



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 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.

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers


DECEMBER 14, 2025

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

THIRD 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*

Chiming of the Hour

Watch any parent. It starts with the first step.
They kneel down. They smile with anticipation.
They reach for their baby, calling and cooing them forward.
And then before they know it, they're running behind a bike. They're yelling,
"Keep pedaling! You got it! I'm right here!" And they're jumping up and down,
because that little red helmet passed the mailbox.
And then, just like that, they're driving circles in the church parking lot.
They're giving instructions about easing on and off the pedal.
They're having conversations about curfew and heartbreak.
And then, before they know it, they're standing in a hospital room.
Their heart is bursting. And they say, *"Put her head right here.
Rock her gently. Do you remember the nursery rhymes?
You were born for this."*
The first step is always the hardest,
but you, beloved, were born for this.

Voluntary

Sleepers, Awake
J.S. Bach

Jeanie Chuang

☪ **Call to Worship & Invocation**

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

Mary said, “How can this be?”

We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God’s invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God’s praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God.

Let us pray:

Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We’ve heard this tale before.

**We’ve seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs,
witnessed the children act it out.**

The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is.

So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us.

Allow us to hear this ancient tale with new ears.

With hope, peace, and joy we pray. Amen.

☪ **Hymn 90**

Congregation

People Look East
BESANCON

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

Elwanda Edwards

Luke 1: 26-39

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country.

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.

Children Grades 4 through 6, are invited to Young Theologians.

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

Advent Hymn

Congregation

In the Time of Herod's Reign

ABERYSTWYTH



3. Ga - bri - el to Ma - ry spoke: "Do not be a - fraid," he said;
Un - known my - st'ries still e - voke in - se - cur - i - ty and dread;
Though her doubt and fear were strong, stepped she for - ward to her call;
May we, when our world goes wrong, through our fear, still risk our all.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

*Karen Carman, Marion Gandara,
Hunter White, & Scott Bryant*

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

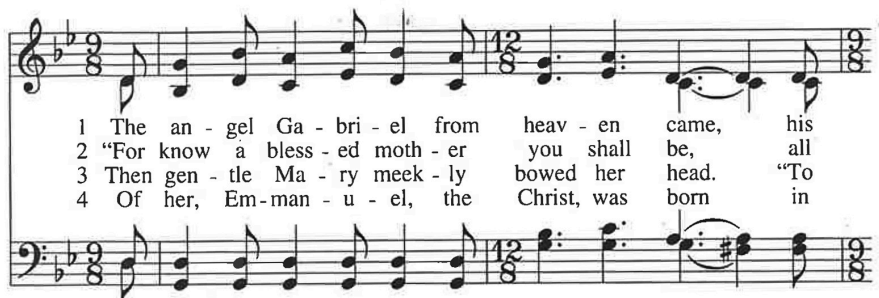
**Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding "yes,"
we often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we are afraid, we are not alone.
You invite us forward with joy.
With baby steps we hope, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn

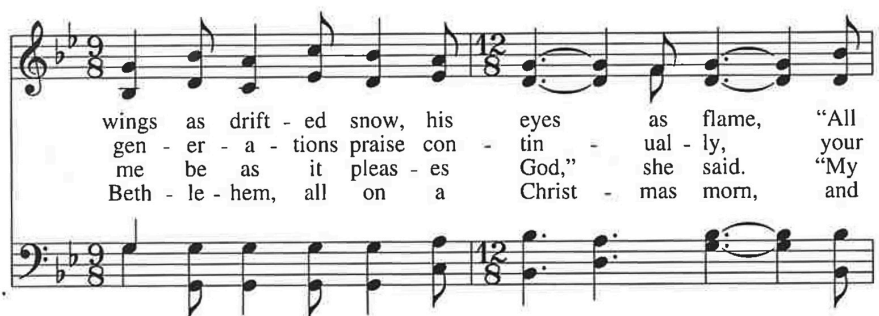
Congregation

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, his
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er you shall be, all
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head. "To
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born in



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame, "All
 gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, your
 me be as it pleas - es God," she said. "My
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, and



hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
 Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told," Most
 soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



high - ly fa - vored Ma - ry, glo - ri - a!

Anthem

Choir

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Taylor Scott Davis

O come, o come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Song of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life: deliver us from earthly strife.

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Moment of Contemplation



Offertory Prayer

Matt Orwig

Hear now this prayer.

Generous God who calls us to rejoice,
you fill the hungry with good things,
and you help your people in need.

Receive the gifts we offer, we pray,
and make them, and us,

joyful and patient signs of your coming justice and glory.

Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Choir

Do Not Fear

Robert Sterling

Do not fear! For those who have waited so long, the hope of a new day has dawned.
Salvation draws near. Do not fear!
For with this miraculous birth, now joy has descended to earth,
so be of good cheer. Do not fear!

May all our anguish and hatred now cease, now cease,
as we bow down to the bringer of peace, of peace.
Do not fear! Do not fear!
For love is the gift we were given,
when Christ left His throne up in heaven to be with us here.
Do not fear! So let our praises arise when we sing, we sing.

