

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



Carols, Candlelight, & Communion

The Worship of God

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

6:00 P.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

It's an unwed woman who carries God. It's the sages from the East who recognize God. It's the workers in the field who hear from God. It's the marginalized neighborhood who welcomes God. It's God who chooses the lowly and the broken to rise. Christ is here. Let hope in.

Voluntary

Jeanie Chuang

Organ Flourish on "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH — Michael G. Dell

Introit

Choir, & Congregation

Hymn 104 (*remain seated and sing stanza four only*)

Once in Royal David's City — IRBY

Harper & Turner – stanza one

Choir – stanza two

Congregation – stanza four

✠ Call to Worship

Congregation

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

Let the shepherds in the fields rejoice.

Let the stars in the sky

worship the newborn king.

For heaven has come down to earth.

Salvation has come to our homes this day.

Sing, choirs of angels.

Sing in exaltation.

✠ Processional Hymn 103

Congregation

O Come, All Ye Faithful — ADESTE FIDELES
(stanzas one, two & three)

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 or see QR code following Organ Dismissal.
If you would like to profess your faith or identify with this fellowship,
please refer to pew rack card – “New Member Card” – and leave it in the offering plate.*

Coming of the Light

The Light of Hope

Nate Green

John 1:1-14

Hymn 107

Congregation

O Little Town of Bethlehem — ST. LOUIS
(stanzas one & three)

The Light of Peace

Bettie Meachum

Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol

Choir

Away in a Manger — arranged by Mack Wilberg
Adam Visconti, clarinet

The Light of Joy

Mike Jones

Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn 148

Congregation

What Child is This — GREENSLEEVES
(stanzas one & three)

The Light of Love

DeeDee Young

Luke 2:1-20

Advent Hymn

Congregation

Sing the Songs of Christmas — JEFFERSON

5. Sing the Songs of In - car - na - tion: God in flesh with us to dwell;
Sing the sto - ry of sal - va - tion; Love Di - vine all loves ex - cel;
From the dark - ness and its per - ils, Je - sus' birth now sets us free;
Sing the Can - ti - cles and Car - ols; Laud to God's Na - ti - vi - ty!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Powers Family
Victoria, Matt, Benjamin, Ruthie, & Hannah

Unison Prayer

Let us pray,

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem into the darkness of our world so that we, like Christ, may become beacons of your justice and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

✠Hymn 127

Congregation

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing — MENDELSSOHN
(stanzas one & three)

Homily

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Offertory

Brittany Jones & Jeanie Chuang

Gesù Bambino — Pietro Yon

*We invite you to use this time to give to the Christmas Eve Offering to Fellowship Southwest.
The Christmas Eve offering will benefit Fellowship Southwest's Knox Fund for Immigrant Relief.*

Communion

May God be with you.

And also with you.

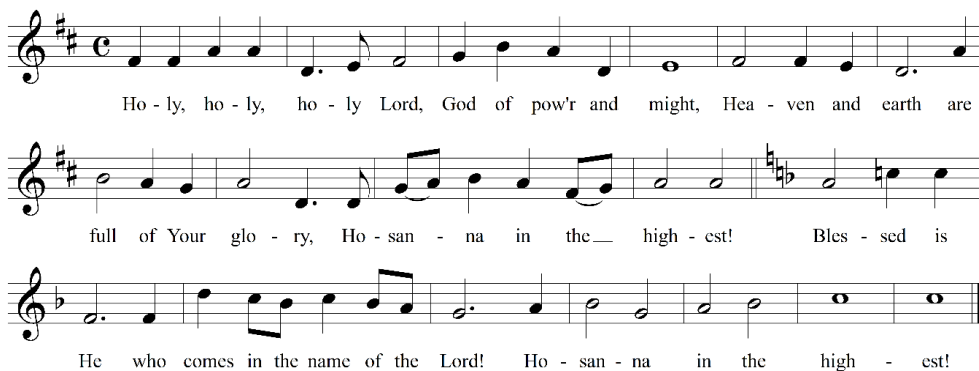
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

We freely give God thanks and praise.

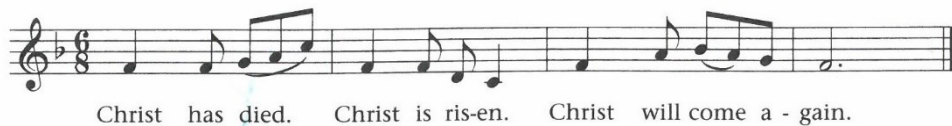
. . . And so, in grateful procession of endless praise
With the church that is, was, and shall be forever,
We glorify you, joining this unending song.



Words of Institution

Response

. . . And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



(continued)

. . . Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Following the choir, please move by way of the center aisle to partake of communion and return via the outside aisles.
The Communion elements are gluten free.*

Divinum Mystrium — arranged by Charles Callahan

Angels' Carol — John Rutter

The Passing of the Light

✠ Charge to the Bearers of the Light

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

The Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. The light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out.

