



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" being the most prominent.

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
"WHAT DO YOU FEAR"



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

I didn't live during Herod's time—that brutal, murderous king, God save his soul.
But even hundreds of years later, I know the prayers of his people.
I know the prayers of the mothers and the children under his rule.
I know the prayers of the young men under his angry arm.
I know their prayers, because anyone who has ever lived in this soft world
for more than two days knows how to pray for a miracle.
We rub our hands together. We fold weary shoulders in,
a cage of bone to protect our bleeding hearts.
We sing, *we shall overcome and bind my wandering heart to thee.*
We walk across bridges and in front of powerful buildings.
We cover our cars in stickers that scream, *we will not give up!*
We allow a hungry cry to slip from our lips,
giving our lament a life of its own (with room to dance!).
And when all of that is said and done, we whisper to our creator,
God, break through the yelling and the fear.
Break through the violence and the oppression.
Get past the Herods of this world, and come be here.
Like every bleeding heart before, we pray for a miracle.

Read by Rev. Mara Bim

Voluntary

The King Shall Come
arr Michael Burkhardt

Jeanie Chuang

☞ **Call to Worship & Invocation**

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

On Sundays and Mondays,
 on good days and bad days,
early in the morning and very late at night,
 here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.
 Meet us in this space.
Surprise us with your presence.
 Fill this room with your good news.
With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

Let us pray:

With-us God, in the time of Moses,
 you spoke through water in the desert and a pillar of smoke.
 In the time of the judges, you spoke through the prophets.
 In the time of Herod, you spoke through angel choruses and unlikely miracles.
 In every time you have been speaking.
 So today, in our time, we ask that you would speak again.
 Break through the chatter and the distraction of our weary minds
 and speak to us once more.
 With hope we pray, Amen.

☞ **Processional Hymn 83**

Congregation

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
HYFRYDOL

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.



Family Dedication

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Ella Paige Jones

Daughter of Nathan & Brittany Jones

Family

Harry & Debi Wooten

Patti VonTour

Richard Jones

Nathan and Brittany, why have you come before this congregation?

Parents: We recognize the responsibility of parenthood and our dependence upon God for strength and wisdom to faithfully discharge our duties. We come to present Ella before God in loving commitment.

Family, where will you find strength for this task?

Family: Realizing our need for divine assistance, we recommit ourselves to Christ and to Christ's church.

Members of Royal Lane Baptist Church, what is your responsibility and commitment?

Congregation: We will give our time, talent, and money, in order that we may help provide spiritual instruction and nurture for Ella. We will love her, care for her, teach her, and model Christian living for her.

Family Dedication

Let us pray:

O God of everlasting covenant, we rejoice in every gift of life. Be present always to strengthen and guide this your child that she may increase in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Walter Will & Humberto Valtierra,
and their son Noah Will*

Advent Hymn

Congregation

In the Time of Herod's Reign

ABERYSTWYTH

1. In the time of Her-od's reign, Zech - a - ri - ah knew de - spair;
Past his prime, all hope seemed vain, stuck in fear with - out a prayer;
Then a - mid his tem - ple task, God broke through his world of doom:
"You, though jad - ed, scared to ask, by your faith, new life shall bloom."

Unison Prayer

Everlasting God, we begin our journey toward Christmas with hope stirring within. Teach us how to get ready. Show us how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Help us walk in your ways, as we put on your Son, Jesus Christ. Guide us on your paths of peace and understanding, as we prepare our hearts anew for the road ahead. Amen

Time for Young Disciples

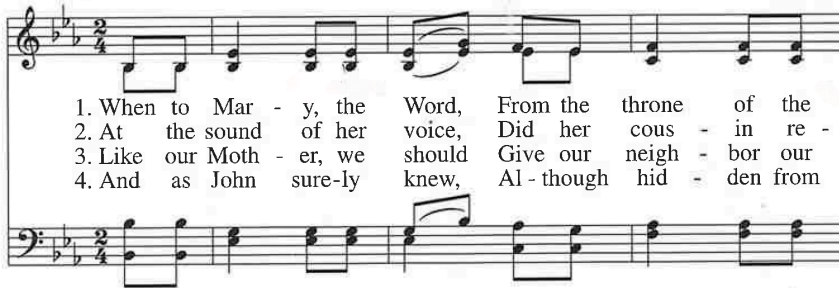
Rev. Beth Johnson

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

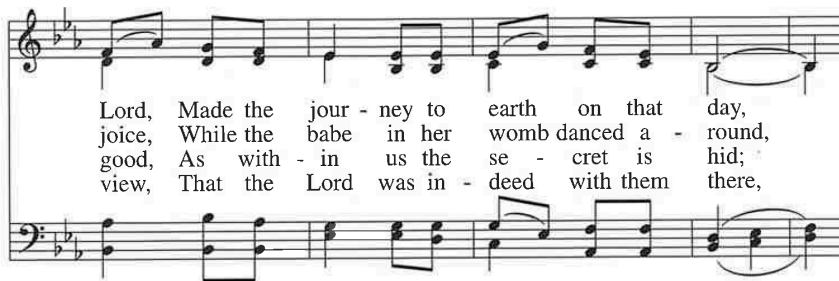
You may collect your children following the service in the Christian Education Building.

