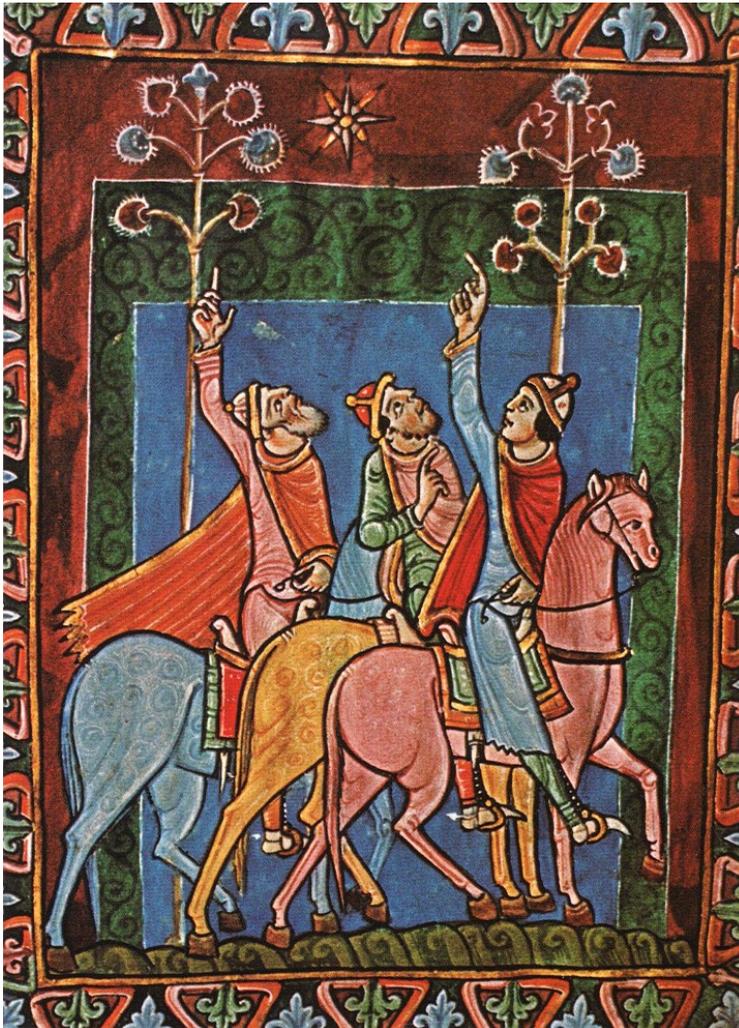


# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

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*Diverse People United in Christ*



# *The Worship of God*

## *Epiphany Sunday*

January 3, 2021

11:00 A.M.

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Words & Candle Lighting

Laura Keller & Michael Gregg

The feast of Epiphany concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Light has broken in on the darkness of the world! Can you see it? Can you feel it? Open the eyes of your heart and light the light within. There is a star beckoning us to follow. Let us go and see where it leads us today in worship. Let us see where it leads us as we go about our day, our week, and the rest of our lives.

Voluntary

David Weigle

*Kings of Orient* KINGS OF ORIENT — Fred Bock

Choral Introit

Virtual Combined Choirs

*Gloria from* GLORIA — Antonio Vivaldi

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

Arise; shine, for your light has come!

**We are called out of our darkness into light.**

Lift up your eyes and look around.

**We rejoice in the gift of light.**

Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

**We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe,  
the light incarnate.**

Invocation

Harry Wooten

God of promise and light, open our eyes this morning, that we may see your light in the darkness. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe in Bethlehem. May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. May this time of worship bring us closer to you, that the good news of the birth of light and love will transform our lives. Amen.

Hymn [ see insert ]

Worshippers

*As with Gladness Men of Old* — DIX  
(stanzas 1,2 & 3)

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Nate Green

Sometimes we feel lost and even consumed by darkness.

We wonder if we are loveable.

Our actions dim the value and worth of others and ourselves.

**Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

Sometimes we feel lost in shadows of unclear choices.

Which way will lead to justice? To transformation? To peace?

We are afraid to risk a step out, unsure of the path.

**Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

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

Let us pray:

In Christ, God has given us a new Light, kindling unconditional love for us, and showing a well-lit path to wholeness and forgiveness, to courage and clarity.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Response [ see insert ]

Worshippers

*What Child Is This* — GREENSLEEVES  
(stanza 3)

Scripture Lesson

Jonah Hammett

Matthew 2:1-12 [ see insert ]

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

Solo

Dan Thompson

*Coventry Carol* — arranged by Mark Hayes

Sermon

Michael Gregg

**“ The Fear of the Dark ”**

Offertory

David Weigle

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* HURON CAROL — arranged by Joseph Martin

Closing Hymn [ see insert ]

Worshippers

*We Three Kings* — KINGS OF ORIENT

Blessing

Michael Gregg

Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to see.

**We go to spread the good news of light and love,  
righteousness and justice.**

Go now and follow the star that will guide you on your journey  
this week, this year, and forever.

**As the Magi of old, we go forth in trust and excitement,  
transformed in the presence of the child of light.**

May the blessing of the God of light  
rest upon you and fill you with light.

Amen.

**Amen.**

Postlude

David Weigle

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* — arranged by John H. Behnke

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Cover Art — *Journey of the Magi* manuscript illumination, Hildesheim, Germany  
From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library. Used by permission.

Image for the illuminated manuscript, one of several psalters  
created at or for St. Albans Abbey in the 12th century.

Church of St. Godehard is the home of the manuscript  
but it has been moved to the Cathedral Library for preservation purposes.

