

# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

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*Diverse People United in Christ*



# *The Worship of God*

## *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

January 29, 2023

10:55 A.M.

*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

*God's ways and God's desires turn our human expectations upside down. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pronounces blessings on those who struggle: the poor in spirit, the grieving, the meek, the hungry, the persecuted. What blessings do you need this morning? Where in life are you struggling?*

### Voluntary

David Weigle

*Improvisation* — Nicholas Choveaux

### ✝ Call to Worship & Invocation

Ruth May & Congregation

Jesus taught: Blessed are the poor in spirit.

He said that the realm of God is theirs.

**We read that those who mourn are blessed.**

**Jesus said that they will be comforted.**

The meek will inherit the earth.

The merciful will obtain mercy.

**All who hunger and thirst for rich treasures are blessed;**

**Jesus said they will be filled.**

Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers;

They are God's children and will see God.

**Those persecuted and falsely accused are blessed.**

**Even in the face of evil, we will rejoice.**

Let us pray:

**Let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise, wise and holy God. We gather in this sacred place to honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign. We give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness, and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. We want to accept your invitation. Amen.**

✠Hymn [ see insert ]

Congregation

*Blest Are the Poor in Spirit* — HYFRYDOL

Words of Welcome

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Christ be with you ... **and also with you!**

*[Please record your attendance in the blue booklet at the end of the pew and pass it to others.  
You may also register online at [royallane.org/register](http://royallane.org/register) or see QR code following Organ Dismissal.]*

Scripture Lesson

David Doom

Matthew 5:1-12 [ Pew Bible page 785 of the New Testament or see insert ]

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

Barrett Wooten

*Children 3-year through 5th grade are invited to Godly Play,  
You may collect your children in the Godly Play Room located in the Education wing following the service.*

✠Hymn 259 [ see insert ]

Choir & Congregation

*Blest Are They* — BLEST ARE THEY  
*(Sing the refrain on direction)*

Call to Confession

Sandy Washington & Congregation

Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

The Confession of Sin

Let us pray:  
God of compassion, we are overwhelmed by the struggles of life.  
We hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
**but find ourselves feeling empty.**  
We grieve in seasons of loss,  
**feeling hopeless and lost.**

*(continued)*

We want to make peace,

**but we don't even know where to begin.**

Come with your wisdom and guide us in our ways.

**Renew us and inspire us to life faithfully as you walk beside us. Amen.**

*We now share silence together.*

Promise of Forgiveness

Jesus speaks words of blessing to those who struggle, offering joy and gladness each and every day.

**Thanks be to God!**

Hymn [ see insert ]

Congregation

*God, Your Knowing Eye Can See* — REDHEAD

Prayers of the People

Melanie Ferguson & Congregation

We pray for those who mourn;

**may they know the comfort of your abiding presence.**

We pray for the meek;

**may they receive the goodness of your earth.**

We pray for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness;

**may they be filled with goodness.**

We pray for those who are merciful;

**may they also receive mercy.**

We pray for the pure in heart;

**may they see you face to face.**

We pray for the peacemakers;

**may they be recognized as your children.**

We pray for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness;

**may they know the protection of your realm.**

Today we pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud. . .

*(You may speak aloud the first name of those for whom you wish to pray.)*

*We now share silence together.*

Let us pray:

**We rejoice this day and give thanks for the many blessings and the gift of heaven which is ours even now. May we, with your prophets from all ages, have the wisdom to pursue your truth and the courage to do what is holy and right. We ask all this in the name of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen.**



Anthem

Choir

*How Beautiful Upon the Mountains* — John Carter

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings.

Who brings words of peace and salvation.

Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,

For the Lord has comforted his people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

**“ To Be Blessed ”**

✠Hymn of Commitment [ see insert ]

Congregation

*Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit* — NETTLETON

*If you would like to profess your faith or identify with this fellowship,  
please refer to pew rack card – “How to Become a Member”*

Offertory Prayer

Parker Wooden

The poor struggle to put food on the table, the meek are bullied in the schoolyards, the mourners find no comfort in hollow words, and peacemakers are publicly ridiculed by those who should be emulating them. So, as we offer our gifts to you, Gracious God, we pray you would use them to bring blessings to all in this world. Amen.

