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**WORSHIP OF GOD | DECEMBER 28, 2025**

**First Rochester | An American Baptist Church**

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

**Rev. Ivan Marable, guest preacher**

**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 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Brenda Portman

Chiming of the Hour

Music For Meditation *Away in a Manger* arr. Frank Mantooth

Welcome and Invocation Richard Wien

Invitation To Worship *Based on Psalm 146, jgc* Judy Wien

One: Praise the Lord! Let us all praise the Lord.

**All: We will praise the Lord as long as we live.  
Our whole lives, we will sing praise to God.**

One: Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**All: When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**All: For God made heaven and earth,  
God keeps faith forever.**

One: Our God executes justice for the oppressed;  
gives food to the hungry and sets the prisoners free;

**All: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
And lifts up those who are bowed down;**

One: The Lord watches over strangers, orphans, and widows.  
He supports the righteous and brings the wicked to ruin.

**All: The Lord will reign forever, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!**

*Hymn	<i>O, God Our Help in Ages Past</i>	#84
Scripture	<i>Isaiah 63:7-9</i>	Richard Wien
Morning Prayer: Sharing our joys and concerns with Unison Lord's Prayer		Rev. Ivan Marable
<i>Special Music</i>	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	arr. Jennifer Cook
Children's Time		Rev. Ivan Marable
*Hymn	<i>What Child is This?</i>	#184
Scripture and Prayer	<i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>	
Sermon	<i>Jesus of Nazareth: Voices of the Prophets</i>	Rev. Ivan Marable
Giving our Gifts to God and Dedication		
Music for Response	<i>In Quiet Joy</i>	Marcel Dupré
Doxology	<i>Praise God</i> <b><i>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</i></b>	
Invitation to Mission and Ministry		
*Closing Hymn	<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i>	#191
Benediction		
Postlude	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!</i>	arr. Carl Schalk

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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.
- Following worship, please join us for fellowship in the Garden room, adjacent to the sanctuary.

### **THIS WEEK:**

- 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)!
- Children's Sunday School will resume on January 4 with Children's Music on January 11.
- Youth Group will meet during Second Hour on January 11.
- Sunday Forum during Second Hour 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.
- The Board of Trustees and the Council of First Baptist Church & Society of Rochester, New York, have called their Annual Meeting for January 25, 2026 after worship. There will be votes taken on a 2nd term of service for Trustees: Sharon Hamann and Mark Harnischfeger (this announcement is a requirement by NYS religious law). There will also be votes for any vacant Council and Delegate positions. More details to come.

### **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