



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 22, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Victoria Robb Powers".

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

DECEMBER 22, 2024

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

FOURTH 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*

Voluntary

David Weigle

Angels We Have Heard on High

arranged by Matthew Corl

Chiming of the Hour

Today, we light the final candle, the Candle of Peace, as we draw near to the celebration of Christ's birth. In this sacred time, we are reminded that the Prince of Peace comes not with armies or power, but with gentleness and love, bringing healing to the broken, calm to the storm, and hope to the weary. So let us quiet our minds, open our hearts, and prepare to receive the peace of Christ, a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Choral Introit

Ken Medema & Choir

These are Glad Tidings

Ken Medema / Terry York

Daniel Cline, percussion

*These are glad tidings! This is good news!
God is our refuge: we shall not be moved!
Shake, all you mountains, deep in the sea!
God is our fortress and forever shall be!*

*There is a river streaming good news,
flowing through cities, past prisons and pews.
Soon will come morning. Hope soon will dawn.
God is our fortress and the river flows on!*

*Love melts our weapons, love burns our shields.
Swords are repurposed to plow battle fields.
Humbled to silence, be still and know:
God is our fortress and the river still flows*

☩ **Call to Worship & Invocation**

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

Not in the mighty places of power
but in little Bethlehem,
in a room out back:

The Prince of Peace is coming.

Not born in nobility and wealth,
but of Mary and Joseph,
who pondered and planed wood:

The Prince of Peace is coming.

Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings,
but by two women,
who were the first to know:

The Prince of Peace is coming.

Nothing will be impossible for God,
but when and where we least expect it,
look among the straw and the stars:

The Prince of Peace is coming.

Let us pray,

O Shepherd of Israel, you gently support the one who is with child and call forth the Lamb who dances in the womb. Stir our hearts to recognize Christ's coming, as Elizabeth recognized his presence in Mary's radiant obedience to your desire, and open your souls to receive the one who came to love your flock. Amen.

☩ **Processional Hymn 90**

Congregation

People Look East
BESANÇON

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.



Scripture Lesson

Kirsten Eason

Isaiah 9:6-7

[Page 555 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!**

Advent Hymn

Congregation

Great Counselor, We've Waited Long

PUER NOBIS



4. O, Prince of Peace, our Sav - ior be; Re - store cre -
a - tion's e - qui - ty; No pab - lum peace, but
true sha - lom Shall make our long - ing hearts your home.

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

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Larry & Lou Brown

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

God of the holy dark, as the days grow shorter and the dark of night stretches, may we remember that Christ was formed in the holy darkness of a womb - that our origin is not the garden but the dark. May this be a season of deeper encounter with the night. May it be a darkness that opens us to the unknown, that we would make peace with uncertainty and marvel at mystery. Hold us in the dark womb of Advent. Let us remember what glory grows in the dark. Amen.

Time for Young Disciples

Beth Johnson & Ken Medema

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.

Anthem

Choir

Love, You Spoke a Word

Text and Music by Ken Medema

What Child is this? What Man is this?

What grace is this? What gift is this?

What love, what love is this?

Love, You spoke a word in the forming of a baby boy.

He would be the song that no angel voice could sing.

He would be the light, giving vision to the blinded eyes.

He would be the wind, giving timid spirits wings.

He would be the tree, in whose shade all folk could rest and grow.

He would be the river to feed the thirsty soul.

He would be the road, leading pilgrims through the wilderness.

He would be the place, where the broken are made whole.

What Child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

What Child is this whose manger birth we greet with celebration,

whose story we will tell and sing in every generation?

This, this is Christ, our call, our hope, our help, our all in all!

Run now to bring Him praise:

Love's Word, the Son of Mary!

Love, come speak a word in our broken world so filled with fear.

Jesus, Word of Love, come and guide us in Your way.

Teach us now the song that no angel voice could ever sing.

Make us new till we become word of love today.

Love, come speak a word.

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

Prayers of the People

Tori Jones & Congregation

Let us pray,

**Merciful Savior, you know the hunger of our hearts, the hurt of our world,
and the weakness of our lives. Feed us with faith and hope. Comfort us with love
and joy. Forgive us with your grace. Strengthen us with your Spirit
and give us the faith of Mary. For we yearn to proclaim your promises and draw
strength from your vision of justice and peace in our weary world. In hope and trust,
we pray. Amen.**

Solo

Ken Medema

Hush, Missus Teenage Mary

by Ken Medema / arranged by Calvin Taylor

Hush, missus teenage Mary, don't say a word tonight.

Hush, missus teenage Mary, until the mornin' light.

You have not seen nothin' yet

Go try to get some sleep,

'cause when this baby wake to His task,

there'll be reason enough to weep, oh, reason enough to weep.

Hush, mister worried Joseph, don't say a word tonight.