Offertory

David Weigle

*I Stand at the Threshold* — J. S. Bach

(Sinfonia to Cantata no. 156)

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

*See back cover for ways to give.*

Presentation of Decisions

Affirmation: **Thanks be to God!**

✠Sending Forth

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

No matter where life takes you, God is with you.

Go from this place filled with joy,

trusting the blessings promised by our God,

the bestower of faithful love.

Amen.

**Amen.**

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

*Entrata Festiva* — David Lasky

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# Register Your Attendance

Royallane.org/register



## Cover Art

*Sermon on the Mount* by Laura James, 2010

Laura James has been working as a professional artist and illustrator for over twenty-five years. In addition to painting sacred images from various religions, she portrays women, families, and scenes of everyday life; blending intricate patterns, text, vibrant colors, and sometimes surreal imagery into what she calls “art for the people.”

From Art in the Christian Tradition

A project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

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## Hymn Notes

**Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit**

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**Blest Are They**

*Text and Music: David Haas, Copyright © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.  
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**God, Your Knowing Eye Can See**

*Text: Adam M. L. Tice, Copyright © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc.  
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**Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit**

*Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Copyright © 2009, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
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Make your pledge today at [royallane.org/pledge](https://royallane.org/pledge)

Pledge Update 1/19/2023

Total units pledged: 88

Total pledged: \$604,980



# Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

## Those the Kin-dom Welcomes In

### HYFRYDOL

Text: Amanda Udis-Kessler



1. Bles - sed are — the poor in spi - rit, those the kin - dom wel - comes in.  
2. Blest are they — who of - fer mer - cy. Mer - cy they'll re - ceive — in kind.  
3. Ev - en as — the pro - phets la - bored, trust - ing God and speak - ing truth



Blest are they — who weep in mourn - ing. Com - fort will be theirs — a - gain.  
Bles - sed are — the pure in heart. — When God they seek, so God — they'll find.  
In the face — of roy - al e - vil, so we have a chance to choose.



Blest are they — whose hearts are hum - ble. Love a - waits — the kind — and meek.  
Blest are they — whose lives are peace - ful, true de - scen - dants of — God's peace.  
Lies and ha - tred, greed and cruel - ty: we re - spond with pro - phets' trust.



Bles-sed are they — who work — for jus - tice. They will find — the world they seek.  
Bles-sed are they — who face — in - jus - tice. God will grant them hearts of ease.  
Bles-sed are we — who live — God's vi - sion. Now the kin - dom lives in us.

# Blest Are They



1. Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2. Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -
3. Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the
5. Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -



king-dom of God. \_\_\_\_\_ Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. \_\_\_\_\_ Blest are they who  
 shall be theirs. \_\_\_\_\_ Blest are they, the  
 chil-dren of God. \_\_\_\_\_ Blest are they who  
 cause of me. \_\_\_\_\_ Re - joice and be glad,



full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled. \_\_\_\_  
 hun-ger and thirst; they shall have their fill. \_\_\_\_  
 pure of heart; they shall see God! \_\_\_\_  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs. \_\_\_\_  
 yours is the king-dom. Shine for all to see. \_\_\_\_

