



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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT HANGING OF THE GREEN

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

Christmas is coming! The unwrapping of God's greatest gift is near.

God will take away the trees and garlands and decorate our human hearts in hope.

Today we come together to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ.

Today we make ready our welcome for the babe born in Bethlehem.

Let us clear our minds and open our hearts to the coming of the Christ.

We honor His birth by adorning our sanctuary with the symbols of Advent.

Voluntary Jeanie Chuang

> People Look East Arranged by Kristina Langlois

Call to Worship

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

We come together to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

We make ready our welcome for God's only son, Jesus of Nazareth.

We celebrate this special and holy season of Advent, the season of going toward the coming of Christ.

We renew the special meaning of the Advent season, the season of going toward new hope and eternal life.

Let us clear our minds and open our hearts to the coming of the Lord.

Let us also honor his birth by adorning our sanctuary.

Let our songs and symbols represent our personal rededication to the glory of God and the manifestation of love through Jesus Christ.

The Hanging of the Green CIRCLE OF LOVE



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.



A Song of Joy

Children's Choir

The Snow Lay on the Ground arranged by Vicki Hancock Wright

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night. Venite adoremus Dominum

Venite adoremus Dominum

Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong, Who welcomed here the Christchild with a song. She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; The cow and oxen shared the roof with them.

Saint Joseph, too, was there to tend the Child, To guard him and protect his mother mild. The angels hovered 'round and sang this song:

The Legend of the Poinsettia

Time for Young Disciples

Rev. Beth Johnson & Harper Wooten

PreK age children are invited to Godly Play.

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

The Coming of the Light and the Advent Wreath

Mel Beller

Lighting of the Window Candles

West Side

Mel Beller Lou Brown Darlene Carpenter Gloria Chang

Lisa Chastain

East Side

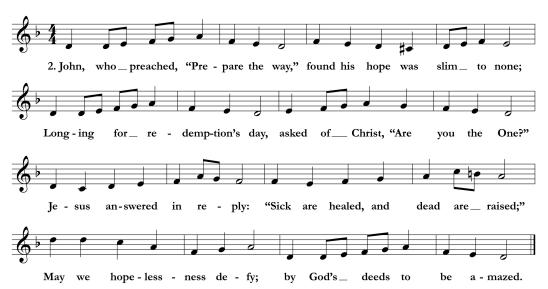
Marian Gandara Jennifer Hammett Marilyn Munro Melissa Walker-Luckett Teri Willding

Advent Hymn

Congregation

In the Time of Herod's Reign

ABERYSTWYTH



The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Justin & Rebecca Thomas Calvin, Jonathan, & Samuel

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day, may we catch a glimpse of your peace; may we open ourselves to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us; may we prepare our hearts and our lives, for Christ to be born in us once again.

In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.

The Garlands and Wreaths

Brad Eason

Hanging of the Garlands & Wreaths

Brad & Kirsten Eason

Christin & Richard Lavery

Ron & Jeanna Fellers

Maddie Wiltse & Haley Simental

Carol Congregation

The Holly and the Ivy TRADITIONAL ENGLISH MELODY



The Chrismons and Evergreen Trees

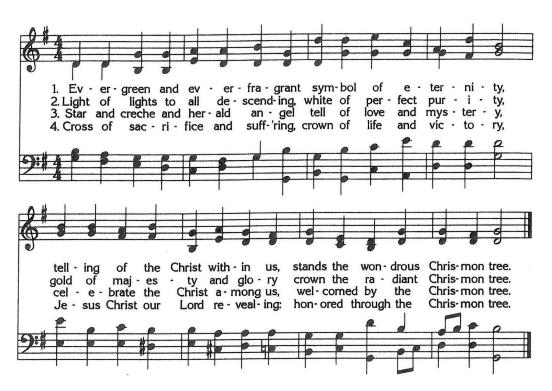
Cara Craggett

Carols

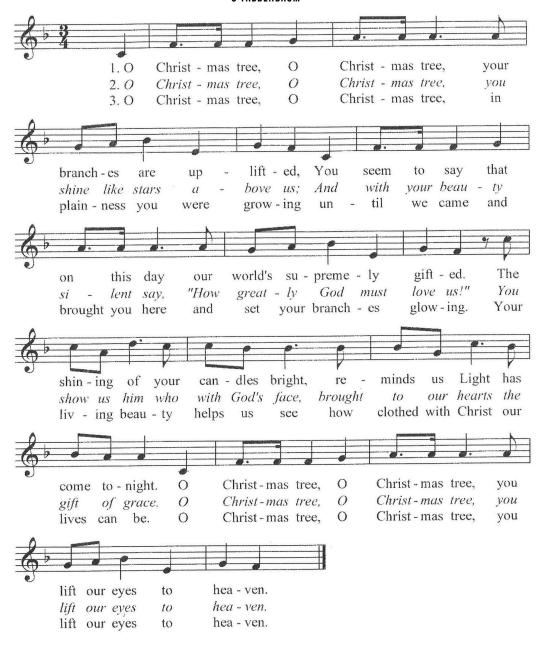
Congregation

(Please come forward during the singing of the Carols to place Chrismons and bows on the trees.)

