



Out of the
Abundance
of the
HEART

WORSHIP OF GOD | FEBRUARY 23, 2025

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Prelude *Adoration* Florence Price¹

Chiming of the Hour

Music for Gathering *Blowin' in the Wind/Abraham, Martin, and John* Bob Dylan, Dion DiMucci
First Rochester Choir; Henry Griffin, piano arr. Greg Jasperse

Welcome Eliecia Young

Call to Worship Elyssa Barszewski & Gavin Smith

One: Beloved of God, come, for God gathers us here, with that community named *faith*;

All: where the hungry are served first; where the thirsty drink life's water.

One: Beloved of God, come, for God welcomes us here into that home named *Grace*;

All: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.

One: Children of God, welcome, for God reunites us here, siblings in the family named *Love*;

All: where the imprisoned model justice; where the sick are cradled in the God's peace.

One: Come, Children of God, let us worship our God who is merciful and mighty, but reigns in love.

All: Let us give thanks to God as we begin our worship.

*Hymn *The Spirit In Me* Jim Strathdee

The spirit in me greets the spirit in you, Alleluia
God's in us and we're in God, Alleluia.

Scriptures *Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40* Elyssa Barszewski & Gavin Smith

Morning Prayer: Sharing our joys and concerns with unison Lord's Prayer

Special Music ****Run Children Run** Trad. African American
First Rochester Section Leaders arr. Stephen Hatfield

Run Children Run is based on a field yell from the days when the slaves sang as they worked, both to keep the work rolling and to send each other coded messages of support and solidarity. It later became a song of solidarity along the Underground Railroad for former slaves who were fighting their way northward toward the path to freedom. Black history is American history and we must learn about the oppression from the past in order to create a more harmonious world for all in our future.

Children's Time Eliecia Young

*Hymn ****Thank You, Lord** #365

Scripture and Prayer *Luke 6:27-45*

**congregation sings, please stand if able*
*** Royalties for Spirituals, see back page*

Sermon	<i>Three Things</i>	Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon
Giving our Gifts and Dedication		
Music for response	<i>Andante</i>	Betty Jackson King ²
Doxology	<i>Praise God</i>	#34
Invitation to Mission and Ministry		
*Closing Hymn	** <i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i>	#729
Benediction		
Postlude	<i>Variations on Nettleton</i>	Undine S. Moore ³

This morning's organ voluntaries feature music of Black-American women composers.

¹Following graduation as valedictorian of her Arkansas high school, **Florence Beatrice Price** (1887–1953), née Smith, enrolled in the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She “passed” as Mexican to avoid discrimination against African Americans, graduating with honors four years later, and with both an artist diploma and a teaching certificate. Price returned to Arkansas, married, and was raising a family, but was unable to work as a classical musician in racially segregated Arkansas. She and her family joined the Great Migration north and settled in Chicago, where she became part of the Chicago Black Renaissance, a creative movement which included many African-American artists, writers, and musicians. Florene Price is noted as the first African-American woman to have her music played by a major American symphony. She composed over 300 works, including four symphonies, four concertos, choral works, art songs, chamber music, and music for piano, organ, and other solo instruments.

²**Betty Jackson King** (1928–94) began learning music singing with her mother and sister in the Jacksonian Trio. Her adult education (BM, piano; MM, composition) was earned at Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University. King's musical style is known for its extended harmonic language, thick chord clusters, and layers of sound. *Nuptial Suite*, from which today's offertory is taken, is her only known work for organ. She held various teaching positions, eventually serving as President of the National Association of Negro Musicians (1970–84). Her final years were spent at Wildwood High School (NJ) where she received the Teaching Recognition Award from New Jersey governor Thomas Kean.

³Often referred to as “The Dean of Black Women Composers”, **Undine Eliza Anna Smith Moore** (1904–89) began her formal education at Fisk College, a Historically Black College. A scholarship from the Juilliard School allowed her to graduate (cum laude) from Fisk. Further study at Columbia University, Manhattan School of Music, and the Eastman School of Music prepared her for her long and illustrious legacy. Although trained as a pianist, much of her compositional output is vocal music inspired by black spirituals and folk music. Moore also received numerous awards for her accomplishments as a music educator. The hymn tune *Nettleton* is #68 in the hymnal.

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INVITATION TO MISSION AND MINISTRY

Thank you to those who contributed their gifts today including ushers: Kandee Tabor and Gene Tiesler; readers: Elyssa Barszewski and Gavin Smith; fellowship: Sharon Hamann; our nursery: Melina Mineti, Bethany Aitkenhead; our teachers: Nan Wilson, Marcia McCarthy; our tech team: Scott and Susen McClellan, and Glenn Stahl; and our musicians: First Rochester Choir with Naomi Chad, soprano; Emma Unkrich, mezzo; Joshua Gleason, tenor; Ashton Rapp, baritone; Samuel Baker, organ; and Henry Griffin, piano, 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!

Children depart following the Children's Time for Sunday School with Children Music to follow.

All-Church Retreat seeking commitment. Please sign up for the retreat at the table in the Garden Room. We are asking for a commitment deposit of \$50 for a single and \$100 for a couple or family. The deposit is due by March 2. We need 30 committed participants.

FBCR Book Club will meet on February 25 at 11:30 AM and will discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. It is a story about a boy, who grows up in Appalachia and faces many challenges; it explores themes of family, friendship, addiction, and resilience.

Book Study Wednesday on February 26: Join us again as we resume our discussion on February 26 with Amanda Tyler's book, *How to End Christian Nationalism* from 6:30 – 7:30 PM on Zoom.

OWLS (Older Wiser Learning Seniors) on February 27 will share mind-stretching exercises designed to provide belly laughs with *Name That Tune with TV and Movie Theme Songs*. Chair exercise at 11:30 AM. Lunch and program at 12:15 PM. Donations welcomed. Please RSVP to Kandee at kandeetabor@gmail.com.

America For Christ Special Offering, collected on March 2, emphasizes this year's theme of *Grace upon Grace: grace in times of turbulence*. Inspired by Ephesians 4:32 where the passage stresses the importance of letting go of anger and moving forward with love. AFC funds help create new ministries, develop leaders, aid improvised children, support spiritual caregivers and promote discipleship.

Fellowship Time Help Needed. Would you consider signing up for fellowship preparation times? All you need to do is set out some cold beverages (supplied). Self-serve coffee is always available. Add a treat that can be any snack: from donut holes to cheese and crackers, from homemade treats to store or bakery-purchased items—all are welcome. Finally, give a little set-up and clean-up time and you are all set with our gratitude.

Our Care Team is seeking leftover unused cards: birthday, sympathy, get well, and all occasion cards and notes. Cards may be placed in the bin under Vitality Table below the TV located in the Hall outside of the Garden Room double doors.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 PM in the chapel.

Throughout Lent, join us during Second Hour to discuss "Reflections of the Wilderness in Three (D)" with Rev. Ivan Marable. Along with the Sunday studies, we will be using *Walking in the Wilderness: Seeking God During Lent* by Beth A. Richardson. The book will be \$15. Get signed up in the Garden Room! We will begin after Ash Wednesday, March 5.

****Royalties for Spirituals:** Whenever we use a spiritual in worship, a special offering may be made in lieu of "Royalties" denied African-American composers. Donations are sent to the William Warfield Scholarship Fund at the Eastman School of Music. This fund provides financial support to African-American students in the field of classical vocal music and is in memory of Rochester's own William Warfield. Please indicate RFS somewhere on your donation.