## Refrain



Re - joice \_\_\_\_\_ and be glad! \_\_\_\_\_ Bless-ed are



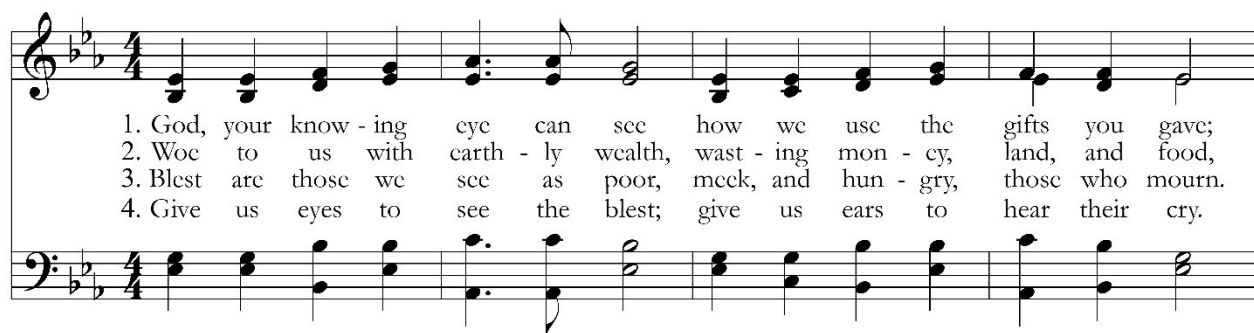
you, ho - ly are you. Re - joice \_\_\_\_\_ and be glad! \_\_\_\_



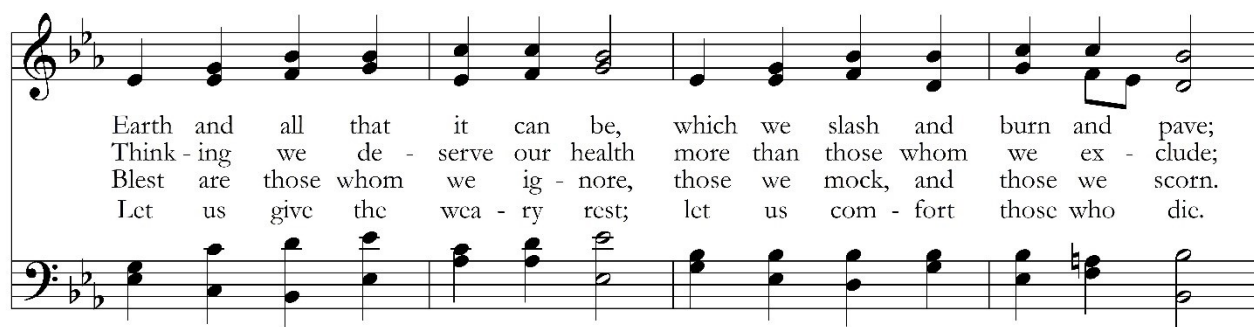
— Yours is the king-dom of God! \_\_\_\_\_



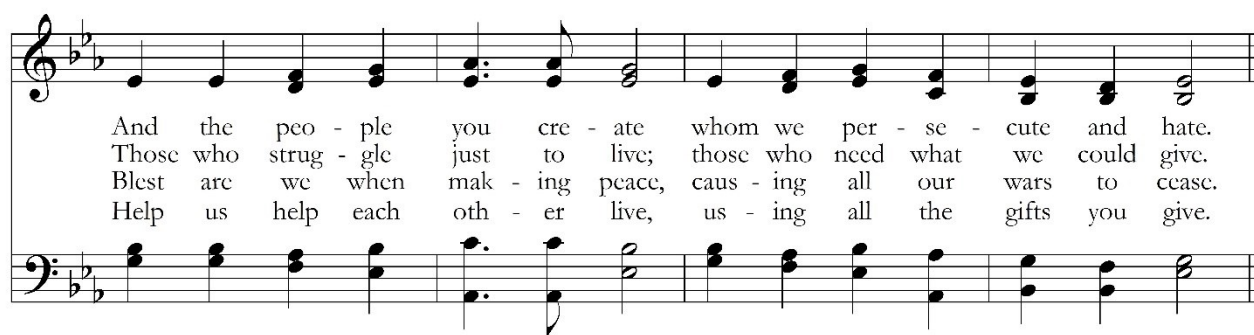
## God, Your Knowing Eye Can See



1. God, your know - ing eye can see how we use the gifts you gave;  
2. Woe to us with earth - ly wealth, wast - ing mon - cy, land, and food,  
3. Blest are those we see as poor, meek, and hun - gry, those who mourn.  
4. Give us eyes to see the blest; give us ears to hear their cry.