—*John 1:4-5, First Nations Version*

An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

*During the introduction to Peace, Peace/Silent Night,
please move your unlit candle toward the flame of the lighted candle and
pass the light to one another.*

†Hymn [see text below]

Choir & Congregation

Peace, Peace/Silent Night — Rick & Sylvia Powell, arranged by Fred Bock

Please sing on direction.

**Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

†Sending Forth

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers & Congregation

The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them the light has shined.**

We are that people. Christ is that light.

For a child has been born for us.

God's own Son has been given to us.

He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace through his glorious reign.**

Let the trees of the forest shout for joy.

Let heaven and nature sing.

Amen.

Amen.

✠Hymn 102

Congregation

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come — ANTIOCH
(stanzas one & four)

Organ Dismissal

Jeanie Chuang

Toccata on Joy to the World — Craig Phillips

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Don't forget to pick up your poinsettias following this evening's service.

Register Your Attendance

Royallane.org/register



Cover Art

2023 Christmas Eve by John Stuart
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Schedule for the Week

Monday	December 25 – Christmas Day Church Office Closed
Wednesday	December 27 No Wednesday Activities
Sunday	December 31 – First Sunday after Christmas No Children's/Youth Education Classes
10:55 am	Morning Worship – Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel Godly Play, (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room Children 3-year through Fifth Grade
Wednesday	January 3 No Wednesday Activities

The deadline for the Weekly Mosaic and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.

Hymn Notes

Once in Royal David's City

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, Harmonization: David Schwoebel

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

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O Little Town of Bethlehem

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Sing the Songs of Christmas

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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Silent Night

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Joy To the World! The Lord Is Come

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Sing the Songs of Christmas

An Advent hymn, celebrating the canticles of Christmas,
for Harry Wooten and Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX,
Advent 2023, by Michael G. Dell

TUNE: JEFFERSON (William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835)

Sing the Song of Zechariah, sung to John who shows the way;
Herald to the world's Messiah, preaching of the promised day;
Hear the one whose exhortation startles us in dark of night;
Hear the call to preparation, as in hope we wait for Light.

Sing the Song of bless-ed Mary, in exultant, heartfelt praise;
For the One she is to carry topples earth's oppressive ways;
See the lowly being lifted, and the hungry richly fed;
As in love, the ground is shifted, under Christ, our living Head.

Sing the Song of Angels singing, in exub'rant notes of joy,
To the fearful shepherds, bringing Light no darkness can destroy;
In the highest be all glory, and on earth be peace to all;
As we see salvation's story, swaddling in a cattle's stall.

Sing the Song of Simeon, waiting patiently to see the Lord;
Fear of darkness now abating, seeing now the One adored:
"Lord, now let this faithful servant blissfully depart in peace,
As my prayer so deep and fervent, granted now, brings sweet release."

Sing the Songs of Incarnation: God in flesh with us to dwell;
Sing the story of salvation; Love Divine all loves excel;
From the darkness and its perils, Jesus' birth now sets us free;
Sing the Canticles and Carols - Laud to God's Nativity!

RLBC Christmas Eve Offering / Fellowship Southwest December 2023

In nearly every moment of the Christmas story, characters heed promptings from angels. An angel announces to Mary she is chosen to be the mother of God, and she accepts. An angel encourages Joseph to support Mary in this calling, and he does. The magi return home from Bethlehem by another road, and the new family flees to another country in order to protect their child, all thanks to divine messengers.

Perhaps part of being “The Holy Family” is the willingness to follow the prompting of the divine. And if that’s the case, we should bestow a holy designation on many families today who are fleeing their homes in order to protect their children. For it would take divine intervention for most of us to do what they do.



It’s not a new idea to compare modern day immigrants and refugees to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Kelly Latimore’s popular iconography makes this point. Once we acknowledge the comparison, we must heed the prompting of the divine and let it urge us into action. What is our role in their stories? Maybe we have the chance to be an angel, a kind innkeeper, or a wise one who discerns who can (or cannot) be trusted.

Through Fellowship Southwest, Royal Lane invites you to support these families by giving to our Christmas Eve offering. Every dollar will be distributed to migrant ministries along the U.S. Mexico border. Our offering will fund food, hospitality and basic necessities to migrants who have run out of resources. Join us in being the answer to prayer for the migrants we encounter this Christmas season.

Giving Link: <https://onrealm.org/FellowshipSouth/give/Immigrant>



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

David Doom, Ministries Assistant

Brandon Green, Audio Technician

Beth Johnson, Minister to Children,

Youth & Families

Barbara Merry, Ministries Assistant

Ellen Miers, Housekeeping

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor

Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician

David Weigle, Organist

Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music & Worship