



PEACE on Earth

**WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 24, 2025
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
Joshua Johnstone, music director | Samuel Baker, organist**

WORSHIP OF GOD

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

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Various Christmas Tunes

String Quartet

Olga Lal, violin; An-Chi Lin, violin; Tik Yan Joyce Tseng, viola; Svetlana Garitselova, cello.

For Reflection

It is better to light one candle than curse the darkness.

Rev. William L. Watkinson

*Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

John Wade

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yes, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Eliecia Young

Advent Candle Lighting Litany: The Christ Candle

The Haefele Family

One: A mother and father finally find rest in a barn...

All: The birthday boy is coming!

One: Angels sing and shepherds run...

All: The birthday boy is coming!

One: The stars shone bright and the Wise Men began their journey...

All: The birthday boy is coming!

One: This evening, we joyfully light the Christ Candle, remembering the night when God's love came down at the birth of the Christ. God loves us!

All: The birthday boy is here!

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 *Go Tell It on the Mountain* John W. Work

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

Hebrew Scripture: *Isaiah 9:2-7 NRSV* Eliecia Young

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Special Music *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam
Janelle Cannon, soprano; Joshua Johnstone, piano

Children's Time Eliecia Young

**please stand, if able.*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.**

Scriptures *John 1: 1-18 NIV* Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Special Music *Air in G* J.S. Bach
String Quartet

A Christmas Story Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

Giving Our Gifts to God and Dedication

Music in Response *What Child Is This?* arr. Robert Lau
Joshua Johnstone, piano

A Candlelight Creche Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

*Closing Hymn *Silent Night* Joseph Mohr

*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 to the conclusion 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: The String Quartet, Olga Lal, violin; An-Chi Lin, violin;
Tik Yan Joyce Tseng, viola; Svetlana Garitselova, cello; ; Janelle Cannon, soprano;
Samuel Baker, organist; and Joshua Johnstone, piano, music director.

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

*Go in Peace, Merry Christmas,
and may you be blessed in the New Year!*

2025 Advent Dedication Poinsettias

<i>Given By</i>	<i>In Memory / Honor of</i>
Samuel Baker	Given in memory of James Weaver
Ken Dodgson	Given in memory of Sally Lewis Dodgson
Pat Hanley	Given in memory of Bob Morris and Arlene Hanley
Flora and Jack Holt	Given in honor loved ones
Dave and Doleen Hood	Given in memory of Doleen's beloved parents, Cy and Sonja Hughes
The Lawrence Family	Given in memory of loved ones
Ron and Dara Lewis	Given in memory of parents, Carl and Shirley Guinn, and Dick and Annette Lewis
Ivan Marable	Given in memory of parents, Ludie Hatten (mother) and Leroy Marable (father)
The McClellan Family	Given in memory of Bion McClellan
Ken and Marcia McCarthy	Given in memory of parents, Francis and Amy McCarthy, Edna and Charles Oaks; sisters, Beverly Campbell and Nancy Oaks
Carol Misra	Given in memory of John and Esther Brangwyne

2025 Advent Dedication Poinsettias

<i>Given By</i>	<i>In Memory / Honor of</i>
Owls	Given in memory of Dolly (Jeanne) Nolan, Joe Doran, and Marvin Wolff
Frances Ratcliffe	Given in memory of John A. Ratcliffe and Fred and Esther Ratcliffe
Tom and Betty Richards	Given in honor of Tom and Mary Richards
Andrea Tao	Given in memory of Mary Joan Wallace and Patricia Ann Bartolillo
Patrick Tao	Given in memory of William W. Tao and Helen W. Tao
Williams and Briony Tao	Given in memory of Annie Mancuso and Mary Liccini
Gene and Barbara Tiesler	Given in memory of family loved and lost
JoAnn Trolley	Given in memory of Dr. Richard Trolley
Ken and Peg Williams	Given in memory and honor of those beyond and near who walk with us in love
Dave, Wendi, Justin, Amanda, Matt, Brenna, and Dan	Given in memory of The Reverend Barbara J. Wolin

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!

- We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.
- 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.

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 no later than January 4, 2026. Early submissions are welcome!
- OWLS (Older Wiser Learning Seniors), on Thursday, January 8, will resume for the new year. The program will be *Happy Birthday, Elvis*, Chair exercise at 11:30 AM. Lunch and program at 12:15 PM. Donations welcomed. Please RSVP to kandeetabor@gmail.com.
- 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 outerwear for students in need.
- The Annual Meeting of the First Baptist Church & Society of Rochester, NY will be held after worship on Sunday, January 25, 2026.

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.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

- To keep up-to-date with news and information from First Rochester, you may choose to get a weekly summary email by sending us your name and email to office@rochesterfbc.org.
- For news and events, sermons, and more, please visit our website at rochesterfbc.org.