



# Joseph & the Angel

**WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 21, 2025**

**First Rochester | An American Baptist Church**

**175 Allens Creek Road | Rochester, New York 14618 | [rochesterfbc.org](http://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.*

Prelude	<i>Hymn of Peace</i>	Pietro A. Yon
Chiming of the Hour		
For Meditation	<i>It may strike us as strange to see Christ in such a near face, but he said it.</i> Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Day One, <u>God is in the Manger</u>	
Music For Meditation	<i>Silent Night</i>	arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.
Welcome and Invocation		Keith Harrington
Invitation To Worship and Advent Candle Lighting: Candle of Love		Tao Family
One: God's chosen people often turned away from the Law and were less than faithful, yet, they were still God's chosen people.		
Two: Long before Christ was born, God made a promise to King David that his throne would be established forever through God's faithful love.		
One: On the night Christ came to earth, that promise was fulfilled - out of the house of David the savior arose, a savior given to redeem the whole world.		
Two: God's love for us truly does endure forever, and in remembrance of God's mighty acts through Jesus Christ, we light the Candle of Love. Let us pray:		
<b>All: Lord God, help us always to remember that we are redeemed through our belief in your Son. No matter how far we stray, you're always right there waiting for us, loving us. We rejoice in your steadfast love for all the people of the world, fulfilled in the birth of your Son, Jesus. Amen.</b>		
*Hymn	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	#153
Scripture	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i>	Keith Harrington
Morning Prayer: Sharing our joys and concerns with Unison Lord's Prayer		Eliecia Young
Special Music	<i>Bring A Torch</i> Katie Worley, handbells	arr. Anderson/Kramlich traditional French Carol
Children's Time		Eliecia Young
*Hymn	<i>Comfort, Comfort Now My People</i>	#155

Scripture and Prayer

*Matthew 1:18-25*

Sermon

*Joseph and the Angel*

Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Giving our Gifts to God and Dedication

Music for Response

*Rorate Coeli  
(Drop down from Heaven)*

Jeanne Demessieux

Doxology

*Praise God*

***Praise God from whom all blessing flow,  
praise God all creatures here below;  
praise God above the heavenly host,  
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen***

Invitation to Mission and Ministry

\*Closing Hymn

*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

#176

Benediction

Postlude

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

J. S. Bach



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## INVITATION TO MISSION AND MINISTRY

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***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.
- Thank you to Katie Worley for the beautiful handbell music provided in today's service! Also, to our musicians: Samuel Baker, organ, and Joshua Johnstone, piano, music director.
- Following worship, please join us for fellowship in the Garden room, adjacent to the sanctuary.

### **THIS WEEK:**

- 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.
- OWLS (Older Wiser Learning Seniors) will be on a hiatus until January 8. See you in the new year!
- 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 and late afternoon). If you have an emergency, please contact Janet directly.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Any leader of a group, committee chairperson, officer, or staff member who generally submits an annual report, we ask that it be in the church office at [office@rochesterfbc.org](mailto:office@rochesterfbc.org) no later than January 4, 2026. Early submissions are welcomed (and preferred)!
- 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:**

- 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, readers, and fellowship time preparers for January and February. Please consider signing up today.

### **MEETINGS:**

- Mission Team Meeting: January 18; Trustees Meeting: January 19; Council: January 20; Annual Meeting: January 25