When to Mary, the Word

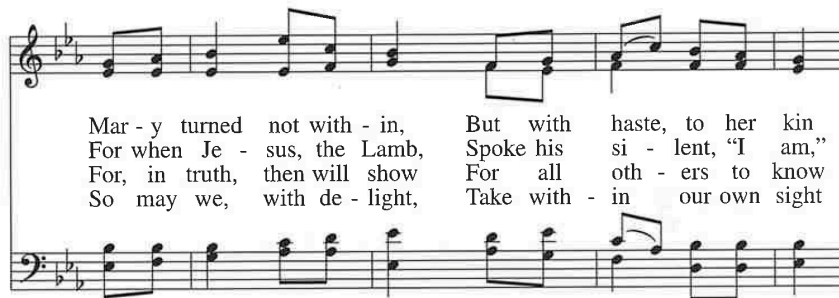
MIDDLEBURY



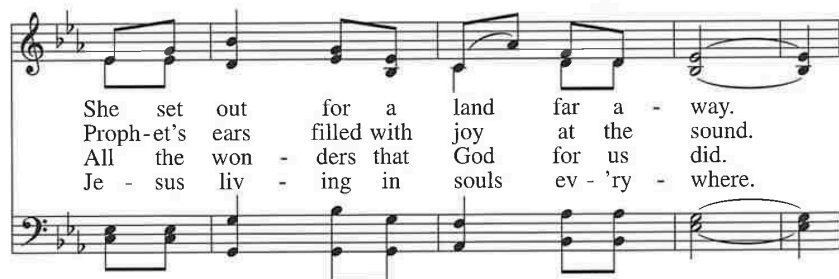
1. When to Mar - y, the Word, From the throne of the
 2. At the sound of her voice, Did her cous - in re -
 3. Like our Moth - er, we should Give our neigh - bor our
 4. And as John sure-ly knew, Al - though hid - den from



Lord, Made the jour - ney to earth on that day,
 joice, While the babe in her womb danced a - round,
 good, As with - in us the se - cret is hid;
 view, That the Lord was in - deed with them there,



Mar - y turned not with - in, But with haste, to her kin
 For when Je - sus, the Lamb, Spoke his si - lent, "I am,"
 For, in truth, then will show For all oth - ers to know
 So may we, with de - light, Take with - in our own sight



She set out for a land far a - way.
 Proph-et's ears filled with joy at the sound.
 All the won - ders that God for us did.
 Je - sus liv - ing in souls ev - 'ry - where.

Scripture Lesson

Jeff Hill

Luke 1:5-13

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John."

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!**

Anthem

Choir

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Arr. Paul Wohlgemuth

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His face,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heavn' adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Moment of Contemplation

Offertory Prayer

Garland Hamic

Gracious and faithful God, we come before you today with our gifts, inspired by the story of Zechariah, who faithfully performed his duties even in the silence of unanswered prayers. For years, he and Elizabeth held onto their longing for a child, walking blamelessly in your ways despite their barrenness. Bless these offerings we bring today. May they be a sign of our trust in your providence and a testament to our continued faithfulness, even when we are waiting. Use these gifts to build your kingdom, a kingdom where every promise is fulfilled and every hope is made new. We pray this in the name of the one whose way was prepared by John, the son given in answer to prayer. Amen.

Offertory

Sussex Carol
Russell Schulz-Widmar

Jeanie Chuang

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



 Sung Response

Congregation

We're Not Alone

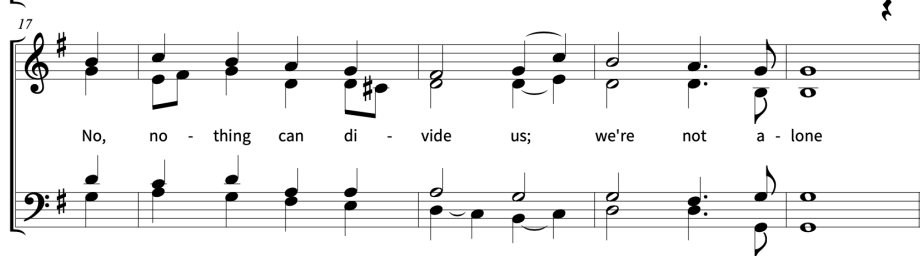
ADESTE FIDELES

12



When fear grows deep in - side us, re - mem - ber what u - nites us

17



No, no - thing can di - vide us; we're not a - lone

 Benediction

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Organ Dismissal

Jeanie Chuang

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Robert A. Hobby



In the Time of Herod's Reign

Advent I (Luke 1:5-13)

In the time of Herod's reign, Zechariah knew despair;
past his prime, all hope seemed vain, stuck in fear without a prayer;
then amid his temple task, God broke through his world of doom:
"You, though jaded, scared to ask, by your faith, new life shall bloom."