Earth and all that it can be, which we slash and burn and pave;  
Think - ing we de - serve our health more than those whom we ex - clude;  
Blest are those whom we ig - nore, those we mock, and those we scorn.  
Let us give the wea - ry rest; let us com - fort those who die.



And the peo - ple you cre - ate whom we per - se - cute and hate.  
Those who strug - gle just to live; those who need what we could give.  
Blest are we when mak - ing peace, caus - ing all our wars to cease.  
Help us help each oth - er live, us - ing all the gifts you give.

# Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

All God's Realm is Surely Theirs

## NETTLETON

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette



1. Bles - sed are the poor in spi - rit; all God's realm is sure - ly theirs.  
2. Bles - sed, too, are those who hun - ger and who thirst for what is right.  
3. Those who share the peace God gives them will find bles - sings as God's own.



Those in mourn - ing will find com - fort as an an - swer to their prayers.  
They will not be prone to wan - der, for your will is their de - light.  
Those op - pressed for faith - ful liv - ing will call hea - ven's king - dom Home.



Meek ones whom this world de - spis - es will in - her - it ev - ery - thing.  
Those who show God's care and mer - cy will re - ceive that mer - cy too.  
When the — world's ways seem dis - tres - sing and we feel life's pain - ful sting,



God, your king - dom still sur - pris - es; may we seek the reign you bring.  
God, in Christ you show us clear - ly of the joy we have in you.  
God, re - mind us of the bles - sings of the won - drous life you bring.

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The Scripture this morning is Matthew 5:1-12, which may be found on page 785 of the New Testament of the pew Bible or as an insert in your order of worship.

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**5** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*(NRSV)*

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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!**

Study for Wednesday Evening  
**Conversation with Victoria**

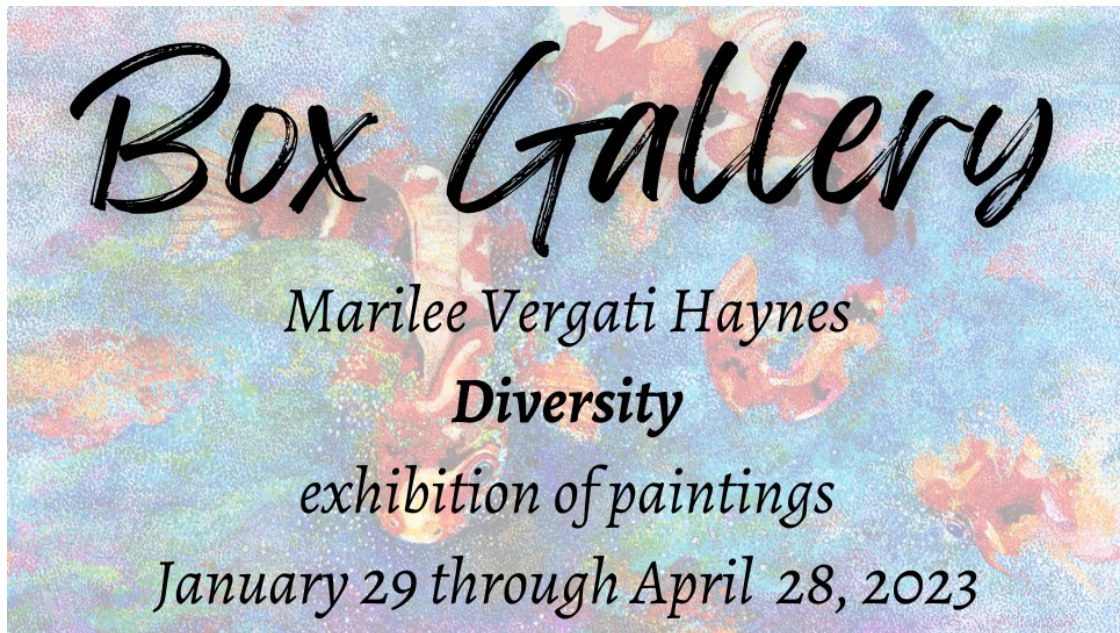
Scriptures for Next Sunday  
**Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9 (10)**  
**1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5:13-20**

**For the Children!**

Children's bulletins are included in activity packets for ages 3+ and 7+.  
Don't miss the Secret Code to allow your child to unlock on-line games, in a safe environment,  
that supplement today's scripture at  
[games.childrensbulletins.com/games/playcode.aspx](http://games.childrensbulletins.com/games/playcode.aspx)



Please recycle your order of worship in a marked bin.