Hush, mister worried Joseph, until the mornin' light.

You have not seen nothin' yet.

Help Mary dry her tears,

'cause when this baby wake to His task,

there'll be reason enough to fear, here, reason enough to fear.

Hush, all you wand'ring shepherds, don't say a word tonight.

Hush all you wand'ring shepherds,

Until the mornin' light.

You have not seen nothin' yet, up in the evenin' sky,

'cause when this baby wake to His task,

You're gonna see Him die,

Oh my, you're gonna see Him die!

Hush, all you sheeps and cattles, don't say a word tonight.

Hush, all you sheeps and cattles, until the morning light.

You have not seen nothin' yet, just the birth of a baby boy.

But when this baby wake from the dead,

then the whole world will sing for joy, oh boy!

The whole world will sing for joy, for joy, for joy!

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

“Prince of Peace”

Moment of Contemplation

Response

Ken Medema

Invitation to Generosity & Offertory Prayer

Patrick Burton

With joy and faith, may we bring our gifts and our love before God in this time of offering.

Hear now this prayer:

May these gifts glorify your name, Holy One.

May the ministries we support bring justice and peace to your world.

May they offer faith and hope to your people.

In grateful joy, we pray, Amen.

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

Offertory Anthem

Choir

And the Stars Will Dance

by Ken Medema / arranged by Ken Medema & Brad Nix

Praise God in the highest heaven,
Sun and moon, and stars in space.
Sing, ye angels, of God's great goodness.
Tell, ye ordered skies, God's grace.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Who, but God, your course can trace?

*And the stars will dance, and the galaxies will shout.
And the universe will sing for joy, and the song will never cease.
For on a tiny planet, circling an average star,
Creator God has birthed a Child who is the Prince of Peace.*

Rise, O child of God, in wonder, at creation's majesty.
Young and old, God's glory claiming, praise the Lord in unity.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Now, and throughout eternity.

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



Benediction

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Voluntary on French Carols

Michael Helman

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.



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

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

Created for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Used by permission.

Hymn Notes

People Look East

Text: Eleanor Farjeon

Music: Shelby Trapp

Copyright © 1960, Celebrating Grace

OneLicense: Annual License

w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998

Great Counselor, We've Waited Long

Text: Michael Dell, Copyright © 2024

for Royal Lane Baptist Church, 2024

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>



ROYAL LANE *HAPPENINGS*



Children's Service

Tuesday, December 24, 3:00pm, Sanctuary

Join us for a Children's Christmas Eve service, which will be a time to enjoy Christmas caroling and celebrate the hope and endless possibilities that the Christ child brings. Kids get to put on a costume and participate in the Christmas story!



Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 6:00pm, Sanctuary

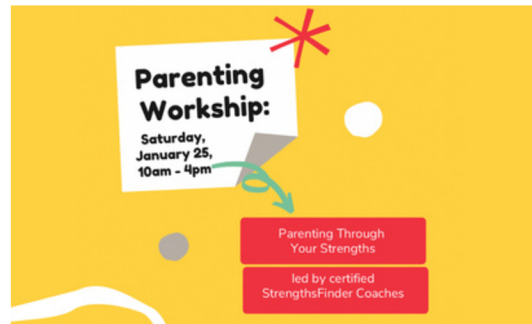
Our Traditional Christmas Eve Service will be a meaningful time for the whole family. We will share Carols, Candlelight, and Communion. Childcare will be provided.



Young Adult Gift Exchange

Sunday, December 29, 5:00pm, Kenna's House

Want to brighten someone's day? Want to ruin it? Join the young adults of Royal Lane for a gift exchange! Bring a gift and your favorite Christmas cookies (spending limit of \$20). Text or email Kenna for address or more details.



Parenting Strengths Workshop

Saturday, January 25, 10:00am - 4:00pm,

Vickrey Hall

Mark your calendars for this workshop, where we will explore how your strengths shape your parenting style, influence your relationship with your children, and impact their growth. A \$10 fee covers snacks, coffee, and lunch. Join us!

See Coming Events on our website for more information.

ROYALLANE.ORG

WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*



Tuesday, December 24

3:00 pm: Children's Service — Sanctuary

6:00 pm: Carols, Candlelight, & Communion — Sanctuary (childcare provided)

Wednesday, December 25

Church office closed for Christmas Day

Saturday, December 28

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday, December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas

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

5:00 pm: Young Adult Group Gift Exchange — Home of Kenna Curry

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

Patsy Meier & Joey Belgard

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



November 2024 Financials

YTD Actual

Revenues*	\$ 811,983
Expenses	\$ 899,796
Surplus (Deficit)*	(\$ 87,813)

**Includes annual pledges paid in full.*

ROYAL LANE STAFF

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

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



ROYAL LANE
BAPTIST CHURCH

ROYALLANE.ORG