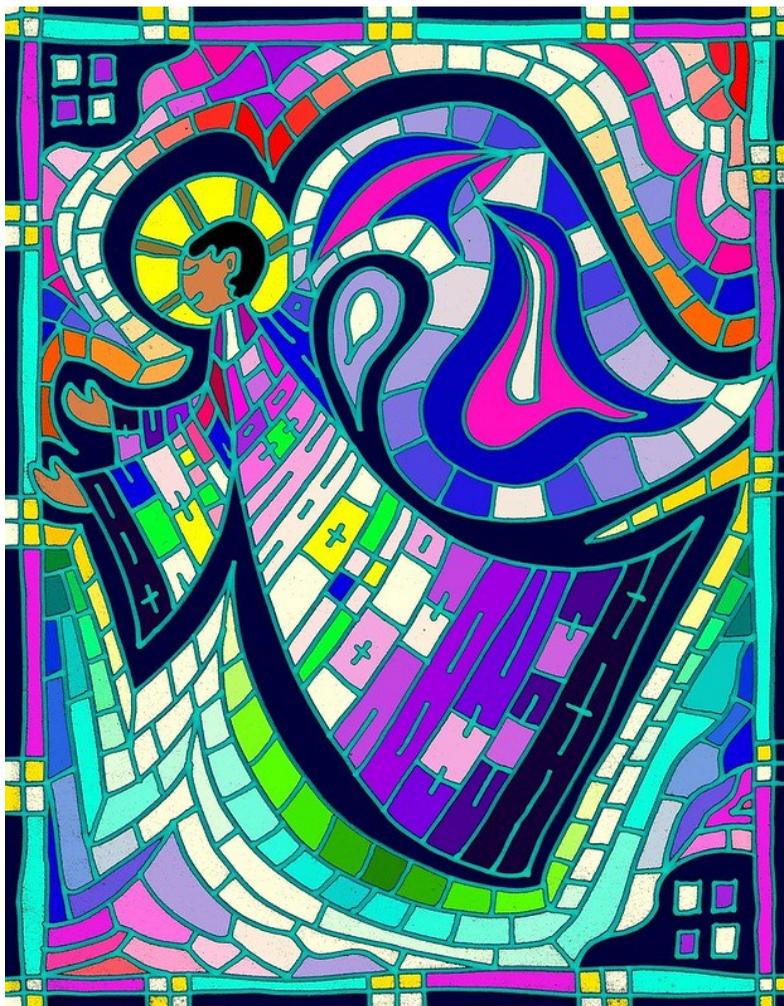


ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Chiming of the Hour

Voluntary

Classic Brass

French Carol — arranged by Keith Snell

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Jordan, Lauren, Carter & Olivia Simmons

Unison Prayer

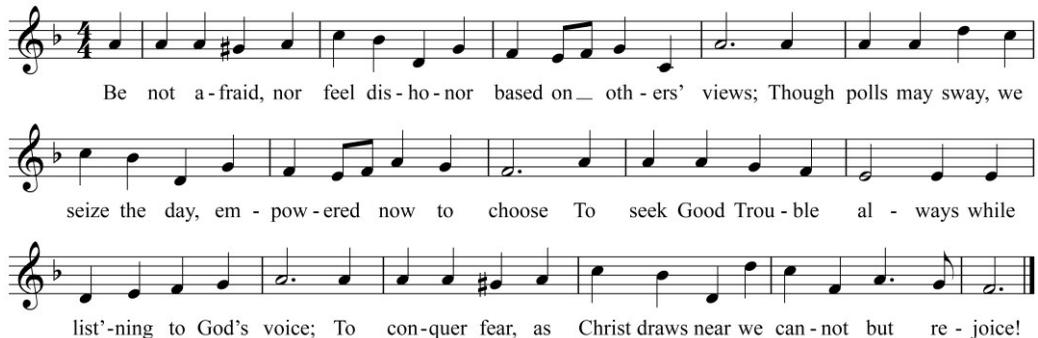
Let us pray:

God with us, Emmanuel, as we draw near to the manger, focus our attention to your presence among us. As we consider the love, care and faith of Mary and Joseph, strengthen our faith. As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas, bring us from fear to awe and be our joy. Amen.

Advent Hymn

Worshippers

Be Not Afraid — ST. LOUIS



Be not a-fraid, nor feel dis-ho-nor based on oth-ers' views; Though polls may sway, we
seize the day, em-pow-ered now to choose To seek Good Trou-ble al-ways while
list'-ning to God's voice; To con-quer fear, as Christ draws near we can-not but re-joice!