**Artist's Reception, Saturday, February 4, 2023, 4:30 – 6:30 PM**  
Join us for a complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres reception in the Box Gallery



## Jonathan Merritt – Guest Preacher

February 5, 2023

**Following worship: Q&A and Potluck Lunch in Vickrey Hall**

Jonathan is an award-winning faith and culture writer who has published over 3,500 articles in outlets such as USA Today, The Washington Post, BuzzFeed and Christianity Today. He is a contributing writer for The Atlantic and The Week. His articles are viewed more than 2.5 million times each year. Jonathan has been interviewed by CNN, ABC World News, NPR, MSNBC, Fox News, and The New York Times and is author of several books including his newest book *Learning to Speak God from Scratch*. He was recently named one of 30 young leaders reshaping Christian leadership by Outreach magazine.



Known for his ability to tackle difficult issues through both the written and spoken word, Jonathan has become a sought-after speaker by universities, seminaries, churches, and conferences on cultural and religious issues. He holds a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, North Carolina) and a Master of Theology from Emory University Candler School of Theology (Atlanta, Georgia). He resides in Brooklyn, New York.

## Love Is In the Air!

**Saturday, February 11, 6:30-8:00 PM, Vickrey Hall**

**VALENTINE'S dinner presented by Women of the Church**

Plan for an evening of food, fun and stories of love from people you love.

Garey Wisdom and Brad Carter

Judy and Jack Mullinax

Matt Powers and Victoria Robb Powers

Emcee: Joey Belgard

Childcare provided by reservation:

Cookie Stokes, 214-770-1637,

Karen Miller, 214-724-0655





# Attention all Women of our Church:

Please **SAVE THE DATE**  
for our spring women's retreat at Sister Grove Farm!

**Friday, April 28th at 6pm – (includes dinner and retreat introduction)**  
**till Saturday, April 29th at 8pm (includes dinner and closing worship)**

We are delighted to have LeAnn Gardner join us as our facilitator in  
**"The Enneagram Path Towards Growth and Grace."**

Whether you are new to this ancient spiritual tool or already know your number, join us as we explore how the Enneagram can transform our relationships with ourselves, God, and others. We will focus on spiritual practices and how the Enneagram can lead us to a deeper understanding of our own gifts and offerings to the world. Our time together will be spent learning about each number, small group work, engaging in spiritual practices, fellowship, and free time on the farm!

Learn more about LeAnn at [www.leanngardner.com](http://www.leanngardner.com) and stay tuned for registration details.

