



# ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



*WELCOME TO WORSHIP*

DECEMBER 21, 2025

# WELCOME

## TO ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH



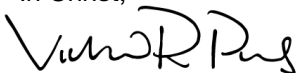
Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning. We are so glad you're here! Royal Lane Baptist Church is a diverse community of faith united in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Since 1952, our church has sought to be a beacon of light in the city of Dallas and beyond.

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,



Rev. Victoria Robb Powers


DECEMBER 21, 2025

# THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

FOURTH 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

When we were children, we fell asleep with walkie talkies tucked under our pillows.  
All that separated us was a bathroom, a hallway, a few feet of empty space,  
but as children, even small distances can feel like miles.

So after the parents whispered prayers over our skinned knees and spelling tests,  
after they kissed our sweaty foreheads and tucked us into bed,  
we'd pull the walkie talkies out from under our pillows.  
We'd roll the dial on the top of the transceiver.  
We'd sputter that invisible tether to life.

And with a few crackles in the quiet of the night, you'd whisper my name.  
I'd press down the button. I'd promise I was close.

As an adult, I don't know what ever happened to those blue-grey walkie talkies.  
But I know, that even today, if the monsters in the closet feel too real,  
and you whisper my name, I promise I'll be close.

## Voluntary

*Jeanie Chuang*

Toccata on Antioch  
Arranged by Craig Phillips

## **Call to Worship & Invocation**

*Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation*

Here in worship-

**we pray together,**

we stand together,

**we sing together,**

we listen together.

**Here in worship - we are not alone.**

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember this moment.

**We are not alone.**

Let us worship our with-us God.

Let us pray:

**Immanuel, we turned off alarm clocks. We poured cups of coffee. We slipped shoes onto our feet. We traveled to this room and settled into this space, all in hopes of drawing closer to you. So as we worship this morning, help us to feel your presence in our midst. For we are reaching out our hands. We are reaching out our hearts. Speak to us now. With hope we pray. Amen.**

## **Processional Hymn 115**

*Congregation*

**The Hands that First Held Mary's Child**

**KINGSFOLD**

## **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](http://royallane.org/register) or with the QR code.*



## **Anthem of Peace**

*Choir*

### **And the Stars Will Dance**

**by Ken Medema / arranged by Ken Medema & Brad Nix**

Praise God in the highest heaven,  
Sun and moon, and stars in space.  
Sing, ye angels, of God's great goodness.  
Tell, ye ordered skies, God's grace.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Who, but God, your course can trace?

*And the stars will dance, and the galaxies will shout.  
And the universe will sing for joy, and the song will never cease.  
For on a tiny planet, circling an average star,  
Creator God has birthed a Child who is the Prince of Peace.*

Rise, O child of God, in wonder, at creation's majesty.  
Young and old, God's glory claiming, praise the Lord in unity.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Now, and throughout eternity.

## **Time for Young Disciples**

*Rev. Beth Johnson*

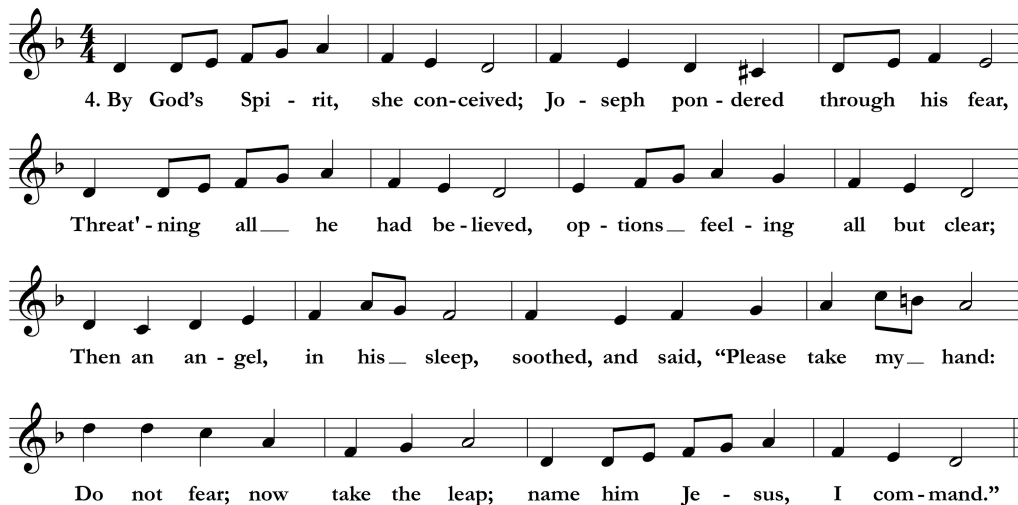
Children 3-years of age through 3rd grade are invited to Godly Play.  
*You may collect your children following the service in the Christian Education Building.*

## Advent Hymn

*Congregation*

### In the Time of Herod's Reign

ABERYSTWYTH



4. By God's Spi - rit, she con-ceived; Jo - seph pon - dered through his fear,  
Threat' - ning all\_\_ he had be - lieved, op - tions\_\_ feel - ing all but clear;  
Then an an - gel, in his\_\_ sleep, soothed, and said, "Please take my\_\_ hand:  
Do not fear; now take the leap; name him Je - sus, I com - mand."

## The Lighting of the Advent Candles

*Cindy, Chad, and Alex Turner*

### Unison Prayer

*Let us pray:*

In this season of love, hope, and family, grant us joy and peace this day.  
You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago -  
signs that their son would be the Messiah, Emmanuel.  
May your light shine on us here, that we might understand the signs in our lives.  
We come with open hearts and minds to hear of your love coming in to the world.  
We come to hear of a young woman with child, a foster father with trust in God,  
a match you made in heaven to shepherd a tiny boy to his destiny.  
Holy God, show us your hope, peace, joy, and love  
as we make ready for your light in the world. Amen.

## Song of Light

*Ken Medema & Choir*

### God Knows Why

by Ken Medema

I read the news, the panic strikes me once again, just like it has before.  
I can't help feeling the ship is lost, a long, long way from shore.  
The sea is a raging confusion. Madness has taken control.  
The icy water wants to bury me and put the light out in my soul.  
It's a long horrid night, and I fear that it might be the last.  
And the ship's listing badly, and the water is coming in fast.  
And just when I think that the moment for hoping is past,  
there is a star shining in the midnight sky. a  
Above the wind is the baby's cry. And life goes on and God knows why.

TV is blaring in the burned out streets, reading the rules of the game.  
There is no voice for dissenters anymore, for they've all gone down in flames.  
I hear the boots of the soul police, as like the hunted, I run.  
They'll be bashing someone's head in tonight, and I just might be the one.  
It is a long, desperate night, and I fear it might be the last.  
And the streets are on fire, and the people are running too fast.  
And just when I think the moment for hoping is past,  
there is a star shining in the blackened sky.  
Above the clamor is a baby's cry, And life goes on and God knows why.

Here on the edge of the precipice, there's no place left to go.  
The masses are climbing up the mountainside to escape the burning below.  
I do not understand their language. Something is rising like a war  
I am exposed, There is no safety beyond the edge the ocean roars  
It's a long, angry night, and I fear it might be the last.  
And the mountain's exploding, and everything's happening too fast.  
And just when I think that the moment for hoping is past,  
there's a star shining in the war torn sky.  
Above the babble is a baby's cry. And life goes on and God knows why.

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning.  
O shepherds, shrink not with with fright, but hear the angel's warning:  
this child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

## Scripture Lesson

*Sheryl Gambil*

### Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, ‘God is with us.’

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had born a son; and he named him Jesus.

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!**



## Song Of Joy

*Ken Medema*

### Hush, Missus Teenage Mary

by Ken Medema / arranged by Calvin Taylor

Hush, missus teenage Mary, don't say a word tonight.  
Hush, missus teenage Mary, until the mornin' light.  
You have not seen nothin' yet, Go try to get some sleep,  
'cause when this baby wake to His task,  
there'll be reason enough to weep, oh, reason enough to weep.

Hush, mister worried Joseph, don't say a word tonight.  
Hush, mister worried Joseph, until the mornin' light.  
You have not seen nothin' yet. Help Mary dry her tears,  
'cause when this baby wake to His task,  
there'll be reason enough to fear, here, reason enough to fear.

Hush, all you wand'ring shepherds, don't say a word tonight.  
Hush all you wand'ring shepherds,  
Until the mornin' light.  
You have not seen nothin' yet, up in the evenin' sky,  
'cause when this baby wake to His task,  
You're gonna see Him die,  
Oh my, you're gonna see Him die!

Hush, all you sheeps and cattles, don't say a word tonight.  
Hush, all you sheeps and cattles, until the morning light.  
You have not seen nothin' yet, just the birth of a baby boy.  
But when this baby wake from the dead,  
then the whole world will sing for joy, oh boy!  
The whole world will sing for joy, for joy, for joy!

## Sermon

*Rev. Victoria Robb Powers*

## Moment of Contemplation

## Offertory Prayer

*Tommy Lamberth*

Lord of Heaven, accept these gifts from our hearts,  
that they may fulfill the purposes of your people.  
As Christ's light shines upon us,  
we rejoice in the opportunity to share our abundance with others.  
Bless these offerings to the Child Child and to our resurrected Lord. Amen.

## Offertory

*Ken Medema & Choir*

“Watching the Sky”  
“Bring Me A Rose”

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




## Sung Response

*Congregation*

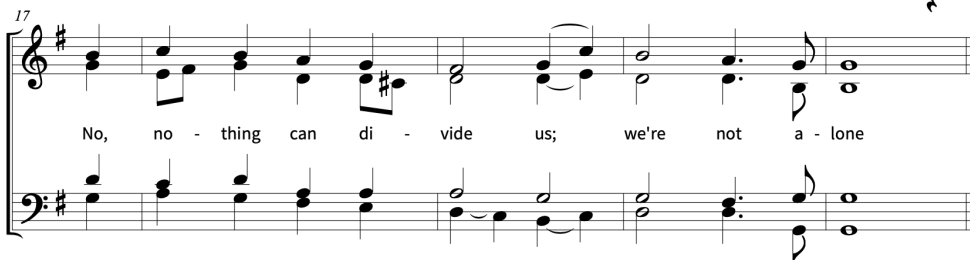
## We're Not Alone

12 **ADESTE FIDELES**



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

**Organ Dismissal**

*Jeanie Chuang*

**Postlude on Mendelssohn**

**arr. David Wilcocks**

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*



## Holiday Grief Support Group

*Sunday December 21, 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. This final week offers supportive conversation, prayer, and hope.



## Live Nativity Scene

*Wednesday, December 24, 4:30pm, Sanctuary*

Join us for a Live Nativity featuring real animals, carols, and an interactive retelling of the birth of Jesus. Families are invited to enjoy hot cocoa, warm cider, and sweet treats as we celebrate together. Come early, bring friends, and share in this Christmas Eve celebration.



## Christmas Eve Service

*Wednesday, December 24, 6:00pm, Sanctuary*

Join us for our Christmas Eve Traditional Service, a sacred celebration of Christ's birth. Through scripture, carols, candlelight, and communion, we'll pause in the stillness of the night to welcome once more the radiant light of Christ shining in the world.



## A Night with Meredeith Miller

*Sunday, January 11, 4:30pm, Sanctuary*

Meredith Anne Miller is a pastor, parent, and writer with over 20 years' experience in children's ministry and curriculum. She is the author of *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From*. Invite friends who might benefit!

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*See Coming Events on our website for more information.*

**ROYALLANE.ORG**

# WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*



## **Sunday, December 21**

6:00 pm: Holiday Grief Support Group — Library

## **Monday, December 22**

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 24**

4:30 pm: Live Nativity - Youth Cottage

6:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary

## **Thursday, December 25**

Church Office Closed

## **Friday, December 26**

Church Office Closed

## **Sunday, December 28**

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

9:45 am: Children and Youth — Christian Education Building

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

# WORSHIP *NOTES*



## Cover Art

Mengs, Anton Raphael. The Dream of St. Joseph. ca. 1773–1774, oil on oak, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mengs,\\_Traum\\_des\\_hl.\\_Joseph.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mengs,_Traum_des_hl._Joseph.jpg). Accessed 12/17/2025.

## Hymn Notes

### **Toccata on Antioch**

Arranged by Craig Phillips

### **The Hands that First Held Mary's Child**

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, 1985

Music Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

### **And the Stars Will Dance**

By Ken Medema

Arranged by Ken Medema & Brad Nix

### **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

### **God Knows Why**

By Ken Medema

### **Hush, Missus Teenage Mary**

By Ken Medema

Arranged by Calvin Taylor

### **Watching the Sky**

#### **Bring Me a Rose**

By Ken Medema

### **Do Not Fear**

Robert Sterling

Robert Matthew Sterling Music, 2021

### **Postlude on Mendelssohn**

Arranged by David Wilcocks

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# HOW TO *CONNECT*

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## 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](http://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](http://royallane.org/prayer). Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.

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*REQUEST  
PRAYER*



## Deacons on Call

Sheryl Gambill and Tommy Lamberth

# *GIVING* AT ROYAL LANE

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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](http://royallane.org/give).

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*ONLINE  
GIVING*



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## 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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