Evergreen and Ever-fragrant STUTTGART



O Christmas Tree



Sermon Rev. Mara Bim Matthew 11:1-1

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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!**

Moment of Contemplation

Offertory Prayer Blake Vickrey

Abundant God, your blessings and righteousness are bountiful in our lives. May these gifts bear good fruit as they go forth, that peace may come, that creation be healed, and that those who cry for justice may be heard. Amen

Offertory Anthem

The Very Best Time of Year

Choir

Christmas trees and boughs of holly, yuletide logs and mistletoe; Candles burning bright, and meadows frosty white, and faces in the firelight's glow; Sounds of happy children's voices singing carols that you love to hear; Then the silence of the night and the winter air so still and clear.

Feels like you could reach and touch the sky, or catch a star and fly away; Feels like you could wish for peace on earth, and all at once it would come, some day.

Families and friends together, feel a special kind of love and cheer, Sharing all the joys of Christmas time, the very best time of the year.

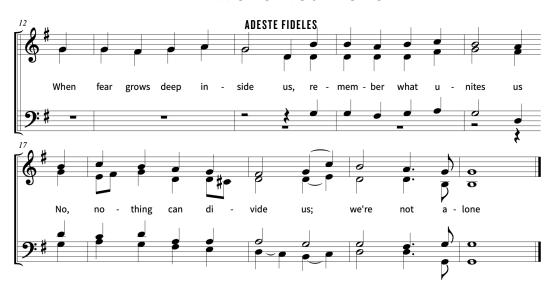
That shining, magic strange, enchanted time, time of the year.

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





We're Not Alone



≝ Benediction

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Let us pray:

And now may God, Creator of light and trees and flowers, grant us peace.

As we have decorated this place of worship, may we also live lives of worship,

decorated with God's forever things:

forever love.

forever life,

forever green.

In the name of God's love and light.

Amen.

Amen.

Ding Dong, Merrily on High arranged by Ron Brunner

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.



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!

Text: Michael G. Dell, for Harry Wooten, Minister of Music, Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX, Advent 2025 Tune: ABERYSTWYTH (7.7.7.7.D) by Joseph Parry, 1876

WORSHIP NOTES

Hymn Notes

People Look East

Arranged by Kristina Langlois 2000 Morning Star Music

The Hanging of the Green

Text and Music: Danny Wesley Ray Copyright © 2010, Danny Wesley Ray Used by Permission

The Snow Lay On The Ground

Arranged by Vicki Hancock Wright Copyright: 2007, Choristers Guild

The Holly and the lvy

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

Evergreen and Everfragrant

Text: Philip M. Young, 1992 Music: Christian E. Witt

O Christmas Tree

Text: Bryan Jeffrey Leech Copyright © 1983, Fred Bock

The Very Best Time of Year

Text: John Rutter Music: John Rutter

Copyright: 1985, Oxford University Press

We're Not Alone

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

Ding Dong, Merrily on High

Arranged by Roy Brunner H. W. Gray Publication

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w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998

ROYAL LANE HAPPENINGS



Holiday Grief Support Group

Sunday, December 7, 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.



Advent Bible Study

Wednesday, December 10, 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!



Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, December 10, 12:00pm, Vickrey Hall Come enjoy a holiday performance by Scott Ayers, organist and collaborative pianist at Northway Christian Church and principal keyboardist for the Dallas Street Choir and Turtle Creek Chorale. Let his artistry set the tone for a memorable holiday gathering.



Las Posadas & Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 12, 5:30pm, Vickey Hall All children are invited to join us for an evening of joy and celebration as we journey through Las Posadas, the traditional Mexican re-telling of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter. Dinner and snacks will be provided. While the kids enjoy this festive night, parents can take some time to rest or prepare for the season.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 7

6:00 pm: Holiday Grief Support Group — Library

Monday, December 8

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 November 10

12:00 pm Lunch + Learn — Scott Ayers, Sounds of the Season — 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

7:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Friday, December 12

5:30 pm: Las Posadas & Parents' Night Out — Vickrey Hall

Saturday, December 13

2:00 pm: Questers Class - Zoom

Sunday, December 14

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 — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel

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

Children 3-years through Third Grade

ROYAL LANE POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias have been given in memory of:

Dr. Lester & B. Wayne Bell Caton & Mae Merchant Rev. Roy & Helen Harrell by Carl & Linda Bell Family

Tom Fry, my late husband by Mel Beller

Linda Fischer
Mary & John Richards
Luella & Ben Jackson
Betty & O.A. Bim
Claudine & Winfield Knight
by Mara, Brett & Harper Bim