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

When an angel of the Lord appeared to Mary,
Mary said yes, even in the midst of the unknown.

**When an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph,
Joseph said yes, even in the midst of uncertainty.**

When we consider the origins of our Christian faith
in the midst of mystery and glory, we say yes to God.

**When we celebrate the birth of Christ,
we proclaim God is with us, Emmanuel.**

Come! Let us worship.

Hymn

Worshippers

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child — KINGSFOLD
(stanzas 1, 3 & 4)

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Karen Simmons

As we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ,
let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

Today we pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud or post in the
comments section.

Let us pray:

God of promise, you have given us a sign of your love through the gift of Jesus
Christ, our Savior, who was promised from ages past. We believe as Joseph did the
message of your presence whispered by an angel, and offer our prayers for your
world, confident of your care and mercy for all creation. Amen.

Hymn

Worshippers

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child — TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM
(stanzas 1 & 3)

Scripture Lesson

Sarah Fuller Phillips

Matthew 1:18-25 [see insert]

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word ... **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Michael Gregg

“ The Fear of a Ruined Reputation ”

Offertory

Rita Nsumbu

O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion from MESSIAH — G. F. Handel

Blessing

Michael Gregg

Go to prepare a place in our hearts and homes
for God your Creator, Emmanuel.

Go to prepare a welcome
for the Christ child, God with us Emmanuel.

Go to prepare an opening for the Holy Spirit,
the breath of God among us, Emmanuel.

Amen.

Amen.

Postlude

Classic Brass

Carol of the Bells — M. Leontivich, arranged by Keith Snell

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Cover Art — *Messenger Mandala* by John Stuart, used by permission
www.stushieart.com

Hymn Notes

Be Not Afraid

Text: Copyright © 2020, Michael Dell, for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Advent 2020.

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The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

Text: Gordon V. Thompson

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Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Public Domain

Classic Brass

Glen Hummel, Trumpet
Simon Willats, Trombone

Don Burks, Trumpet
Vurl Bland, Tuba

Gerald Wood, Horn
Nate Collins, Percussion

Be Not Afraid

Advent I

Be not afraid when dark the way which journeys t'ward the light;
When mortal fears, this year of years, keeps hope beyond our sight;
God's messengers bring calm to disoriented hearts;
Though dark the night, here comes the light and peace which Christ imparts.

Advent II

Be not afraid of disappointment, fearing for the worst;
This holy birth renews the earth, refreshing those who thirst
For justice and for healing of body, mind and land;
Bring confidence, restore our sense of safety in your hand.

Advent III

Be not afraid, amidst revision of the plans we made;
Nor feel displaced, when we are faced with hopes and goals delayed.
Amid this changing landscape; dysfunction and disease,
Embrace a living hope and give our hearts to One who frees.

Mourning Light

Be not afraid, when holidays bring mem'ries hard to bear,
Fear not in grief, receive relief, embraced by those who care;
Disease of mind and body has not the final word;
This light reveals the One who heals, through whom our hopes are stirred.

Advent IV

Be not afraid, nor feel dishonor based on others' views,
Though polls may sway, we seize the day, empowered now to choose
To seek Good Trouble always while list'ning to God's voice;
To conquer fear, as Christ draws near we cannot but rejoice!

Christmas Eve

Be not afraid when life disrupts our expectations here;
For Twenty-twenty offers many trials to stoke our fear;
But in a lowly manger, no fancy room was found,
Christ came to us, abides with us, more blessings yet abound!

Text: Michael G. Dell, for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX, Advent 2020
Music: ST. LOUIS, Welsh hymn tune, from John Roberts' *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, (1839)

Be Not Afraid

Advent – 2020



It feels as if 2020 has been a year filled with fear. Yet, messengers throughout the Bible sought to comfort the people of God by telling them to not be afraid. It was a word that those looking for a Messiah and birthing Divine Love needed to hear. And we need to hear it too. The theme for this Advent Season at Royal Lane is “Be Not Afraid.” Maybe God is telling us this year, as we wait with trepidation and anticipation, to offer up our fears to the divine and to hear God’s comfort in the angel voices: “Do not be afraid.”

December 20 – Advent IV – Worship – 11:00 am — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
“The Fear of Ruined Reputation”

This morning we are joined by the Classic Brass Quintet as we sing carols of the season.

