



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2024

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND WELCOME TO ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH



Welcome to Royal Lane Baptist Church on this holy Christmas Eve. We are so glad that you have chosen to join us in worship and celebration tonight. It is a profound gift to share this sacred time with you as we gather to celebrate the miracle of the incarnation—God with us, in the birth of Jesus Christ. Together, we honor this miracle that continues to provide hope to the world.

Tonight, as we light candles, sing familiar carols, and hear the ancient story once more, we are reminded of the extraordinary truth that the light of Christ shines in the darkness, and no darkness can overcome it. This light is for each of us, illuminating hope, peace, and love, no matter our circumstances.

We know that Christmas can be a time of mixed emotions. Some of you may come tonight filled with joy and gratitude, while others carry grief, worry, or loss. Wherever you find yourself this Christmas Eve, know that you are welcome here. The gift of Christmas—the boundless love and grace of God—is for you. It is for all of us.

As we celebrate together, may you experience the wonder and peace of Christ's presence. May the light of this holy night fill your heart with the assurance that God's love is unending and always near.

On behalf of our entire church family, thank you for being with us tonight. May you carry the light of Christ with you as you leave this place and into the days to come.

Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Robb Powers".

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor


DECEMBER 24, 2024

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

CHRISTMAS EVE
CAROLS, CANDLELIGHT, & COMMUNION



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

O Little Town of Bethlehem
arranged by A. D. Miller

Chiming of the Hour

It's an unwed woman who carries God. It's the sages from the East who recognize God.
It's the workers in the field who hear from God. It's the marginalized neighborhood who
welcomes God. It's God who chooses the lowly and the broken to rise. Christ is here. Let
hope in.

Introit, Hymn 104

Choir & Congregation

(Remain seated and sing stanza four only)

Once in Royal David's City
IRBY

Owen & Turner — stanza one

Choir — stanza two

Congregation — stanza four

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

Call to Worship

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

Let the shepherds in the fields rejoice.

Let the stars in the sky

worship the newborn king.

For heaven has come down to earth.

Salvation has come to our homes this day.

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

Processional Hymn 103

Congregation

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

(Stanzas one, three & four)

Words of Welcome

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

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

If you are a guest with us this evening, 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.



Coming of the Light

The Light of Hope

John 1:1-14

Nate Green

Hymn 107

Congregation

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

(Stanzas one & three)

The Light of Peace

Isaiah 9:2-7

Kenna Curry

Carol

Choir

Away in a Manger

arranged by Mack Wilberg

Adam Visconti, Clarinet

The Light of Joy

Matthew 2:1-12

Garey Wisdom

Solo

J. T. Hauser

I Wonder As I Wander

John Jacob Niles

The Light of Love

Luke 2:1-20

DeeDee Young

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

Advent Hymn

Congregation

Great Counselor, We've Waited Long

PUER NOBIS

5. O, hark, each her - ald an - gel sings, For un - to
us _____ a child God brings; From this time forth, for -
ev - er - more, We dwell in Christ, whom we a - dore!

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: "5. O, hark, each her - ald an - gel sings, For un - to us _____ a child God brings; From this time forth, for - ev - er - more, We dwell in Christ, whom we a - dore!"

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Beth & Philip Johnson, Jonah & Juniper
Linda Johnson*

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem into the darkness of our world so that we, like Christ, may become beacons of your justice and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

Hymn 127

Congregation

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

(Stanzas one & three)

Homily

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

“Good Is The Flesh”

Offertory Prayer

Charlotte Sewell

Loving God, your goodness and mercy are without limit. With thankful hearts, we bring our offering before you this day. Use these gifts to lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and bring hope to all who call on your name. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Offertory

Suré Eloff

O Holy Night Adolphe Adams

We invite you to give to the Christmas Eve Offering benefitting Fellowship Southwest. All Christmas Eve offerings will be distributed to migrant ministries along the U.S./Mexico border. Your gifts will provide food, hospitality, and basic necessities to migrants who have run out of resources.