Jvon & Lawanda Gourley W.T. & Naomi Peacock by Christi & Richard Burkle

Linnie & Marion Carpenter Evelyn Baker Meredith by Rick & Kay Carpenter

Thomas Atkins by Jane & Mike Carter

Doud Cox, my father by Raymond Cox

Sayed Lutfi, my late partner by Cara Craggett

Irene Benson
Pat Crutcher
by Rick Crutcher

Gerry Gunnin
by Barbara Gunnin

Anna Marie & Bruce Lowe by Paulette & Harold Harrison

Nancy & Jerry Fogleman Lavon & Ron Jacobs by Julia & Michael Jacobs

Shirley Ann Hooks, my mother by Kathy Kauffman

Pam Keith by Claire Keith

Pam Keith
by Mike Keith

Luana Lemasters, my friend Brian Esser, my friend Tom Tomlin, my friend Ann Charlesworth, my grandmother by *Christin Lavery*

Bruce & Anna Marie Lowe Lonnie Harris by Joy & Larry Lee

James C. Walker Royal King Luckett Mark Walker Mary Walker by Jamie & Melissa Walker-Luckett

Poinsettias have been given in memory of:

Ruth & Roy Moore and Sons Lorraine & Zackey Meachum Gene Sprout by Bettie Meachum

Don Meier by Patsy Meier

Lauren Miller by Karen Miller

Judith Ann Mullinax
Calvin & Shirley James
by Jack Mullinax

Steve & Mireya Rhodes by Steven Shayle Rhodes

Rev. Dr. Raymond Lavelle Vickrey Rev. Bill & Elsie Graham Irian & Bernice Vickrey Edgar B. Francis & Nadine Webber Francis by Sharon Vickrey, Blake & Sarah Vickrey

Anna Walling
Mike Crutcher
by Cathy Walling

Jim Sewell
Ruth & James Logan
by Charlotte Sewell & Brian Watson

Alvin & Louise Weilage, my grandparents James Wickstrom Kermit Moseman Lauren Miller by Jordan Quist Weilage

Brad Carter
Orville & Elnora Wisdom
Charles & Linda Spear
William Logan Irby
by Garey Wisdom

Poinsettias have been given in honor of:

JJ & Terry Berrier Sheila Bright Patrick Burton Jane & Mike Carter

Alex Chuang
Rick Crutcher
Vickie Daniel
David Doom

Jennifer Dutschmann

Alan Greider Mike Keith

Tommy Lamberth
Danny Wesley Ray
Melissa Walker-Luckett

Charlotte Watts Cathy Webb David Weigle Donnie West Garey Wisdom

by Anonymous - Your loved ones are not forgotten and you are not alone.

Sheryl Gambill Mary Lamberson by Anonymous

Rosie & Luke Beller, my dogs by Mel Beller

Anna & Glenn Brown by Cheryl Brown

Cindy Atkins by Jane & Mike Carter

Jeanie Chuang
Rick Crutcher
Cathy Walling
by Sheryl Gambill

Jeff, Jennifer, Jonah & Jacob Hammett Phil, Kelley, Claire & Owen Keith by Paulette & Harold Harrison

Peighton & Austin Jacobs Madison Jacobs

by Julia & Michael Jacobs

Summer Towers, my granddaughter Bruce Luedke by Mike Jones

Ada Greuner, my granddaughter lzzy Greuner, my granddaughter by Kathy Kauffman

John Phillips Amelia Rayne Whillock Robert & Liza Whillock By Rita Kirk

Nancy Ferrell by Joy & Larry Lee

Amy, Aidan, Allen James & Avery Stewart Amber, Kevin, Luke & Rutledge Seymour Joey & Rosa Belgard Rev. Victoria Robb-Powers by Jamie & Melissa Walker-Luckett

Kurt & Amy Meachum, Allie, Kendall, and Ben Aubrey Connaster, Mary Katherine and Mac RLBC Ministers and Staff by Bettie Meachum

Shirley Bohannon Julia Suzanne Stewart & Jill Diane Mullinax by Jack Mullinax

Poinsettias have been given in honor of:

Anne Sewell
Donna Sewell
Grace Watson
Emma Watson
Sadie Watson
Sue & Bob Watson
by Charlotte Sewell & Brian Watson

Anna Mays & Darren Mays
Cookie Stokes
Charlotte Vaughter
Kristie Weilage, my mother
Woody Weilage, my father
Vanessa Weilage, my stepmother
Lorile Wickstrom, my grandmother
Dee Dee Young
by Jordan Quist Weilage

Linda Hueston

by Garey Wisdom

Brittany, Nathan & Ella Paige Jones
Barrett, Jacquie, Harper, Turner, & Harrison Wooten
Blair Wooten & Morris "Mo" House
Harry Sr. & Nancy Wooten
Polly Smith
by Harry & Debi Wooten

Harry & Debi Wooten
Brittany, Nathan & Ella Paige Jones
Barrett & Jacquie Wooten, Harper, Turner & Harrison Wooten
Blair Wooten & Morris "Mo" House
by Harry Sr. & Nancy Wooten

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. <u>royallane.org/resources/event</u>

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.



Deacons on Call

Brad Eason and Blake Vickrey

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.



ROYAL I anf

ROYAL 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

STAFF Cara Craggett, Communic 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