December 24 – Christmas Eve – 6:00 pm — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
5:45 pm – Pre-Service Mini Concert by Jonathan Gregoire
“The Fear of Change”

The service this year will feature choral music from the virtual combined choirs of Royal Lane and University Park UMC as they present the first movement of the GLORIA by Vivaldi, and lovely settings of *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night*. Soloists and readers from RLBC will also lead us in worship. The Gregg Family with baby Ford will light our Christ Candle.

Advent Afternoons

Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Each Tuesday afternoon of Advent at 4:00 pm we will present organist Jonathan Gregoire playing a brief mini concert on our Royal Lane, Dan Garland pipe organ, Opus 50. Jonathan will feature Advent music and speak about the pieces and their connection to our Advent season.

JONATHAN M. GREGOIRE



Christmas Eve Missions Offering

We are beginning our Christmas Eve Missions Offering early this year! Please join us in giving to two very important organizations who are meeting the most basic needs of our beloved community this Christmas season. We will divide any missions offerings evenly between Hope Supply and North Dallas Shared Ministries. You can read more about these wonderful organizations below. To give to the Christmas Eve Missions Offering, choose this fund in the dropdown menu under “Give” on the RLBC website, or mail or drop off a check with “Christmas Eve Missions Offering” written in the memo section.

Hope Supply Co.



Hope Supply meets the critical needs of homeless and at-risk children across North Texas by providing necessities including diapers, clothing, school supplies and toys. to enhance their lives. They provide diapers and other essentials to social service organizations, including homeless shelters, transitional living centers, school districts and state agencies. We currently have a

network of 70+ partner agencies, ensuring that our items are given directly to the families and children that need them the most. Right now, they have seen requests for their help increase by almost 300%.

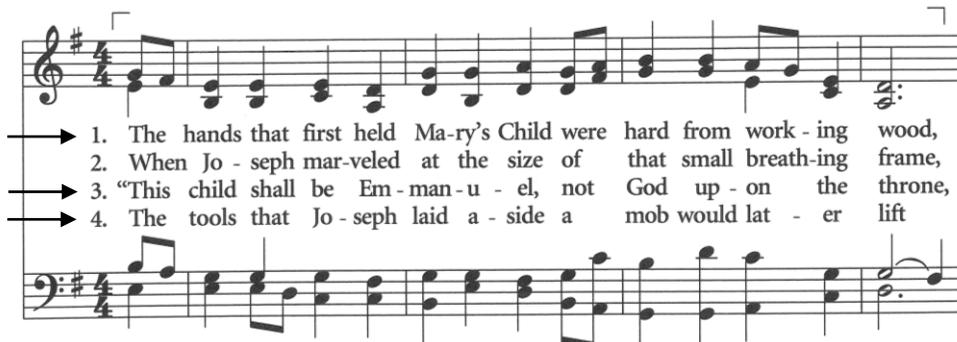
North Dallas Shared Ministries

NDSM is an interfaith community of volunteers, partners and collaborators providing charitable assistance to persons in need. NDSM is one of the Missions to which we regularly give, but they are seeing higher than average need from their clients right now. According to Judy Rorrie, the Executive Director of North Dallas Shared Ministries, requests for food and financial assistance has increased sharply. Since

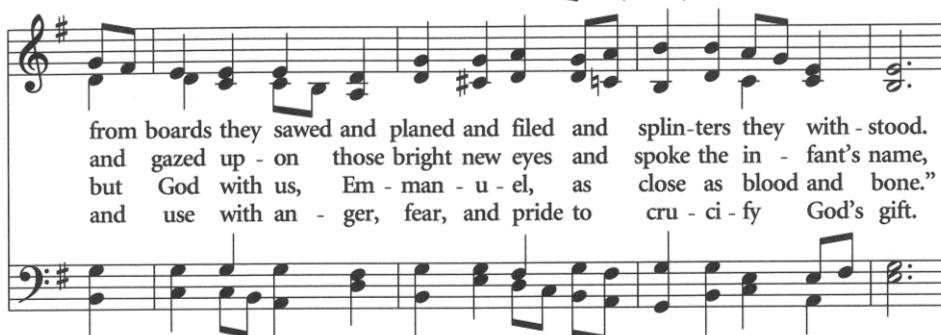
April 27, a very small group of NDSM volunteers has reviewed 1,864 applications for financial assistance; to date in just under seven months, 644 Covid-19 related households have received \$480,643 in rent and/or utility assistance. The expectation is that the need for life-sustaining basic services will increase significantly as we begin the new year.



