



I AM DOING A NEW THING!

WORSHIP OF GOD | JANUARY 4, 2025

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.

Prelude *The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away* J.S. Bach

Chiming of the Hour

For Meditation *Start here. Now. With Faith in Surrender*

Music For Meditation *Jesus, my Joy* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Invocation James Cannon

Invitation to Mission and Ministry *Children Excused*

Invitation To Worship James Cannon

One: Let us listen.

All: Listen to the silence: to the music; to the words.

One: Let us listen to the words of scripture, and to each other.

All: Let us listen for God, for the movement of the Holy.

One: Let us distinguish carefully the still small voice of God.

All: By an act of our will, let us turn our hearts' ear to God as we worship together.

*Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful* #182

Scripture *John 1: 1- 18 MSG* James Cannon

Special Music *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Frank Mantooth

Morning Prayer: Sharing our joys and concerns Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon

*Hymn *What Child Is This?* #184

Scripture and Prayer *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Giving our Gifts to God and Dedication

Music for Response

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

arr. Charles Wood

Invitation to the Lord's Table with unison Lord's Prayer

James Cannon, assisting

Sharing the Bread and Cup

We observe an open communion; all are welcome at the table.

*The Covenant of the First Baptist Church of Rochester, NY

Believing that God has called us into being as persons and as a church; confessing that the adoration of God leads to the fullest experience of our humanity; accepting Jesus Christ as the human face of God, and the One we know as a brother, teacher, confessor, redeemer, Lord, and Savior; promising faithfulness to the way of Christ and to the unique community of the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we establish this covenant with God and each other:

- **To uphold the purpose of the First Baptist Church of Rochester, which is to inspire trust in God and to develop disciples of Jesus Christ.**
- **To endeavor to live by the moral and ethical principles taught by Christ and revealed in scripture, and to be cheerful stewards of our wealth, wisdom, work, and world.**
- **To uphold freedom of religious expression, to honor the diverse ways in which God is known among us, and to strive for social justice within all human relationships.**
- **To create a worshiping community characterized by love, the study of scripture, prayer, forgiveness, peace, joy, and welcome.**
- **To accept the risks that accompany the holy process of transformation and the struggles of any community that follows Jesus with passion.**
- **To pursue our common vision to raise the quality of life in Jesus' name for the congregation, the community, and the world through our ministries of compassionate service.**

Benediction

*Parting Hymn

Because He Lives

#447

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:

- The children will be excused after the Invitation to Mission and Ministry and will return for communion.
- Today we are collecting jams, jellies, and Chef Boyardee products for the Center for Youth.
- 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:

- 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 today, January 4, 2026!
- OWLS (Older Wiser Learning Seniors) will meet on January 8. Their 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Children's Music will resume on January 11 during Second Hour.
- 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.
- We will be collecting a special pass-through offering for the ABC-USA Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO) in January. More details next week.
- 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. There will also be votes on Council and Delegate positions. More details to come.

GIVING:

- Today, the Missions Team is asking the congregation to donate jams, jellies, and Chef Boyardee products for the Center for Youth. Donations will be accepted during office hours on Monday from 9 AM—2 PM.

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