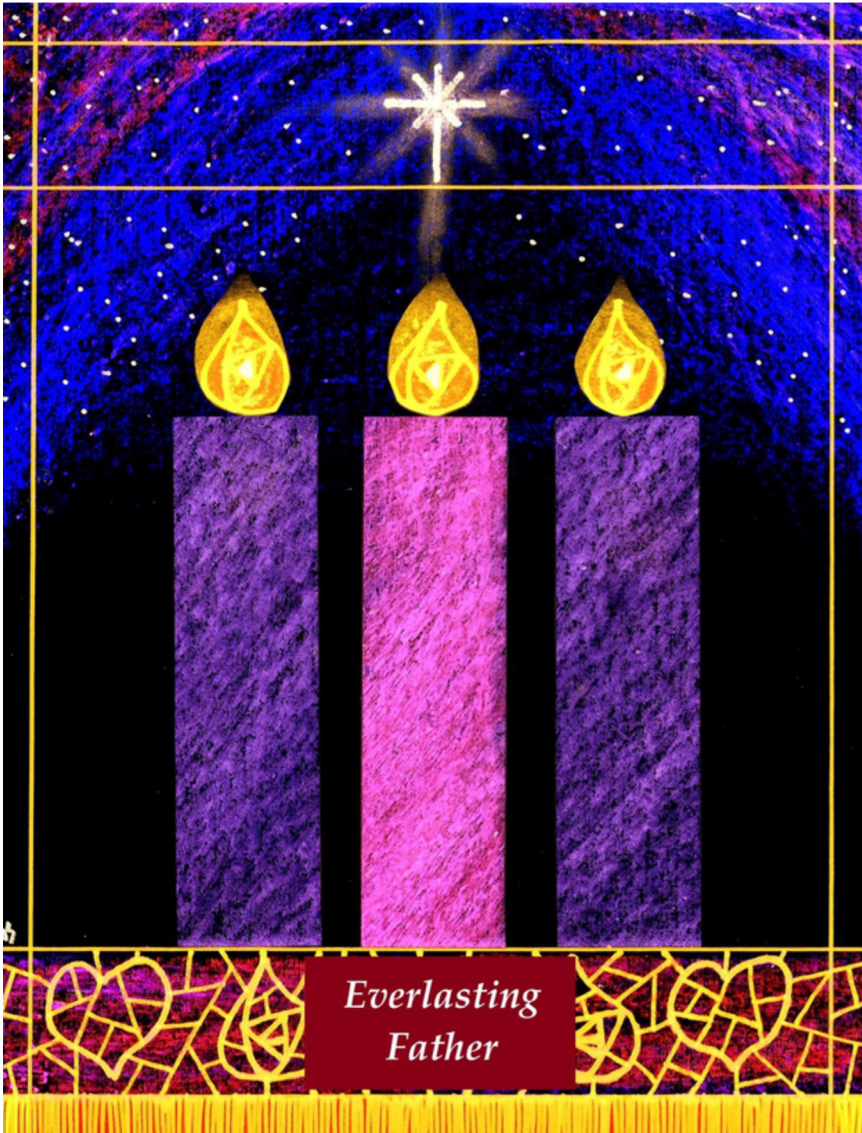




ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 15, 2024

WELCOME

TO ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH



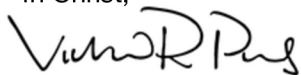
Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. We are so glad you're here! Royal Lane Baptist Church is a diverse community of faith united in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Since 1952, our church has sought to be a beacon of light in the city of Dallas and beyond.

Rather than escaping the world, we gather at Royal Lane with the hopes of transforming the world. We believe the heart of the gospel is to share, in word and deed, the life-giving, liberating, and loving word of God. Therefore, we commit ourselves to a proclamation of the Christian faith that is responsible, socially concerned, and relevant to our needs as a caring and inclusive fellowship.

The Church is an imperfect institution, and Royal Lane is no exception. We do not presume to be a perfect place, but we do commit ourselves to the practice of faith and grace. If you're joining us this morning, our hope is that you'll sense God's love in our fellowship and that you'll come to know more deeply your own belovedness as a child of God. No matter who you are, you are welcome here. There are no prerequisites to your worthiness. We are all God's children, and it's a gift when we come together.

If you'd like to learn more about our church or how to become a member, please see the "New Here" card in the pew back in front of you. Thank you for being here!

