



Love

**WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Rochester | An American Baptist Church

**175 Allens Creek Road | Rochester, New York 14618 | rochesterfbc.org
Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, senior pastor | Eliecia Young, pastoral assistant
Henry Griffin, music director | Samuel Baker, organist**

WORSHIP OF GOD

Feel free to use any gender-neutral language in hymns or responses.

Prelude *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Traditional Carol
Andrew Miller, tenor; Henry Griffin, piano arr. Griffin

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome Eliecia Young

Lighting of the Advent Candles Richard and Judy Wien

READER ONE: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O, First Rochester, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

CONGREGATION: **God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

READER TWO: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

(UMCDiscipleship.org)

Call to Worship Elyssa Barszewski, Gavin Smith

One: God called Mary and she responded in deep humility and trust.

All: God calls us to respond with trust and humility too.

One: We praise God for the love expressed in Jesus the Christ.

**All: We thank God for the gift of Grace; may we be ever gracious.
Let us worship God.**

***Hymn 159** *The King of Glory Comes* W. F. Jabusch
Israeli Folk Tune

Scriptures *Psalm 80:1-7* Elyssa Barszewski, Gavin Smith

Morning Prayer Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon
Sharing our joys and concerns
Unison Lord’s Prayer

Special Music *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Sears/Willis
 Andrew Miller, tenor; Henry Griffin, piano

Children's Time Eliecia Young

***Hymn 184** *What Child Is This?* William Dix; English Melody

Sripture *Luke 1:39-56* Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon *Mary's Bold and Tender Faithfulness* Rev. Joanne
 Gilbert-Cannon

Giving our Gifts to God and Dedication

Music for Response Henry Griffin, piano

Doxology 688 *We Give Thee But Thine Own* *Cantica Laudis*

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be.
 All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

Invitation to Mission and Ministry Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

***Closing Hymn 196** *In the Bleak Midwinter* Rossetti/Holst

Benediction

Special Postlude *French Suite No. 5 in G Major* Johann Sebastian Bach
 Henry Griffin, piano

- I. Allemande
- II. Courante
- III. Sarabande
- IV. Gavotte
- V. Bourée
- VI. Loure
- VII. Gigue



Thank you to others who contributed their gifts today: including readers: Elyssa Barszewski and Gavin Smith; ushers: Kandee Tabor and Mark Harnischfeger; fellowship: Lynn McClellan, our tech team: Wes Selleck, Scott and Susen McClellan, Glenn Stahl, and Janet Richardson; Nursery: Melina Mineti and Tasha Wilson; Teachers: Nan Wilson and Dick and Judy Wien, and musicians: Andrew Miller, tenor; and Henry Griffin, piano and music director.

We welcome you to First Rochester, regardless of race, class, gender, physical challenge, place of origin, or sexual orientation. **If you're new with us**, please fill out the **connection card** found in your pew and drop it with the offering. We look forward to getting to know you better!

Dedication Poinsettias: Thank you to those who ordered dedication Poinsettias and helped us decorate the church sanctuary. Please see the inserted dedications. You may take home your poinsettia following worship on December 24 or 29.

Mid-week Wednesday Meditation Services have concluded for the year.

OWLS are on break until Thursday, January 9!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Please invite your friends and family to join us at 5 PM on Christmas Eve for our candlelight service.

Limited Office Hours: From Christmas Eve until January 2, the church staff will have limited office hours. Someone will check messages periodically.

Jammies and Jingles Service on December 29 will be filled with carols, scripture, stories, and you in your jammies (or other casual clothes!) See you then.

Are you an officer, chairperson, or do you convene a group at First Rochester? If yes, please submit a short report (one page or less) about your activities during 2024 for the Annual Report (electronically please) no later than Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Removing the Greens: Join us as we take down the greens of the church quickly on January 5 and get them put away for the year. Many hands make light work!

Book Study Wednesday evenings in January and February: Join us as we read and discuss Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee, Amanda Tyler's book, *How to End Christian Nationalism*. Our first Wednesday night will be January 22 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM on Zoom.

FBCR Book Club will meet again on January 21 at 11:30 AM and will discuss *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman* by Nora Ephron.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting of the First Baptist Church and Society to be held on **January 26, 2025**, following worship. Details will be coming.

Upcoming Advent and Christmas Events:

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24: Christmas Eve Service @ 5 PM

December 24 to January 2: Limited Office Hours

December 29: Jammies and Jingles @ 10 AM

January 5: Removing the Greens

2024 Advent Dedication Poinsettias

<i>Given By</i>	<i>In Memory / Honor of</i>
For Samuel Baker	Given in memory of James Weaver and speedy healing for Sam
Carol Dinse Jamison	Given in memory of Barbara, Susan, and Robert Dinse
Ken Dodgson	Given in memory of Sally Lewis Dodgson and Jean Bartlett
The Dodgson Family	Given in honor of First Rochester Family
Wendi, daughter and our Frederick Family	Given in honor of Rev. Barbara J. Wolin
Ivan Marable	Given in memory of my mother, Ludie Will Hatten and my sister Beryl Huffman
Kenneth and Marcia McCarthy	Given in memory of parents: Francis and Amy McCarthy, Charles and Edna Oaks, and sisters: Nancy Oaks & Beverly McCarthy Campbell
Carol Misra	Given in memory of John and Esther Brangwynne and in honor of Rev. Tali Jamir & Family, pastor FBC Belmont, MN
Kandee Tabor	Given in memory of Ken & Purette Tabor and Donna Gibalski
The Pensgen Family	Given in memory of Wally and Marjorie Pensgen
Tom and Betty Richards	Given in memory of Tom and Mary Richards
Janet and Doug Richardson	Given in memory of Charles H. Porter and Evelyn Marie Richardson
JoAnn Trolley	Given in memory of the August Shouse's and the Robert William's
Peg and Ken Williams Family	Given in memory of Brenda Williams and other loved ones.
Nana and Granddad	Given in honor of Mia, Wes, Drew, Aria, and Zander