

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

10:55 A.M.

Worship begins with the Chiming of the Hour and the Voluntary.

Please use this as a time of quiet reflection and prayer,

and to record your attendance at royallane.org/register (see QR located following postlude)

To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.

*For the safety and protection of our children and those with compromised immune systems,
masks are required in the building.*

† – *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Chiming of the Hour

God's work of salvation is full of surprises. God chooses two women to nurture a revolution: Young Mary will be the mother of Jesus and the elderly Elizabeth will bear a son, John. God chooses little Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah. The prophetic voices of Mary and Elizabeth invite us to rejoice in the surprising joy and justice of God's reign and to bear this news to the world.

Voluntary

David Weigle

Psalm 42/Genevan — Craig Phillips

†Call to Worship

Sandy Washington & Congregation

God is making great changes to our world.

Are you ready to take part?

We have come to do God's will:

to work for justice,

to bring balance back to our living.

God is making great changes in our world.

Are you ready to take part?

We have come to do God's will:

to seek and celebrate God's surprising love,

to establish God's Realm here on earth.

Come, let us worship God,

who comes into our world to reconcile and make things new.

†Invocation

Sandy Washington & Congregation

Let us pray:

Loving God, as the prophet Mary tells us, you sent Jesus into the world to turn things upside down and right side up. As we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus help us to remember the message of Jesus: to work for justice and fairness, to bring balance to our living, to share your love with all people, and to make your reign become real here on earth. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

†Hymn 90 [see insert]

Congregation

People Look East — BESANÇON

Words of Welcome

Harry Wooten

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

Scripture Lesson

Addison W.

Luke 1:26-38 [Pew Bible page 831 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!

Advent Hymn

Worshippers

What, O What Then Shall We Do? — GUITING POWER



5. Come, re-place our mind's dis-trac - tions, need - less fears there - of;



Light a path to car - ing ac - tions, deeds of self - less love;



Light, shed an - swers to our ques - tion: What, O what then shall we do?!

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Derrick & Ashley Ragsdale & Family

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Family Dedication

Ministers & Family

Blakely Anne Ragsdale

Daughter of Derrick & Ashley Ragsdale

Grandparents

Mimi Vivian Butscher & Granny Ronda Orcutt

Godparents

Jennifer & Tim Berrier

Minister

Derrick and Ashley, why have you come before this congregation?

Parents

We recognize the responsibility of parenthood and our dependence upon God for strength and wisdom to faithfully discharge our duties. We come to present Blakely before God in loving commitment.

Minister

Where will you find strength for this task?

Family

Realizing our need for divine assistance, we recommit ourselves to Christ and to Christ's church.

(continued)

Minister

Members of Royal Lane Baptist Church, what is your responsibility and commitment?

Congregation

We will give our time, talents, and money, in order that we may help provide spiritual instruction and nurture for Blakely. We will love her, care for her, teach her, and model Christian living for her.

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

**O God of everlasting covenant, we rejoice in every gift of life.
Be present always to strengthen and guide this your child
that she may increase in wisdom and in years,
and in divine and human favor
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We Do Love

Brightest and Best — arranged by Shawn Kirchner

Snow Had Fallen; Christ Was Born — Stephen Paulus

Homily

Steve Graham

Wexford Carol — arranged by Elaine Hagenberg

Carol of the Holy Family — Terre Johnson

Homily

Steve Graham

†Hymn of Commitment [see insert]

Congregation

Love Has Come — BRING A TORCH

Offertory Prayer

Christin Lavery & Congregation

For years, for generations, we said

“God is Love,”

When what we really thought was

“God is wrath.”

We thought of you as moody and prickly,

Distant and disembodied.

We know better now.

The Christ has taught us.

We like to imagine the night Love became incarnate:

Clear,

Still,

Peaceful:

Perfect conditions for Love’s emergence

Perfect timing for Love’s expansion.

It’s in quiet that Love has its purest voice.

It’s in stillness that Love finds its rhythm.

And indeed, Love smiled upon us that day,

Its every face beaming:

A tiny voice bawling out Love’s insistence;

A tiny heart beating out Love’s cadence.

Shh, we can still hear it:

I love you. I love you. I am Love.

Amen

—*Fran Pratt*

Offertory

Choir

Silent Night — arranged by Dan Forrest

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

See back cover for ways to give.

Choral Benediction

Choir

Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King — adapted by Rosephanye Powell

†Sending Forth

Steve Graham

Go now into the world, knowing the life God has placed with you.

It is a reason for hope, peace, joy, and love.

God's promise is alive in us.

God's love is breathing in you

and the world is changing with each and every breath you take.

Let us go, and birth Jesus in our world,

that all may be turned upside down—and right-side up.

Amen.