Advent II (Matthew 11:1-11)

John, who preached, "Prepare the way", found his hope was slim to none;
longing for redemption's day, asked of Christ, "Are you the One?"
Jesus answered in reply: "Sick are healed, and dead are raised";
may we hopelessness defy; by God's deeds to be amazed.

Advent III (Luke 1:26-39)

Gabriel to Mary spoke: "Do not be afraid", he said;
unknown myst'ries still evoke insecurity and dread;
though her doubt and fear were strong, stepped she forward to her call;
may we, when our world goes wrong, through our fear, still risk our all.

Advent IV (Matthew 1:18-25)

By God's Spirit, she conceived; Joseph pondered through his fear, threat'ning
all he had believed, options feeling all but clear; then an angel, in his sleep,
soothed, and said, "Please take my hand - do not fear; now take the leap;
name him Jesus, I command."

Christmas Eve/Day (Luke 2:1-20)

Shepherds, tending sheep by night, startled by God's glorious light,
frozen now 'twixt flight and fright, overwhelmed by sound and sight;
when the angels left, they said, "Let us go and see the Lord!"
Soon they found, in manger bed, Christ, by heav'n and earth adored!

WORSHIP *NOTES*



Cover Art

Mike Moyer's Fine Art, *Zechariah and Elizabeth*, Mike Moyer, 2022,
<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/zechariah-and-elizabeth-mike-moyers.html>

Hymn Notes

The King Shall Come

Arranged by Michael Burkhardt
1991 Birnamwood Publications

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830
Public Domain

In the Time of Herod's Reign

Text: Michael Dell
Music: Joseph Parry, 1879
Copyright © 2025
For Royal Lane Baptist Church, Advent 2025

When to Mary, the Word

Text: Patricia Blaze Clark, 2011
Music: William Walker

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Text: Aurelius C. Prudentius
Arranged by Arr. Paul Wohlgemuth

The Sussex Carol

By Russell Schulz-Widmar
1985 Belwin Mills Music Inc.

We're Not Alone

Text: Anna Strickland, 2025
Music: John Francis Wade, 1751

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Arranged by Robert A. Hobby
1996 Morning Star Music Publication

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w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998

ROYAL LANE *HAPPENINGS*



Stocking Stuffers

Collecting items through December 7

Join us in making Christmas stockings for children served by Hope Supply Co.! Take a mitten ornament from the Narthex tree, purchase the items through our Amazon Wish List, or your favorite store, and place your items in the red wagon. We'll assemble the stockings together after worship on December 14.



Holiday Grief Support Group

Sunday, November 30, 6:00pm, Library

If you're carrying grief this Advent, you are not alone. Join Chaplain Kirsten Eason for a gentle space to share, reflect, and find comfort with others who understand. Each week offers supportive conversation, prayer, and hope.



Lunch and Learn, Belmark Trio

Wednesday, December 3, 12:00pm, Vickrey Hall

Join us for Lunch and Learn, and enjoy a delightful session featuring The Belmark Trio. This program, "Sounds of the Season: Holiday Jazz," brings a festive twist to the trio's signature warm and expressive style.



Advent Bible Study

Wednesday, December 3, 6:00pm, Library

Join us weekly for our Advent Bible Study, led by Mel Beller. It will be a warm and meaningful time of reflection as we enter the Advent season together, exploring Scripture, sharing insights, and preparing our hearts with hope and anticipation. We'd love to have you join us!

See Coming Events on our website for more information.

ROYALLANE.ORG

WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*



Sunday, November 30

6:00 pm: Holiday Grief Support Group — Library

Monday, December 1

8:00 am: Weekly Prayer Vigil — Outside Dallas ICE Office (8101 N Stemmons Fwy)

7:30 pm: Young Adult Mondays — Harris Youth Cottage

Wednesday, December 3

12:00 pm Lunch + Learn — Belmark Trio, Jazz Ensemble — Vickrey Hall

1:00 pm: Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 212

6:00 pm: Advent Bible Study — Library

6:15 pm: Youth Gathering — Youth Cottage

6:15 pm: Children's Choir — Christian Education Building, Room 202

7:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Saturday, December 6

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday, December 7

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

9:45 am: New Pre-K Sunday School Class — Childcare Room

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

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

11:00 am: Morning Worship, Hanging of the Green —

Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel

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

Children 3-years through Third Grade

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

Jeff Hill and Garland Hamic

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
Cara Craggett, Communications & Ministry Coordinator
Mel Beller, Pastoral Intern
Rev. Mara Bim, Justice & Advocacy Fellow
Cathy Walling, Office Administrator & Prophetic Leadership
Program Coordinator

Jeanie Chuang, Organist
Mike Hurder, Maintenance Director
Taide Guerra, Housekeeping
Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician
Brandon Green, Audio Technician
Brian Stinecipher, Audio Technician
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician



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