In Christ,



Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

DECEMBER 15, 2024

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Worship begins with the Chiming of the Hour and the Voluntary.
To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.

 = *please rise in body or in spirit*

Chiming of the Hour

Kenna Curry

Today, we gather under the promise of Isaiah 9:6-7, celebrating the child born to us, the Son given, whose name is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. This morning we give thanks that Jesus is our Everlasting Father, the one who embodies boundless love and care, bringing justice and righteousness without end. May this time of worship draw us deeper into the mystery of God's unending reign of peace and joy.

Voluntary

David Weigle

Wachet Auf (Sleepers Wake!)

arranged by A. D. Miller

*The Order of Worship continues
on the following page.*

☪ **Call to Worship & Invocation**

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

Lay aside fear, pick up your courage.

God is coming soon.

Stop your hesitating, start believing.

God is coming soon.

We look for signs of God-with-us, Emmanuel.

We have come to put on faith. God is coming soon.

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God.

Everlasting Father,

Inheritor of Peace, lay aside fear, pick up your courage.

Let us pray:

We bless you, Abba, Everlasting Father, for you have visited your people in one like us in all things but sin, and in human fragility you have revealed the face of divinity. Gather into your arms all the peoples of the world, so that in your embrace we may find blessing, peace, and the fullness of our inheritance as your children. Amen.

☪ **Processional Hymn 79**

Congregation

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Words of Welcome

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Christ be with you ... **and also with you!**

If you are a guest with us this morning, we invite you to register your attendance by filling out a "New Here" card which can be found in the pew racks. You may also register online at royallane.org/register or with the QR code.

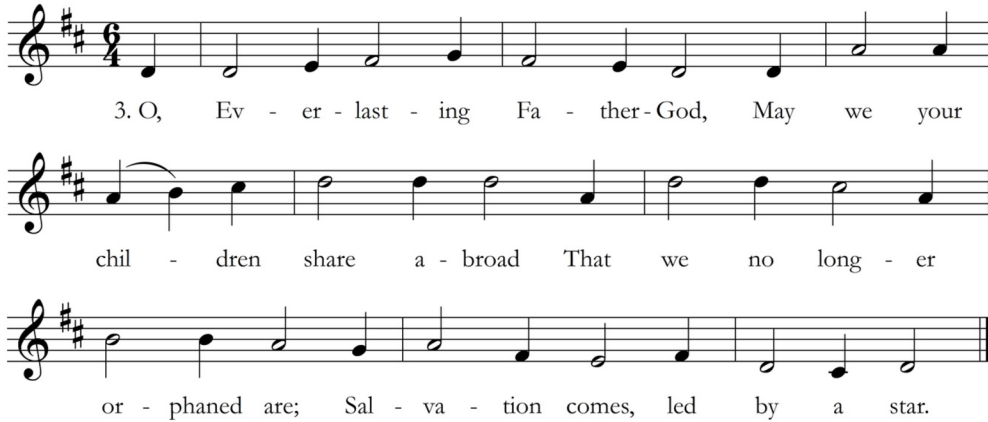


Advent Hymn

Congregation

Great Counselor, We've Waited Long

PUER NOBIS



3. O, Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther - God, May we your
chil - dren share a - broad That we no long - er
or - phaned are; Sal - va - tion comes, led by a star.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Mara, Brett, and Harper Bim

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

God of the womb, it is not lost that you submitted to the body of a woman, trusting in it to protect and grow you. As we remember the nine months you dwelt in the womb, the body of God being nurtured and carried, remind us that our own bodies are worthy of such care and tenderness. May this be a season of sacred pause, as we allow time to be near to our own bodies, to protect and strengthen them. In a world that demands so much of us, remind us that Christ did not come to us in physical independence, allowing the world to take and use him without limitation. Show us the face of the Christ who was gravely dependent, who needed to be held, fed, and washed. Who needed to be soothed and rocked to sleep. If we are to honor the divine in us, may it be this divinity—fully embodied, fully dignified in the body. Amen.

*The Order of Worship continues
on the following page.*

Scripture Lesson

Trish Brim

Isaiah 9:6-7

[Page 444 of the Hebrew Bible]

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us, **Thanks be to God!**

Time for Young Disciples

Beth Johnson

Children 3-years of age through 3rd grade are invited to Godly Play.

You may collect your children following the service in the Christian Education Building.