## The RLBC Staff Celebrates Laura Keller

The RLBC staff celebrates the work anniversary of our colleague, Laura Keller. Laura has served as Minister to Children at Royal Lane Baptist Church since January of 2015. We are glad that Laura is a part of our team.

Gratefully, Mike Gregg, Harry Wooten, Janet Schultz, Barbara Merry, David Weigle, and Rosa Barrientos.

## Stay Connected in 2021

As we enter a new year, it is important that we continue to be creative in how we connect with one another. I am grateful for a passionate and purposeful staff and leadership that wants to grow people and change this city even in the midst of separation and isolation. I pray this will be a year when Royal Lane members boldly step out in faith to connect with each other, share our celebrations and burdens, and find ways to impact our city and create the Beloved Community in Dallas together. If you need assistance or have questions about our connection options and opportunities, please contact me at [mgregg@royallane.org](mailto:mgregg@royallane.org).

Here are several ways for us to stay connected in this new year:

Church Website at [royallane.org](http://royallane.org)  
Deacon Ministry Groups  
e360 ChMS Member Database  
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube Channel  
Livestream YouTube Worship & Events  
Online or Mailed Mosaic Newsletter  
Virtual Sunday School Classes, Care Groups, & Small Groups  
Weekly Email Mosaic & Email List  
Zoom Gathering Opportunities & Events

—*Pastor Mike*

## Thank You from Your Ministers & Staff

Dear members of our Royal Lane family,

It has been a difficult year filled with uncertainty and challenges. Even so, as a people of God, we have many reasons to give thanks and much more to do to bring love, hope, peace, and joy to the world. But we take a moment as your church staff to offer a word of appreciation. We would like to thank you for the Staff Love Gift and the many kind and generous ways you show your appreciation and care to all of us who work at Royal Lane. Know that we continue to pray for you as you join with us in building the Beloved Community in Dallas. We wish the very best for each of you during this season of gratefulness and pray that you have much strength in the upcoming New Year.

*Your RLBC Ministers and Staff,*

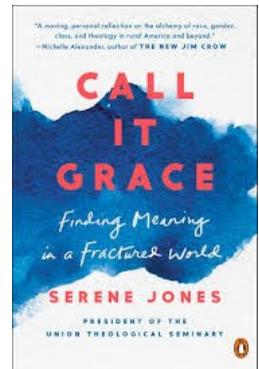
*Mike, Harry, Tim, Laura, Janet, Barbara,  
David, Rosa, Nelida, Nelli, Carly & Jose*

## Pastor's Book Group Resumes Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 12:00 pm

Our next book is "Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World" by Serene Jones.

**About the Author:** Serene Jones is the president of the historic Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. The first woman to head the 180-year-old institution, Jones occupies the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy. She is the past president of the American Academy of Religion. Jones came to Union after seventeen years at Yale University, where she was the Titus Street Professor of Theology at the Divinity School, and chair of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Yale University. Jones is the author of several books including *Trauma and Grace*. She is a child of the Oklahoma plains, a daughter of a university president and a single mother, a sister, a cancer survivor, a theologian, a minister, a news commentator, a public intellectual, and a devoted teacher.

Contact Pastor Mike if you would like to become a part of this group.



# As with Gladness Men of Old

→ 1. As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing  
→ 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly  
→ 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at the man - ger  
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the

star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,  
man - ger bed, there to bend the knee be - fore  
rude and bare, so may we with ho - ly joy,  
nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,

lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, so, most gra - cious  
Christ whom heaven and earth a - dore, so may we with  
pure and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest  
bring our ran - somed souls at last where they need no

Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to Thee.  
will - ing feet, ev - er seek the mer - cy seat.  
treas - ures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heaven - ly King.  
star to guide, where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

# What Child Is This



1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come peas-ant, king, to own Him;



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tians, fear: for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne Him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:  
Nails, spears, shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Ma - ry!



# We Three Kings



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a De - i - ty night;
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise; King and God and sac - ri - fice:



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship Him, God on high.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.



O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.



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## The Scripture this morning is Matthew 2:1-12

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In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*(NRSV)*

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

## *Schedule for the Week*

- Sunday January 3 – Epiphany Sunday**  
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  
7:00 pm Connections Care Group — Zoom
- Wednesday January 6 - Mosaic**  
No Wednesday Activities
- Friday January 8**  
12:00 pm Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
- Saturday January 9**  
2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom  
3:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom  
8:00 pm Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
- Sunday January 10 – First Sunday after Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord**  
9:45 am Foundation Stones Class — Zoom  
10:00 am 4-6-Year-Old Sunday School — Zoom  
10:00 am Women’s Share & Prayer — Zoom  
11:00 am Morning Worship — Livestream  
Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel  
Following Worship – Chat with the Pastor — Zoom  
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  
7:30 pm Deacons Meeting — Zoom

### **How to Connect**

See the Weekly Mosaic, Weekend Update or Web Calendar for Links and details for Zoom, Livestream and Virtual events — [royallane.org/resources/events](http://royallane.org/resources/events)  
Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

**Quarterly Church Conference**  
**January 20, 2021 – 6:00 pm – Zoom**

## *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](http://royallane.org/prayer)

## **Deacons on Call**

Nate Green & Donna Wood-Martin

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When WE Give: we can embark on the new year with anticipation and joy!

### **November 2020 Financials**

	YTD Actual
Revenues	\$ 678,239
Expenses	\$ 680,897
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 2,658)

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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Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping  
Michael Gregg, Pastor  
Laura Keller, Minister to Children  
Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant

Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant  
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician  
David Weigle, Organist  
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship