



WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 29, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

First Rochester | An American Baptist Church

175 Allens Creek Road | Rochester, New York 14618 | rochesterfbc.org
Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon, senior pastor | Elicia 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.

Chiming of the Hour

Music for Gathering *Auld Lang Syne* William Shield
Henry Griffin, piano and baritone

Welcome

***A Carol Call** *Joy to the World!* v. 1 & 2 I. Watts, L. Mason
to Worship 179 (please remain seated)

Scripture *Psalm 148* Jean Garling

***Carol** *Carol of Choice of Congregation* pages 178-228
(1 or 2 verses, please remain seated)

Scripture *Luke 2: 41-52* Jean Garling

Prayers Pastor Joanne

Joys and Concerns
A Unison Prayer

It will soon be a new year, dear God, and we can't see what is on the horizon.

We know that we need to trust you for the days ahead, pray without stopping, and live in faith.

Sometimes we find that hard. So today we ask that you would meet us here and now, and give us your joy and peace as we begin a new year. We thank you for your love and your forgiveness. We thank you that you sent Jesus and that you want good things for humans made in your image. May we remember your love so that we do no harm to any person, animal, or your earth. Lead us into tomorrow by the power of your Spirit, our great comforter. Amen.

***Carol** *2 Carols of Choice of Congregation* pages 178-228
(please remain seated)

Extended Children's Time *Story I told you* Pastor Joanne

***Carol**

2 Carols of Choice of Congregation
(1 or 2 verses, please remain seated)

pages 178-228

Giving our Gifts to God

Music in Response

Henry Griffin, piano

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Joanne

We offer these gifts to you dear God, accept them with our love. Thank you for being with us wherever we go and for loving us. Thank you for all of your gifts. Help us as we seek to follow you in this New Year; remind us that you are with us always. Amen.

Invitation to Mission and Ministry

Pastor Joanne

***Carol 218**

*Go Tell It On The Mountain***
(please remain seated)

Spiritual
John W. Work

Benediction

Pastor Joanne



Anyone who ordered a poinsettia may take it home following today's service.

Thank you to others who contributed their gifts today: including readers: Jean Garling; ushers: Dick and Judy Wien; fellowship: Lynn McClellan, our tech team: Brian Dengler, Oliver Hood, and Janet Richardson; and musician: Henry Griffin, piano, baritone, 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.

OWLS are on break until Thursday, January 9!

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

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 24 to January 2: Limited Office Hours
- December 29: Jammies and Jingles @ 10 AM
- January 5: Removing the Greens

For information on the mission and ministry of the church, please visit our website at rochesterfbc.org.