



Light

**WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 24, 2024
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

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 | Robert Kerner, guest organist

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.** *From John 1:14-18 MSG*

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 *Angel We Have Heard On High* French carol
(please remain seated)

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Glo — ria in exelsis Deo! Glo — ria in exelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo — ria in exelsis Deo! Glo — ria in exelsis Deo!**

**Come to Behlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo — ria in exelsis Deo! Glo — ria in exelsis Deo!**

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Special Music *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam
Henry Griffin, baritone, Robert Kerner, piano

Children’s Time Eliecia Young

Carol

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
(please remain seated)

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

Psalms 98

Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Special Music

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Henry Griffin, baritone, piano

Richard Storrs Willis

A Christmas Story

Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Giving Our Gifts to God and Dedication

Eliecia Young

Music in Response

In Sweet Rejoicing
(*In dule jubilo*) from “79 Chorales”
Robert Kerner, organ

Marcel Dupré

A Candlelight Creche

Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

***The Light of
Christ shared**

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr,
Franz Gruber

*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

*Thank you to tonight's musicians: Robert Kerner, organist;
Henry Griffin, baritone, piano, music director;
our ushers: Richard and Judy Wien and Robert and Judy Oaks, and
our tech team: Wes and Justin Selleck and Janet Richardson.*

*The special music for tonight's worship is made possible through the generous gifts
from the Susan Boulay Memorial Music Fund.*

INVITIATION TO MISSION AND MINISTRY

We welcome you to First Rochester, regardless of race, class, gender, physical challenge, place of origin, or sexual orientation. **If you're visiting with us**, you may wish to fill out the **connection card** found in your pew and drop it with the offering plate so we can reach out to you.

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 tonight or on Sunday.

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

Following a short Holiday hiatus, we will soon resume our regular programs. Sunday School will resume on January 5. Our Youth Group will resume meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays starting January 12. Our children's music program resumes on January 19 and our Wednesday Evening program will resume on January 22 (see details below). There are many ways to continue your life-long learning at First Rochester. Please consider joining us.

Our OWLS (Older Wiser Learning Seniors) are on break until Thursday, January 9! We would love for you to join us. We meet on Thursdays at 11:30 AM for chair exercise with a certified trainer. Following at 12:15 PM there is a meal and a program with a wide variety of topics. We encourage all seniors to attend. Donations to offset cost are accepted but not required.

Book Study on 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.

Our FBCR Book Club will meet again on January 21 at 11:30 AM when we will discuss Nora Ephron's book, *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman*. Bring a lunch if you wish. All book readers are welcome.

Keep up-to-date. Share your email with us and we can send you a weekly summary of what is coming up at First Rochester. All we need is your name and email which can be supplied through the Connection Card. You may also wish to visit our website at rochesterfbc.org/news-and-events/.



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 & Purrette 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