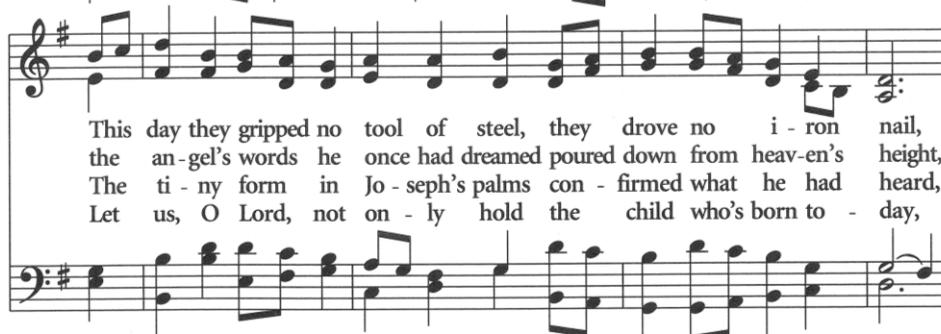
The Hands That First Held Mary's Child



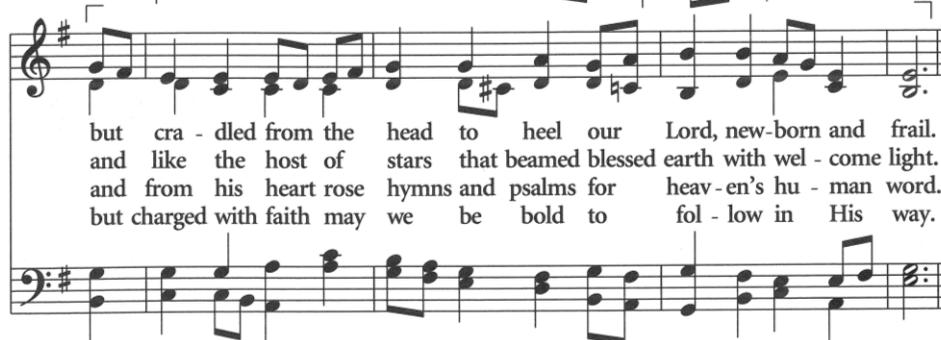
→ 1. The hands that first held Ma-ry's Child were hard from work - ing wood,
→ 2. When Jo - seph mar-veled at the size of that small breath-ing frame,
→ 3. "This child shall be Em-man-u - el, not God up - on the throne,
→ 4. The tools that Jo - seph laid a - side a mob would lat - er lift



from boards they sawed and planed and filed and splin-ters they with - stood.
and gazed up - on those bright new eyes and spoke the in - fant's name,
but God with us, Em - man - u - el, as close as blood and bone."
and use with an - ger, fear, and pride to cru - ci - fy God's gift.



This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no i - ron nail,
the an-gel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heav-en's height,
The ti - ny form in Jo - seph's palms con - firmed what he had heard,
Let us, O Lord, not on - ly hold the child who's born to - day,



but cra - dled from the head to heel our Lord, new-born and frail.
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with wel - come light.
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heav-en's hu - man word.
but charged with faith may we be bold to fol - low in His way.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her Child low - ly in a man - ger;
2. An - gels sang a - bout His birth; wise - men sought and found Him;
3. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her Child low - ly in a man - ger;

there He lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a stran - ger:
heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round Him:
He is still the un - de - filed, but no more a stran - ger:

such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Sav - ior?
shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found His fa - vor.
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ring - ing.
praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glo - ry!

The Scripture this morning is Matthew 1:18-25

18 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;* and he named him Jesus.

(NRSV)

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... **Thanks be to God.**

Schedule for the Week

- Sunday** **December 20 –Fourth Sunday of Advent**
12:00 pm Youth Sunday School Class — Zoom
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — Zoom
- Tuesday** **December 22**
4:00 pm Advent Afternoons — Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel
- Wednesday** **December 23**
6:30 pm No Wednesday Evening Activities
- Thursday** **December 24**
5:45 pm Pre-Service Mini Concert – Jonathan Gregoire
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service — Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel
- Friday** **December 25 – Christmas Day**
- Sunday** **December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas**
11:00 am Morning Worship — Livestream
 Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel

Schedule

All In-Person activities have been suspended until further notice.
See the website for information and resources.
royallane.org

Prayer Requests

We invite you to use the Prayer Request Form,
available on the website at royallane.org/prayer

Deacons on Call

Sarah Fuller Phillips & Karen Simmons

When WE Give: our children share in the joy of preparing for the coming of Emmanuel.

October 2020 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues	\$ 624,102
Expenses	\$ 624,736
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 634)

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/



Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane • Dallas, Texas 75230

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

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