Amen.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Come, Thou Expected Jesus — arranged by Jerry Westenkuehler

Guest Musicians

Diana Zavala, violin

Jeremiah Rupp, double bass

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Register Your Attendance

Royallane.org/register



People, Look East

1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east and sing to - day: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Love Has Come

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)
 F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C Bb F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 Bb C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C Bb C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

The Scripture this morning is Luke 1:26-38, which may be found on page 831 of the New Testament of the pew Bible or as an insert in your order of worship.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

(NRSV)

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!**

Brightest and Best

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator
down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger,
lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.*

*Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining,
low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him, in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom and offr'ings divine.
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

—text: *Reginald Heber 1811*

Snow Had Fallen; Christ Was Born

In the bleak mid-winter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone,
Snow had fallen, Snow on fallen snow,
In the bleak mid-winter, Snow had fallen long ago,

Then the angels sang Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a shepherd I would bring a little lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him? give Him my heart.

Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
What can I give Him? My heart.

—text: *Christina Rossetti*

Wexford Carol

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well, and bear in mind,
What our good God for us has done,
In sending his beloved son

*With Mary holy, we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn,
There was a blessed Messiah born.*

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs, and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear,
Which put the shepherds in great fear.

“Prepare and go,” the angels said
“To Bethlehem, Be not afraid.

For there you'll find this happy morn
A princely babe sweet Jesus, born.”

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angels had foretold,
They did our Savior Christ behold.

Within a manger he was laid,
And by His side the virgin maid
attending on the Lord of Life
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Carol of the Holy Family

What can I give you, my firstborn, my treasure?

What can I give you, my darling, my love?

I'll use my voice to lullaby softly,
Singing at bedtime and laughing at dawn.

What can I give you my firstborn, my treasure?

Laughter and singing, my darling, my love.

What can I give you my firstborn, my treasure?

What can I give you, my darling, my son?

I'll use my hands to provide for your nurture,
working till bedtime and rocking till dawn.

What can I give you, my firstborn, my treasure?

Loving provision, my darling, my son.

You can rely on our loving and caring,
we will provide all you need to grow strong;
for soon you will grow up and need us no longer,
once in our care, you'll soon care for us all.

What can we give you, firstborn of creation?

What can we give you, whose birth brings us life?

We'll use our voices to tell of your glory;

We'll use our hands to give bread to the poor.

We'll give our hearts, you can live here inside us;

Always our treasure, our Savior our love.

Glory Hallelujah to the Newborn King

Tell me, who do you call the Wonderful Counselor?

Oh, Glory Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah to the newborn King!

I call Jesus the Wonderful Counselor!

Just follow the star and you'll find the Baby,
You'll find Him in Bethlehem wrapped in the manger.

He's the King of kings. He's Emmanuel.

He's the Prince of Peace.

Oh yes, He's Mary's little baby born in Bethelhem.

Crying "Peace on earth, good will to your neighbor."

Oh my Lord. Yes, Glory Hallelujah!

Didn't Jesus say, "Ev'ry man is your neighbor."

Cover Art

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Hymn Notes

People Look East

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, David Higham Assoc. Ltd, 1960
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What, O What Then Shall We Do?

Text: Copyright © 2021, Michael Dell, for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Advent 2021.
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Love Has Come

Text: Ken Bible, Copyright © 1996, LNWHymns
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No Wednesday Evening Activities December 22 or December 29

Scriptures for Next Sunday
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52



Please recycle your order of worship in a marked bin.

Christmas Eve Missions Offering

This Christmas Eve, we are thrilled to announce that our special Missions offering will go to The Knox Fund for Immigrant Relief. Named for Fellowship Southwest's founder Marv Knox, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of 2021, The Knox Fund for Immigrant Relief provides resources to pastors on both sides of the United States-Mexico border to serve immigrants and refugees. Fellowship Southwest regularly receives requests for financial assistance or ministry supplies from our partner pastors all along the border. Because of donations from churches like ours, they have been able to respond to these requests without interruption. Giving to this fund helps us be the presence of Christ for people Jesus called "the least of these." Join us in making a donation to this important cause.



Fellowship
Southwest

Schedule for the Week

Tuesday	December 21 Youth Tuesday Fun — Galleria Ice Skating & Scavenger Hunt
Wednesday	December 22 No Wednesday Activities
Friday	December 24 Church Office Closed 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve — Sanctuary (childcare provided) 6:30 pm Candlelight and Communion — Sanctuary (childcare provided)
Saturday	December 25 – Christmas Day No Christian Education Classes
Sunday	December 26 – First Sunday after Christmas 10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel

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

Church Calendar

As we return to in-person worship and regular business hours for the office staff, it is important that the church office be contacted so that we can be sure all events, in-person or zoom, be included on the calendar to avoid schedule conflicts.

Please contact the church office by phone or email.
214-361-2809, info@royallane.org.

How to Connect

See the Weekly Mosaic or Web Calendar for Links and details for In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events — royallane.org/resources/events
Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

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
Prayer cards may be left in the offering plate as you leave today’s service.



Deacons on Call

Sandy Washington & Christin Lavery

When WE Give: we DO Love!

October 2021 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 585,450
Expenses	\$ 558,429
Surplus (Deficit)*	\$ 27,021

*Includes annual pledges paid up front in full.

Ushers will be at each door to receive your offering or you may 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

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