Hymn 96

Congregation

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
HOUSTON

Call to Confession

Blake Vickrey & Congregation

Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

The Confession of Sin

Let us pray:

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise. For the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

We now share silence together.

Promise of Forgiveness

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. Our God has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Choir

Children of Light, Rejoice!

Ken Medema

Children of light, rejoice rejoice! Raise up a shout!
Lift up your voice in songs of gladness.
Sing, for the Son of Love is born into a world,
broken and torn by grief and sadness.

Sing and rejoice at the manger on this birthing day.
Sing and rejoice as we follow on this chosen way.
Sing at the table where His mercy feeds us.
Sing on the journey where His calling leads us.

Hallelujah! Now the waiting days are past
Hallelujah! Jesus has come at last.

Tender Babe in manger born, greetings on this happy morn:
Jesus, Gift of God; sign of love and living World.
Sing, sing hallelujah! Sing, sing hallelujah!
Jesus, Gift of God; sign of love and living Word, sign of love and living Word.

Children of light, look to the star.
Message of love, saying God we are befriended.
Children of love, the word is spoken
Sing and rejoice! Now let your broken hearts be mended.

Sing and rejoice, for the shepherd's kneeling to adore.
Sing and rejoice for the ones who'll find new hope once more.
Sing for the One whose word of truth will guide us.
Sing for the One whose Spirit lives inside us.

Raise up a shout! Lift your voice in songs of gladness.

*The Order of Worship continues
on the following page.*

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

“Everlasting Father”

Luke 18:15-17

Moment of Contemplation

Hymn 120

Emmanuel

McGEE

Invitation to Generosity & Offertory Prayer

Linda Johnson

God has given us so much. May we, in turn, bear good fruit for God’s world. In praise and thanksgiving, let us open our hearts and offer our gifts to God.

Hear now this prayer.

Abundant God, we give you thanks for these gifts. May you bless them and use them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring comfort to those in need. And may we offer our very selves as we proclaim your good news of love and grace for all people. Amen.

Offertory

David Weigle

Comfort, Comfort Now My People arranged by Aaron Shows

*We invite you to use
this time to give to
Royal Lane's Ministry.*



Blessing & Welcoming New Members

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Kathy Kauffmann & Nina Strenk
Victoria Jones with Willowlyn & Evie Jones Naves

Do you desire to continue your journey into Christ as a member of Royal Lane Baptist Church?

New Members: We do.

Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in this community of faith and pledge to work, pray, and give to build up our common life?

New Members: We will, with God's help.

To the members of Royal Lane Baptist Church, will you witness these promises and do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

All: We will.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Winchester New
arranged by Christopher Tambling

At the close of the service, if you would like to receive prayer, several of our deacons will remain at the front of the sanctuary and would be glad to pray with you.

Called Church Conference

A called church conference will be held today following worship to approve two items.

The Deacons are recommending the congregation approve and affirm the ordination of Beth Johnson and are presenting Kenna Curry and Mara Bim as candidates to begin the ordination process at Royal Lane.



Great Counselor, We've Waited Long

2024 Advent Hymn, for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX,
and Harry Wooten, Minister of Music

Great Counselor, we've waited long,
oppressed by systems harsh and wrong;
Uncommon Wisdom, through our night,
bring light and justice by your might.

O, Mighty God, with awesome pow'r,
transform us in this crucial hour;
in faithful witness to your deeds,
we live in faith not bound by creeds.

O, Everlasting Father-God,
may we your children share abroad
that we no longer orphaned are;
salvation comes, led by a star.

In Mourning Light, we gather here,
with burdened hearts this time of year;
our sorrows double midst the cheer;
God, ease our hurt and calm our fear.

O Prince of Peace, our Savior be;
restore creation's equity;
no pabulum peace, but true shalom
shall make our longing hearts your home.

O, hark, each herald-angel sings,
for unto us a child God brings;
from this time forth, forevermore,
we dwell in Christ, whom we adore!