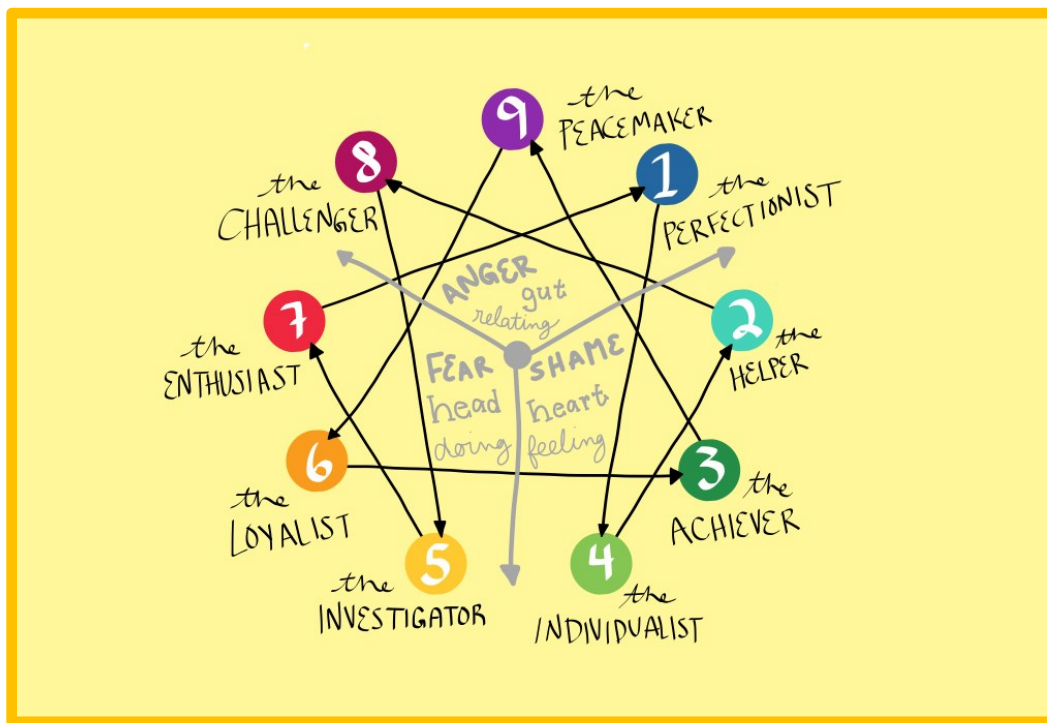


Image credit: HALEY KEIZUR/FOGHORN

## *Schedule for the Week*

### **Wednesday February 1**

- 3:30 pm Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building (3:30 - 5:30 pm)  
5:30 pm Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall  
Creamy Mushroom Chicken over Egg Noodles, Garlic Bread, Salad  
Dessert: Chocolate Cake  
6:15 pm Midweek Study — Vickrey Hall & Zoom  
7:00 pm Youth Gathering — Youth Portable  
7:15 pm Choir — Sanctuary

### **Saturday February 4**

- 2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom  
4:30 pm Artist's Reception, Marilee Vergati Haynes — Box Gallery (4:30 – 6:30 pm)

### **Sunday February 5 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

- 9:45 am Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building  
9:45 am Children's SS Classes — Christian Education Building  
10:00 am Youth SS Class — Youth Portable  
10:10 am Non-Traditional Class — Christian Education Building, Room 212  
10:55 am Morning Worship, Jonathan Merritt, Guest Preacher — Sanctuary  
Holy Communion Offered  
12:15 pm Q&A and Potluck Lunch with Jonathan Merritt — Vickrey Hall  
1:15 pm Missions Division — 201  
7:30 pm Education Division — Zoom

*The deadline for Calendar listings is Monday, 5:00 p.m., prior to publication.*

## **Calendar Updates**

**Need to add something to the calendar?**



**Calendar Update?**  
Do the  
“Two-Step”

1. Contact the church office to confirm availability for your event – on-site, off-site, or zoom.
2. Submit final copy for publicizing event by 5:00 PM, Monday, prior to date you want publicity to begin.

## Prayer Requests

We invite you to use the Prayer Cards, available in the “pockets” on the back of each pew, to submit prayer requests or the Prayer Request Form, available on the website at [royallane.org/prayer](http://royallane.org/prayer)  
Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.



**Deacons on Call** – David Doom & Sandy Washington  
**Safety Shepherd** – Scott Bryant

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When WE Give:  
We can use our gifts and talents to help those in need.

### December 2022 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 694,125
Expenses	\$ 760,279
Surplus (Deficit)*	\$ (66,154)

\*Includes annual pledges paid up front in full.

Text “GIVE” to 214-609-1200. Follow the prompts to complete the process.

*Standard text message rates may apply.*

Donate online at [royallane.org/give/](http://royallane.org/give/)



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## *Royal Lane Baptist Church*

6707 Royal Lane • Dallas, Texas 75230

[214] 361-2809 • <http://www.royallane.org>

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Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician  
Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant  
Ellen Miers, Housekeeping  
Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor  
Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant

Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician  
David Weigle, Organist  
Barrett Wooten, Interim Minister to Youth  
Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship