



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 28, 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 28, 2025

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



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

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering in worship, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Voluntary

Jeanie Chuang

Angels We Have Heard On High

Anna Laura Page

☞ Call to Worship & Invocation

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

In worship, we hear God's story, and we ask,

"What did God do long ago?"

In worship, we hear God's story, so we ask,

"What is God doing, here and now?"

In worship, we hear God's story, then we ask,

"What can I do to respond to it all?"

Listen, God is speaking.

Listen, it may be time to act.

Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God

Let us pray:

Loving God, we come into your presence with joy in the holiday season.

But we also come with sorrow for a world struggling in pain.

Bring hope to our weary world.

Bring love to our hearts.

Bring joy to our lives.

And help us bring hope, love, and joy, as we follow your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

☞ Hymn 122

Congregation

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Words of Welcome

Rev. Harry Wooten

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

Julia Jacobs

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

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.

Call to Confession

Cara Craggett & Congregation

Family of faith, the invitation of our faith is simple.

We are invited to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

And yet, those acts have always been easier said than done.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.

In confession, we speak honestly with God. We tell the truth of our lives, and in response, God offers us grace. God picks us up, shakes the dust off our weary bones, and shows us how to keep walking toward God. So let us go to God in prayer, not because we have to, but because God will always meet us there.

The Confession of Sin

Let us pray:

**Emmanuel, God with us, scripture tells us that you were a refugee,
but we love to forget that information.**

We love to forget every act of gun violence.

**We love to forget how many people go hungry,
or how many students do not have access to good education.**

We love to forget the injustices in our world that feel too big for us to face.

But you are a God who refuses to forget. So today we pray:

make it impossible for us to overlook the stories of those in need.

Make it impossible for us to sweep injustice under the rug.

**Open our eyes along with our hearts, so that the anger we feel around injustice
might fuel a fire for action. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray. Amen.**

We now share silence together.

Promise of Forgiveness

Even when we fail to do justice, even when we fail to love kindness,
even when we allow fear to override action, freezing us in place, God still loves us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

On our best days and our worst days, we belong to God.

We are invited into community. We are held in God's grace.

We are forgiven. And we are sent to serve.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Thanks be to God!

Solo

J.T. Houser

The Coventry Carol

arr. Mark Hayes

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny Child,
by, by, lully, lullay, lullay,
thou little tiny Child,
by, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
for to preserve this day
this poor Youngling,
for whom we do sing,
by, by, lully, lullay?

Herod, the king, in his raging,
charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight.
all children young to slay.

Then woe is me, poor Child for Thee,
and ever mourn and say,
for Thy parting nor say nor sing,
by, by, lully, lullay.

Sermon

Mel Beller

Moment of Contemplation

Hymn

Congregation

Go, Tell it on the Mountain GO TELL IT

Offertory Prayer

Jamie Luckett

Hear now this prayer.

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives and in our world.

Thank you for the gifts we return to you now. Bless these gifts,
that they may support Christ's loving presence in our ministry,
in our community, and in our world. Amen.

Offertory

Jeanie Chuang

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Johann Pachelbel

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



Benediction

Mel Beller

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.
May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can.
And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends,
and the one who journeys with us...go in peace and be not afraid.
Amen.

Organ Dismissal

Jeanie Chuang

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Jerry Westenkuehler

*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.*



WORSHIP *NOTES*

Cover Art

"Stay With Me" by T. Denise Anderson | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Hymn Notes

Angels We Have Heard on High

Arranged by Anna Laura Page

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Text: John Mason Neale, 1853

Music: Trad. German Carol, 14th cent.

What Child Is This

Text: William C. Dix, 1865

Music: Trad. English melody, 16th cent.

The Coventry Carol

Arranged by Mark Hayes

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Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Text: John W. Work, Jr.

Music: African-American spiritual

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Music: Johann Pachelbell

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Arranged by Mark Hayes

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Royal Welcome Class

Sunday, January 4, 10:00AM, Library

All visitors are invited to join our pastor for our quarterly Royal Welcome Class to learn more about the history and beliefs of our church. Come enjoy pastries, coffee, and meet other visitors too. The class meets at 10:00am in the church library.



A Night With Meredith 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!

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

Julia Jacobs & Jamie Lockett

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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