Text: Michael Glenn Dell, November 2024

Tune: PUER NOBIS

Meter: LM (8.8.8.8)

WORSHIP *NOTES*

Cover Art

Third Sunday of Advent, 2024, John Stuart, stushieart.com

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Hymn Notes

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: John Mason Neal, (stanzas 1,2)

Henry Sloan Coffin (stanzas 2,4)

Music: Plainsong, adapted Thomas Helmore, 1854

Public Domain

Great Counselor, We've Waited Long

Text: Michael Dell

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For Royal Lane Baptist Church, Advent 2024

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Text & Music: Kathleen Thomerson

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OneLicense: Annual License

w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998

Emmanuel

Text & Music: Bob McGee

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The Royal Lane Library

Did you hear Royal Lane is updating their library? Well, now there is a way for you to help! Scan the QR code or search “Royal Lane Baptist Church” in Amazon Registries to find our Library wish list! If you see any books on the list you would be willing to donate, please do so. We are excited to fill our shelves with books that better reflect who Royal Lane is! Link: <https://amzn.to/3YmIR8b>



The Young Adults are doing a White Elephant Gift Exchange! Want to brighten someone's day? Want to ruin it? Whatever your gift may be, wrap it and it will go home with someone else! Join the young adults of Royal Lane for a gift exchange on Sunday, December 29 at 5:00 pm, at Kenna's house. Bring a gift and your favorite Christmas cookies (spending limit of \$20)! Text or email Kenna for address or more details.

ROYAL LANE *HAPPENINGS*



Lunch + Learn

*Wednesday, December 18, 12:00 pm,
Vickrey Hall (Lunch line opens at 11:30 am)*
The closing Advent Lunch + Learn will feature Alison Read, Texas Winds Harpist, and Holiday Harp.



Mourning Light

Wednesday, December 18, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary
The Mourning Light service is for all who are struggling this Christmas. A Candle will be lit in memory of a loved one and an ornament created and placed on the Chrismon Tree. Holy Communion will be offered. (Childcare provided and Children's Activity in the Education Building.)



Advent Bible Study

Thursday, December 19, 6:00 pm, Library
This will be the final week of this study of Malachi. The ancient compilers of the Bible placed Malachi as the last book of the Old Testament because they felt it prepared the way for the gospels. All are welcome!



Krist-mas with Ken Medema

Saturday, December 21, 4:00 pm, Vickrey Hall
Invite your friends and family to this special event for the entire family. Ken Medema is a gifted musician who, using a piano and keyboard, creates an experience this is not only interactive but truly unique for each occasion.

See Coming Events on our website for more information.

ROYALLANE.ORG

WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*



Tuesday, December 17

9:30 am: Communion & Contemplation — Narthex

Wednesday, December 18

12:00 pm: Lunch + Learn — Vickrey Hall & Zoom (Lunch line opens at 11:30 am)

Menu: Baked Fish, Rice, Peas, Salad, Dessert

Program: Alison Read, Texas Winds Harpist, *Holiday Harp*

1:30 pm: Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 212 (1:30 - 3:30 pm)

6:00 pm: Mourning Light, Holy Communion offered — Sanctuary (childcare provided)

6:00 pm: Children's Activity — Christian Education Building

7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

Thursday, December 19

6:00 pm: Advent Bible Study — Library

Friday, December 20

6:00 pm: Youth Christmas Party / Cottage Reveal — Youth Cottage

Saturday, December 21

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

4:00 pm: Krist-mas with Ken Medema — Vickrey Hall

Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 am: Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building & Library

9:45 am: Children's Sunday School Classes — Christian Education Building

9:45 am: Youth Sunday School Class — Youth Portable

11:00 am: Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Godly Play (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room

Children 3-year through Third Grade

HOW TO *CONNECT*

Event Details

See the Weekly Mosaic or Web Calendar for Links and details for In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events —
royallane.org/resources/event

Prayer Requests

We invite you to use the Prayer Cards, available in the “pockets” on the back of each pew, to submit prayer requests or the Prayer Request Form, available on the website at royallane.org/prayer. Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.

*REQUEST
PRAYER*



Deacons on Call

Blake Vickrey & Tommy Lamberth

GIVING AT ROYAL LANE

When WE Give: we can reach out in support of global needs. Text “GIVE” to 214-609-1200. Follow the prompts to complete the process. Standard text message rates may apply. Donate online at royallane.org/give.

*ONLINE
GIVING*



ROYAL LANE STAFF

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor
Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship
Beth Johnson, Minister to Children, Youth, & Families
Barbara Merry, Ministries Assistant
David Doom, Ministries Assistant
David Weigle, Organist
Kenna Curry, Pastoral Intern

Mike Hurder, Maintenance Director
Ellen Miers, Housekeeping
Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician
Brandon Green, Audio Technician
Brian Stinecipher, Audio Technician
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician



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