All glory be to the King of all kings! Do not fear!
Take courage and be not dismayed, and let not your heart be afraid.
The Savior is here! *Do not fear!*

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



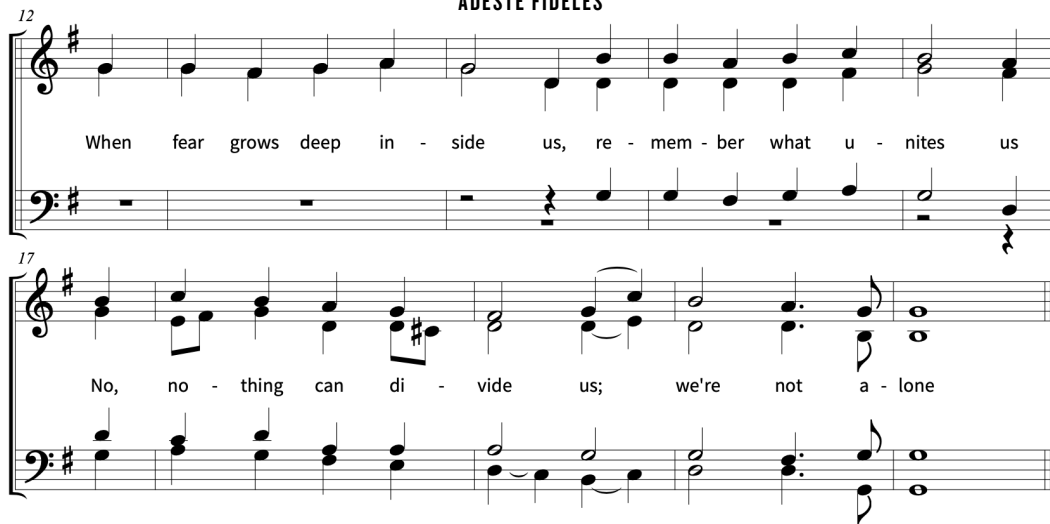
Sung Response

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

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It features two systems of music. The first system, starting at measure 12, has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides harmonic support. The second system, starting at measure 17, continues the melody and accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score ends with a double bar line.

Organ Dismissal*Jeanie Chuang***Comfort, Comfort, Now My People****arr. Jerry Westenkuehler**

Royal Lane Baptist Church Family,

As we celebrate our God coming to live among us as a baby, let us consider the shepherds who beheld the bright light and the heavenly hosts. Those women and men charged with the care of their flock, who went to worship the baby, then returned to their flock with full hearts and stories to tell.

Let us all join together in showing our appreciation this season to the staff of RLBC, our very own shepherds.

Give online, in person, or by mail by Tuesday, December 23.

- Online select the "Staff Love Gift" option from the Fund dropdown
- In person - Mark your check or envelope "Staff Love Gift" when dropping it in the offering plate 12/14 or 12/21
- By mail - Mark your check "Staff Love Gift" and drop it in the mail to arrive at the church no later than 12/23

Leading through Serving,

Joey Belgard

RLBC Deacon Chair



ROYAL LANE *HAPPENINGS*



December 17, 2025

LUNCH+LEARN SERIES

Sounds of the Holiday Season: The Carols of Christmas



Lunch and Learn - Collins Classic Carolers

Wednesday, December 17, 12:00PM, Location

Experience the nostalgic charm of live carols as the renowned Classic Carolers, Dallas' finest voices, serenade in splendid Victorian attire. Let their timeless holiday spirit set the perfect tone for your season!

Lunch line opens at 11:30am



Winter Solstice
with Ken Medema
at Sister Grove Farm



Winter Solstice with Ken Medema

Saturday, December 20, 5:00pm, Sister Grove Farm

Join music legend Ken Medema for an evening of song, story, and reflection as we mark the Winter Solstice, the longest night and the turning toward light. Gather with friends at beautiful Sister Grove Farm for music that inspires hope and renewal, warm drinks, and the glow of the season. Register at sistergrovefarm.com.



Service of Mourning Light

Wednesday, December 17, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

The Service of Mourning Light is a gentle gathering for anyone carrying grief this season. Through words, candles, and ornaments, we remember those we miss and pause for reflection, prayer, and communion, to rest in the promise of light and peace.



**SOUPS
AND
STOCKINGS**

A stocking stuffing event
Sunday, December 14

Soup & Stockings

Today, Immediately after Worship, Vickrey Hall

Come join us for a warm bowl of soup and help us fill stockings with gifts for Hope Supply, spreading comfort and joy to children in need this season. All are welcome! Immediately following the service, head over to Vickrey Hall. We would love to see you there!

See Coming Events on our website for more information.

ROYALLANE.ORG

WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*



Sunday, December 14

Following Service: Soup and Stockings — Vickrey Hall

6:00 pm: Holiday Grief Support Group — Library

Monday, December 15

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 17

12:00 pm Lunch + Learn — Collins Classic Carolers — 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

7:00 pm: Service of Mourning Light — Sanctuary

7:45 pm: Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Saturday, December 20

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

5:00 pm: Winter Solstice with Ken Medema — Sister Grove Farms

Sunday, December 21

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

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

Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. Annunciation - Predella panel from the Maesta Altarpiece of Siena, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49172> [retrieved December 9, 2025]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_068.jpg.

Hymn Notes

Sleepers, Awake

Music: BWV 645 by J.S.Bach

Public Domain

People Look East

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

Music French Folk Melody, Shelby Trapp

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould

Music Edgar Pettman

In the Time of Herod's Reign

Text: Michael Dell

Music: Joseph Parry, 1879

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For Royal Lane Baptist Church, Advent 2025

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Text: John Mason Neale

Music: Taylor Scott Davis, 2024

Copyright: MorningStar Music Publishers

Do Not Fear

Robert Sterling

Robert Matthew Sterling Music, 2021

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Arranged by Jerry Westenkuehler

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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

Elwanda Edwards and Matt Orwig

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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