



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MARCH 23, 2025



WELCOME TO LENT

Welcome to this sacred season of Lent at Royal Lane Baptist Church. Whether you are a longtime member or joining us for the first time, we are grateful for your presence as we journey together through these forty days of reflection, growth, and transformation. Lent is a season of both challenge and grace, inviting us to turn our hearts toward God in preparation for the truth and celebration of Easter.

This year, our Lenten series, *Everything In Between*, is inspired by the Narrative Lectionary (Year 3) and guided by the Gospel of Luke. Throughout this season, we will explore the spaces between the polarities that so often define our lives—faith and works, rest and growth, grief and hope. These ideas are often seen as opposing forces, but scripture invites us into a deeper truth: these dichotomies are false. In the sacred in-between, we find nuance and complexity. And above all, we find God.

Lent is a time to open ourselves to transformation, to notice where God is meeting us beyond the categories we create. This season at Royal Lane is for anyone seeking a spiritual life that does not shy away from complexity but embraces it with faith and intention. May this journey draw us closer to God and to one another.

Welcome to Lent.

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

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor

MARCH 23, 2025

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



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

There's a vine in the South that covers everything.
It chokes out the light. Grows up to twelve inches per day.
In a matter of years, it will blanket a forest.
If you saw it from space, you'd marvel at its reach.
If you saw it from the passenger seat, you'd weep at what it covers.
Those looking for fast shade plant this invasive vine.
Who can blame them? We're all important.
But if it's fruit you want—
the tart cherry,
the sticky sweet kumquat,
the soft side of a peach,
the crisp bite of an apple—
then bless the rain.
Thank the sun.
Put your hands in the dirt,
and wait.

Voluntary

Intermezzo in A Major
Johannes Brahms

David Weigle

Call to Worship & Invocation

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

Worship is a place to rest.

We breathe deeply here.

We still our aching bones.

We sit in the quiet.

We surround ourselves with music.

Worship is a place to rest.

Worship is a place to grow.

We listen for God's word.

We invite it to challenge us.

We lean in with curiosity.

We ask questions.

Worship is a place to grow.

So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

For where two or more are gathered,

God is always there.

Let us worship our gracious God.

Let us pray:

Creator God,

Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in.

Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth.

And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages, waters and delights, seeds and tends.

So as we turn to worship today,

warm our bones,

tend to our broken pieces,

and show us how to grow.

With hope we pray, Amen.

Sovereign Maker of All Things

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR



1. Sov - 'reign Mak - er of all things, God of cov - e -
 2. You have prom - ised to for - give Con - trite sin - ners
 3. Let me not be lost in sin, Ban - ished to e -



nant and grace, Ev - 'ry crea - ture knows your pow'r,
 who re - pent; So I come with hum - bled heart,
 ter - nal night; God who hears the pen - i - tent,



Quakes with fear be - fore your face. But your mer - cy
 By your word made con - fi - dent. I have sinned, Lord,
 Let your good - ness show your might. Though I be un -



far ex - ceeds What our minds can com - pre - hend;
 I have sinned: Well I know my wick - ed - ness.
 wor - thy, Lord, Your great mer - cy will I claim,



Deep com - pas - sion stays your hand,
 Yet I make this prayer to you:
 Till I join the hosts a - bove



Chas - t'ning not, though we of - fend.
 Lord, for - give me, heal, and bless.
 Who for - ev - er praise your name.

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

Rodney Macias

Luke 13:6-9

[Page 848 of the pew Bible]

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

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

Rev. 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.

Beneath the Soil

WINCHESTER OLD



Be - neath the so - il in the dark there's
Re - mem - ber when the world de - mands more
The rest and nur - ture we re - ceive will
In ev - ery sea - son of our lives the



growth too slow to see A trans - for - ma - tion
than you can pro - duce We each grow at a
turn to fruit in time For God made us to
Spi - rit is at work To nur - ture us to



not dis - played in bran - ches, fruit, and leaves
diff - erent pace and growth starts at the roots
grow and change as toward the sky we climb
bear good fruit while root - ed in the earth

Call to Confession

Ziah Huddleston & Congregation

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace again.

The Confession of Sin

Holy God,

There are days when we fail to rest.

We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation.

We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

There are also days when we fail to act.

We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.

We find excuses and justify our inaction.

God, forgive our imbalance.

Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.

Show us how to do the same. Amen.

We now silently confess our sins together.

Promise of Forgiveness

Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky.

We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

May this realization change and inspire us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He

LATHAM

Prayers of the People

DeeDee Young & Congregation

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to pastors, deacons, leaders, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Today we pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

We now share silence together.

Let us pray:

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. Amen.

Anthem

Choir

On Eagle's Wings
By Michael Joncas, Arr. Douglas Wagner

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

“Rest and Growth”

Moment of Contemplation

Choral Response

Choir

Breathe, Listen, and Notice
Words and Music by Paul Vasile

*Help us speak less, slow judgement,
breathe, listen, and notice
what is present in the dissonance, discomfort, and in the questions.*

*Help us love well, walk humbly,
breathe, listen, and notice
God is calling us to faithfulness, compassion, and to courage.*

Offertory Prayer

Charlotte Sewell

God of the Harvest, we are the fig tree that you have allowed to stand in places where we were not to grow, bloom, or thrive. Yet your grace has kept us and offers us another chance to be part of your sowing and reaping cycle. Accept these gifts that we offer in the name of our Help and our Hope, Jesus the Christ.

Offertory

O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde gross

by J.S. Bach

David Weigle

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



Benediction

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.

