César Malan

**Scripture**      *Acts 2:42-47*      A Unison Reading

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## Prayer for Illumination

**Sermon**      *Early Church*      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, send an offering by mail, or give at [rochesterfbc.org/give/](http://rochesterfbc.org/give/).

**Music in  
Response**

*Barcarolle*

Tschaikowsky

**Doxology 34**

*Praise God*

Genevan Psalter

**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.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Invitation to Mission and Ministry**

*Worshipers 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.*

**\*Closing Hymn 464**

*May The Mind of Christ,  
My Savior*

K. B. Wilkinson  
A. C. Barham-Gould

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Reprise: *The Church's One Foundation*  
Samuel Baker, organ

John Marsh

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**We welcome Jiabao Guo** as our substitute music director until early March while Henry performs in an opera.

**Thank you to those who contributed their gifts to today's service** including: Kande Tabor, reader; Bob McDonald and Gene Tiesler, ushers; our tech team: Wesley Selleck, apprentice; Oliver Hood; Scott and Susen McClellan; Glenn Stahl, and Janet Richardson; and our musicians: Section Leaders: Naomi Chad, soprano; Emma Unkrich, mezzo-soprano; Andrew Miller, tenor; Ashton Rapp, baritone; Samuel Baker, organ, Jiabao Guo, director.

# INVITATION TO MISSION & MINISTRY

We're delighted you've joined us in worship today. If you are new to First Rochester's worship, would you consider letting us know? We would love to get to know you better. We hope you will trust us with your contact information so we may connect with you. Please either sign the book in the narthex, complete the card found in the small pocket in the pews and place it in the offering plate, or go to [rochesterfbc.org/guestbook/](http://rochesterfbc.org/guestbook/) to leave us your name and contact information.

## MUSIC NOTES FROM SAM:

To celebrate **Black History Month**, last week's music during communion was a selection by William Grant Still (1895–1978), an American composer of nearly 200 works. Born in Mississippi, he grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas. Still attended Wilberforce University and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Because of his close association and collaboration with prominent African-American literary and cultural figures, Still is considered to be part of the Harlem Renaissance (originally known as The New Negro Movement).

This morning's prelude is by well-known British jazz pianist George Shearing (1919–2011). Shearing composed over 300 songs, and had multiple albums on the Billboard charts from the 1950s—1990s. Awards and honors include performances for European royalty and US presidents, the Horacio Alger Award for Distinguished Americans, and several Grammy Awards. In 2007, Shearing was Knighted for services to music.

## **\*\*Royalties for Spirituals**

*Whenever we sing or play a Spiritual or work by an African-American composer in worship, a special offering to cover the royalties never collected on numerous works over the years is taken then forwarded to the William Warfield Scholarship Fund at Eastman School of Music. This fund is "dedicated to providing financial support and encouragement for African American students seeking to attain success in the field of classical vocal music." The fund is in the memory of singer, actor, music educator, and Rochester's own William Warfield. Please place RFS in the memo line of your check. Learn more at [www.rochesterfbc.org/spirituals/](http://www.rochesterfbc.org/spirituals/).*

# INVITATION TO MISSION & MINISTRY

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**Today after worship, there is something for everyone!** Sermon Talkback in the Chapel, Kindred Hearts (parents group) meeting in the Koinonia room to connect and plan activities and events, and kids are invited to stay for music time.

**Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 PM.** Join us for this contemplative **Taizé-style service** with scripture, prayer, candlelight, and song. It is a meaningful way to begin our Lenten Journey. We will gather together in the chapel and on Zoom. The **labyrinth** will also be available in Hubbell Hall from 3:30 to 6:15 PM and there will be a **brown bag fellowship** in the library at 5:30 PM.

**OWLS (Older Wiser Learned Seniors):** On **Thursday, February 15**, OWLS program will be ***Show and Tell Part 1: Bring an interesting object and share its story.*** Chair exercise begins at 11:30 AM with lunch and program at 12:15 PM. A \$10 donation is appreciated. Please RSVP to Kandee Tabor at her email [kandeetabor@gmail.com](mailto:kandeetabor@gmail.com) or call or text her at (585) 520-6948.

**The church office will be closed on February 19** for Presidents' Day.

**All are invited to join us as we read *Where We Meet*,** a daily devotional for Lent, immersing us in the stories of Jesus and the early church, exploring the authors' stories, addressing difficult questions, and dreaming about a brighter future for the church. Be challenged not only to think through questions posed within the book, but also to follow in Jesus' footsteps, pursuing justice and love for all. Study discussion will begin on **Wednesday, February 21—5:30PM** Bring your own meal (if you wish) and fellowship with us; 6PM Study in the Chapel and on Zoom! Sign up in the Garden Room.

**View from cameras in worship.** Did you know that the cameras in worship and the viewing of our service is a closed loop for worship participants only? We do post the sermons on our website featuring our Pastor or guest preacher for the day. Any time members of the congregation are seen on camera, they are seen only by our congregation worshipping with us on campus and on Zoom.

**Worship Readers and Ushers needed in March and April.** Please sign up at the table in the Garden Room.

**For the latest news and events,** please go to our website on the *Connections* page at [www.rochesterfbc.org/news-and-events/](http://www.rochesterfbc.org/news-and-events/).