*Contribute to
Fellowship Southwest*



Communion

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

We freely give God thanks and praise.

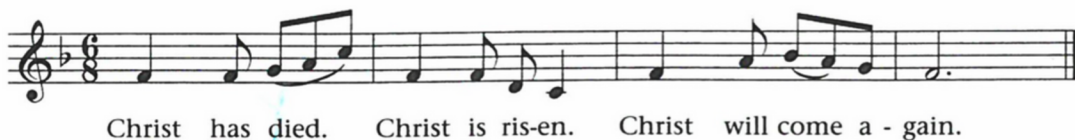
And so, in grateful procession of endless praise
With the church that is, was, and shall be forever,
We glorify you, joining this unending song.

A musical score for the hymn 'O Holy Night' in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bles - sed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, Hea - ven and earth are
full of Your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bles - sed is
He who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

Response: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Through your Son Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Following the choir, please move by way of the center aisle to partake
of communion and return via the outside aisles.
The Communion elements are gluten free.*

He Whom Shepherds Came Praising

Paul Manz

Love, You Spoke a Word

Ken Medema

The Passing of the Light

Charge to the Bearers of the Light

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

The Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. The light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out.

— John 1:4-5, First Nations Version

An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

During the introduction to Peace, Peace/Silent Night, please move your unlit candle toward the flame of the lighted candle and pass the light to one another.

Hymn [see text below]

Choir & Congregation

Peace, Peace/Silent Night

*Rick & Sylvia Powell, arranged by Fred Bock
Please sing on direction.*

**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.**

**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.**

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

Sending Forth

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers & Congregation

The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them the light has shined.**

We are that people. Christ is that light.

For a child has been born for us.

God's own Son has been given to us.

**He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace through his glorious reign.

Let the trees of the forest shout for joy.

Let heaven and nature sing.

Amen.

Amen.

Hymn 102

Congregation

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH
(Stanzas one & four)

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

arranged by Mark Hayes

Don't forget to pick up your poinsettias following this evening's service.



WORSHIP *NOTES*



Cover Art

Nativity Scene, by Gerard Van Honthorst.

The Yorck Project, Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, Cologne, Germany.

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Hymn Notes

Once in Royal David's City

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Great Counselor, We've Waited Long

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For Royal Lane Baptist Church

SANCTUS

Music: Mark Snow

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Peace, Peace/Silent Night

Music/Arrangement: Fred Bock

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RLBC Christmas Eve Offering / Fellowship Southwest December 2024

In nearly every moment of the Christmas story, characters heed promptings from angels. An angel announces to Mary she is chosen to be the mother of God, and she accepts. An angel encourages Joseph to support Mary in this calling, and he does. The magi return home from Bethlehem by another road, and the new family flees to another country in order to protect their child, all thanks to divine messengers.

Perhaps part of being “The Holy Family” is the willingness to follow the prompting of the divine. And if that’s the case, we should bestow a holy designation on many families today who are fleeing their homes in order to protect their children. For it would take divine intervention for most of us to do what they do.



It’s not a new idea to compare modern day immigrants and refugees to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Kelly Latimore’s popular iconography makes this point. Once we acknowledge the comparison, we must heed the prompting of the divine and let it urge us into action. What is our role in their stories? Maybe we have the chance to be an angel, a kind innkeeper, or a wise one who discerns who can (or cannot) be trusted.

Through Fellowship Southwest, Royal Lane invites you to support these families by giving to our Christmas Eve offering. Every dollar will be distributed to migrant ministries along the U.S. Mexico border. Our offering will fund food, hospitality and basic necessities to migrants who have run out of resources. Join us in being the answer to prayer for the migrants we encounter this Christmas season.

Giving Link: <https://onrealm.org/FellowshipSouth/give/immigrant>



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
Barbara Merry, Ministries Assistant
David Doom, Ministries Assistant
David Weigle, Organist
Kenna Curry, Pastoral Intern

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