

WORSHIP OF GOD | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 14, 2025 LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH OUR CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS

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
Joshua Johnstone, music director | Samuel Baker, organist

# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

# WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE: LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH OUR CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS

Prelude		Come, Thou Long-Expected Jes Samuel Baker, organ	sus arr. Charles Callahan	1		
Chiming of the Hour						
Welcome			Mitchell Young	3		
Invitation To Worship and Candle Lighting			The Lawrence Family	The Lawrence Family		
One:	As a family here today, we come together in a celebration of hope. But what do we hope for?					
Two:	As we head towards Christmas, we often hope that we can find the perfect gift to give, the perfect outfit to wear, the perfect tree to decorate, the perfect Children's Christmas Program. But the first Christmas was far from perfect.					
Three:	The Hope of the Nations came to us on a night of messy circumstances. The Light of the World was born in a stable, laid to bed in a feeding trough, and was attended to by field hands. They were messy circumstances, and yet it was just right for Jesus Christ, a perfect child, surrounded by all of the love two parents could give.					
Four:	This morning, we light the Candle of Hope, as we pray for Christ to come into our hearts again.					
AII:	Lord God, help us not to be so focused on finding perfection in this season that we miss out on the hope that only you can bring to us. Amen.					
*Carol		God Is Working His Purpose Out v	<i>v.</i> 1-3 #564			
The First Lesson		Isaiah 11:1-10	Amelia Wilson, George Haefele			
Carol		O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v. 1	1 & 2 #154			
The Second Lesson		Isaiah 35:1-6 & 10	Harmony Perry, Gavin Smith			
Carol		We're Marching to Zion v 1	#390			
The Third Lesson Matthew 1:1-17 Sophie Spooner Scroll unveiling: Leah Oaks, Briony Tao, Seth Oaks, Williams Tao						

#153

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus v 1

Carol

The Fourth Lesson	Luke 1:26-38	Aria Wilson, Royal Perry			
*Carol	Mary Did You Know v. 1 & 3 Joshua Johnstone, piano	#192			
The Fifth Lesson	Matthew 1:18-25	Seth Oaks, Maddox Young			
Carol First F	All Earth is Hopeful v. 1 & 2 Rochester's Children's Choir with rhythm ins	#163 truments			
Morning Prayer: Sharing our joys and concerns with Unison Lord's Prayer  Wes Selleck Eliecia Young					
The Sixth Lesson	Luke 1:39-58	Andrew Wilson, Williams Tao, Briony Tao			
Carol	Raise a Song of Gladness v. 1	#212			
The Seventh Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	Ethan Spooner			
Carol	Away in the Manger v. 1	#203			
The Eighth Lesson	Luke 2:8-20	Wes Selleck, Hudson Aitkenhead, Leah Oaks			
Special Music - Carol	Angels We Have Heard on High First Rochester Children Choir	French Carol 18th c.			
The Ninth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-12	Mitchell Young, Rory Lawrence, Seth Oaks			
Giving our Gifts to God	Gavin Smith				
Music for Response	Concerto in G Minor, Movement 3 Gavin Smith, violin	A. Vivaldi			
*Carol	Joy to the World Children v. 1, 2 & 4; Entire Congregation v. 2	<b>#179</b>			
Benediction		Wes Selleck			
Postlude	Long Ago, Prophets Knew Samuel Baker, organ	arr. Robert Fielding			

# INVITATION 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 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!

#### TODAY:

- Thank you to the numerous volunteers who make Sunday worship and programs work.
- We will be led in worship today by our children and youth sharing *Christmas Lessons and Carols*. Thank you to leaders, musicias, and parents for their help preparing our kids.
- Following worship, join us in Hubbell Hall for our Christmas BBQ Luncheon. Celebrate our children's wonderful service, good food, time of fellowship, and friends. All are welcome.

## THIS WEEK:

- Our last Wednesday Advent discussion will be on December 17, in the library at 6 PM. We are reading daily reflections from D. Bonhoeffer's book, *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas.* While reading we are asked to mark, question, and ponder various things mentioned which you would like to discuss when we gather.
- OWLS (Older Wiser Learning Seniors), on Thursday, December 18, will be *Our Holiday Party:* Food, Fun, Festive wear, and Games. Chair exercise at 11:30 AM. Lunch and program at 12:15 PM. Donations welcomed. Please RSVP to kandeetabor@gmail.com.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- We will be treated to the musical excellence of Katie Worley, handbell ringer, during worship on Sunday, December 21.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM, with scripture, carols, strings, and individual candles. Please join us and invite friends and family.
- The church and office will be closed following Christmas Eve Service until January 2 to accommodate staff time off. There will be no staff on campus during this time. Phone messages will be checked a few times a day (in the morning, around noon, and 4 PM). If you have an emergency, please contact Janet directly.
- Sunday Forum on January 11 will feature Qawan Bollar, Community School Site Coordinator, from School 17. Our Mission Team on behalf of the church, gifted School 17 with winter outer clothing for students in need.

## GIVING:

- We are so excited to share that we have collected 416 items for the Center for Youth since beginning our collections in July. You also decorated the Giving Tree with 123 mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves & donated 36 Star Gifts for Cameron Community. Well done First Rochester!
- On each Communion Sunday (our next is January 4), the Missions Team asks the congregation to donate jams, jellies, and Chef Boyardee products for the Center for Youth.

#### SIGN-UPS:

• Check out the table in the Garden Room for various sign-ups. We need ushers for the next several weeks—Are you willing?

#### **MEETINGS:**

Trustees—December 15 at 6:00 PM on Zoom.