God is with us in the mountains,

God is with you in the valleys,

God is everywhere in between.

Believe the good news, and go in peace.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Les Gendarmes

by Georg Muffat

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.



ROYAL LANE *HAPPENINGS*



Life Support Group

Tuesday, March 25, 6:30pm, Room 205

A new group led by Trish Brim will meet this Tuesday - although the focus is 'caregiving,' this group is not just for caregivers. It's also for anyone who wants to support others in need, or simply wants to connect (especially if lonely, isolated, or struggling).



WEDNESDAY
LUNCH+LEARN SERIES

Ian Gill

Lenten Voices

Lunch + Learn

*Wednesday, March 26, 12:00pm, Vickrey Hall
(Lunch Line opens at 11:30am)*

This Wednesday, our Lenten Music Series begins - Ian Gill is a conductor, singer, and guitarist who will perform for us. Come to eat, reflect, and enjoy!



Lenten Bible Study

Wednesday, March 26, 6:00pm, Library

Mark your calendars for our Lenten Bible Study led by ordination candidate, Mara Bim. This group will gather on Wednesday evenings in the Church Library for four weeks. Dates are March 26, April 2, 9, and 16.



Women's Fellowship

Thursday, March 27, 7:00pm, Pastor Victoria's Home

Come have dinner with other women in the community at Pastor Victoria's. Get to know new members of Royal Lane and reconnect with those you already know!

See Coming Events on our website for more information.

ROYALLANE.ORG

WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*

Tuesday, March 25

6:30 pm: New 'Life Support' Group — Christian Education Building, Room 205

Wednesday, March 26

10:00 am: Communion & Contemplation — Church Library

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

Menu: Stuffed Pasta Shells, Salad, Bread, and Dessert

Program: Ian Gill, *Lenten Voices*

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

6:00 pm: Lenten Bible Study led by Mara Bim — Church Library

6:15 pm: Youth Gathering — Harris Youth Cottage

7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

Thursday, March 27

7:00 pm: Women's Night Out — Pastor Victoria's Home

Saturday, March 29

11:00 am: Dr. Bradley Carter Memorial Service — The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, 6525 Inwood Rd, Dallas, TX 75209

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday, March 30

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

9:45 am: Spiritual Practice with Scripture Class with Brad Eason — Theresa Helms' home

9:45 am: Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building

9:45 am: Youth Christian Education — Harris Youth Cottage

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



Memorial Notice

Please note the memorial of Dr. Bradley Carter, husband of Garey Wisdom, which will take place Saturday, March 29 at The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Dallas. An Inurnment Committal Ceremony will take place at the Royal Lane Columbarium after the service and a reception will follow in Vickrey Hall.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION



The Texas legislature is in session now!

Micah 6:8 “What does God require of you but to do Justice, love Kindness, walk Humbly with your God.” Open this QR code to learn who represents you in the Texas legislature. Contact your representative/senator to make your voice be heard.

WORSHIP NOTES

Cover Art

Fig Leafing by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Inspired by Luke 13:6-9

Paper lace and watercolor

At our church retreat a few months ago, we offered a session on eco-spirituality. Our instructor led an exercise that focused our attention on a single, natural object. I selected a wilted flower. We were to draw it, then tell its narrative. We were to refer to it as a “one.” This one. We were to affirm the one and be affirmed by the one. That exercise resonates with me here as I revisit the parable of the fig tree. In this circular image, two figures lean in over the tree; their heads are full of ideas for fruiting, their bodies are full of dead fig leaf patterns. Their ideas and dreams have not born fruit. They converse about how to cultivate growth. Then one pushes back against the other and creates tension, discord. From that tension comes an opening, letting the fig tree have its time and space to thrive.

In this paper lace piece, the fig tree is full of life, representing its potential when given the time and space to grow. As I wonder about God’s presence here in the parable, I see that the God figure could be the fig tree. “Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it,” the vineyard keeper replies. As I breathe into the gift of another day, where do I see potential in need of my honor, my care, and the space and time to grow?

Or perhaps the God figure here is in the space between them all, between the three. The fig tree, this one, begins its leafing in the in-between. —Hannah Garrity

Hymn and Liturgy Notes

Sovereign Maker of All Things

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b.1945, © 1990, Hope Publishing Co.

Tune: ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR, 7 7 7 7 D; George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Beneath the Soil

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024. Music by George Kirby, 1592.

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The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He

Words: Mary Kay Beall, 1991 (John 15:1-8)

Music: John Carter, 1991

Words and Music © 2005 Hope Publishing Company

Breathe, Listen, and Notice

Words and Music by Paul Vasile.

Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

LovedIntoBeing Music, Copyright © 2025

Prayers and Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

HOW TO *CONNECT*

Event Details

See the Weekly News & Journal 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 green prayer cards, available in the “pockets” on the back of each pew, to submit prayer requests. You can also submit requests by filling out the prayer request form on the website at royallane.org/prayer. Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.

REQUEST

PRAYER



Deacons on Call

Rodney Macias and Charlotte Sewell

GIVING AT ROYAL LANE

We encourage you to support the missions and ministries of our church. Text “GIVE” to 214-609-1200 or scan the QR code. Follow the prompts to complete the process. Standard text message rates may apply. You can also 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
Rev. Beth Johnson, Minister to Children, Youth, & Families
Tori Jones, Communications & Ministry Coordinator
Kenna Curry, Pastoral Intern
David Doom, Ministries Assistant
David Weigle, Organist

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



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