

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

First Sunday after Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022

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

Jesus' baptism is the identifying "mark" of our discipleship. All hierarchical orders of sinful powers are washed away in the water. Baptism is an enactment of liberation, effected by water and the Spirit. We are freed of our damaging debt to a Market mind-set, liberated from the tyranny of social location and inherited roles. In place of constricting labels, the community announces us as beloved of God, and pronounces our name.

—Heather Murray Elkins, *Worshipping Women:*

Re-forming God's People for Praise, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994

Voluntary

Allegretto from "Water Music" — G. F. Handel

David Weigle

✠ Call to Worship

Sing praises to the Lord.

Sing to God's glory and strength.

**God calls us over the waters,
and strengthens us for the journey.**

Sing praises to Christ.

Sing of Christ's healing and love.

**The waters of our baptism cleanse us,
renewing our spirits and nursing our wounds.**

Sing praises to the Spirit.

Sing of the Spirit's comfort and hope.

**The flames of the Spirit are like a refiner's fire,
purifying the soul to the glory of God.**

—*Psalm 29, Isaiah 43*

Congregation

✠Invocation

Congregation

Let us pray:

Come to the waters, all you that are thirsty: children who need water free from diseases, women who need respite from labor and searching, plants that need moisture rooted near the bedrock, find here a living spring. O God, may we thirst for your waters of justice, and learn to deny no one the water of life. Amen.

—Janet Morley, in *Dear Life, Praying through the Year with Christian Aid*, ed. Janet Morley, Hannah Ward, and Jennifer Wild, London: Christian Aid, 1998.

✠Hymn [see insert]

Congregation

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice — ABERYSTWYTH

Words of Welcome

Harry Wooten

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

Scripture Lesson

Grace W.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 [Pew Bible page 834 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!

Call to Confession

Bruce Luedke & Congregation

God loves us and calls us each day by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

The Confession of Sin

Let us pray:

Loving God, giver of all gifts,
when we do not recognize the gifts that lie within us,

forgive us.

When we do not recognize the gifts
you have granted to all God's children,

forgive us.

(continued)

When we are reluctant to hear your voice calling us by name,
for fear of where that voice might lead us,

forgive us.

When we fear wherever tomorrow might take us,
remind us that you are always there. Amen.

Silence Is Kept

Promise of Forgiveness

Loving God, who calls us Beloved,
break into our lives and surprise us
with your wondrous presence that can calm all fears.

We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

†Hymn 152 [see insert]

Congregation

When Jesus Came to Jordan — COMPLAINER

Prayers of the People

Betty Garrett & Congregation

Let us offer our prayers to God, knowing that the love that flows from us will come to
those for whom we pray.

In scarcity and uncertainty, when jobs disappear and worry about the future gnaws at
us, given strength to your people, O God.

Bless all people with peace.

In decline and despair, when social structures collapse and we wonder what will come
next, give strength to your people, O God.

Bless all people with peace.

In conflict and violence, when dreams are destroyed and justice is ignored, given
strength to your people, O God.

Bless all people with peace.

In dysfunction and fear, when we fail to share the waters of your love to others, give
strength to your people O God.

Bless all people with peace.

In sickness and aging, when the vulnerability of our bodies is evident, give strength to
your people, O God.

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.)

Silence Is Kept

(continued)

Let us pray:

God, who gives the waters of life and love, strengthen us all in every way so that we may be filled to overflowing. Amen.

Anthem

Ensemble

Down to the River to Pray — arranged by Danny Wesley Ray

Sermon

Steve Graham

“ Finding Ourselves through Baptism, the Holy Spirit, and Fire! ”

✠Hymn of Commitment [see insert]

Congregation

The Strong and Gentle Voice — FESTAL SONG
*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

Cathy Walling

O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son, and through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful disciples, born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Offertory

Dakota Andersen

At the River — Aaron Copland
*We invite you to use this time to give to Royal Lane’s Ministry.
See back cover for ways to give.*

Commissioning of Pastor Search Committee

Address to the Committee Members

Terry Berrier

Search committee, you have committed yourselves to a significant leadership task on behalf of the entire congregation. In recognition of the importance of your work, we pause to express our gratitude and to remind ourselves that you do not undertake this task alone; you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, and the prayerful support of the members of Royal Lane Baptist Church.

(continued)

Saying together:

We, who are serving on the Pastor Search Committee for Royal Lane Baptist Church, promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new pastor.

We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say, and decide.

We will endeavor:

to establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;

to maintain consistent attendance at our Search Committee meetings;

to be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;

to recall carefully your hopes and dreams as we consider the pastor profile;

to maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates;

to review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly;

to seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this congregation.

✠Commissioning

Steve Graham & Congregation

Members of Royal Lane Baptist Church, please rise as you are able in body or spirit.

Having heard the covenant of the Pastor Search Committee, what is your pledge?

We pledge, as a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be thoughtful and objective in your task. We recognize that the work of our Search Committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time. These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the spirit as you seek a new pastor to minister with us.

(continued)

†Prayer of Blessing

Let us pray:

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us in our search for a new pastor. Empower each one of us to use our unique ministries, to share openly and honestly our thoughts, to respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience and joy. Instill in us a vision of the Church's family; that guided by your Holy Spirit we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†Sung Response [see insert]

Congregation

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow — LASST UN ERFREUEN

†Sending Forth

Steve Graham

Go forth and proclaim the good news:

God calls us by name and fashions us for glory.

**We go as people washed clean
in the waters of our baptism.**

Go forth and live the good news:

The Holy Spirit blesses us and seals us in God's love.

**We go as people blessed by God,
that we might be a blessing to others.**

Amen.

Amen.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Allegro Maestoso from "Water Music" — G. F. Handel

§ § § § § § §

Pastor Search Committee

Mike Jones

Cathy Walling

Phil Keith

Sandy Washington

Christin Lavery

Alternates:

Shannon Miller

Melanie Ferguson

Percy Parrish

Tex Quesada

Register Your Attendance

Royallane.org/register



Cover Art

Baptism of Christ by Dave Zelenka

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Hymn Notes

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

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When Jesus Came to Jordan

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Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

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Quarterly Church Conference 6:15 pm, Wednesday, January 19 – Zoom

The proposed budget for 2022 and proposed change in the Mission Statement will be presented for approval at the Quarterly Church Conference, January 19. Please contact Janet Schultz at jschultz@royallane.org or 214-361-2609, ext. 11 if you would like to receive a mailed copy of the proposed budget. We must receive this request on or before Thursday, January 13.

Proposed Change in Mission Statement underlined:

We are a vibrant welcoming and affirming mosaic of ethnicities, racial identities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and socio-economics. We affirm the sacredness, dignity, and equality of every person.

Agenda, October 2021 minutes and Proposed Change in Mission Statement may be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3eX7xN4>



Study for Wednesday Evening

with Steve Graham

The Solace of Fierce Landscapes: Exploring Desert and Mountain Spirituality.

by Belden Lane

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 2:1-11

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.



Please recycle your order of worship in a marked bin.

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7 D

Call F. Daw, Jr., 1989

Joseph Parry, 1879

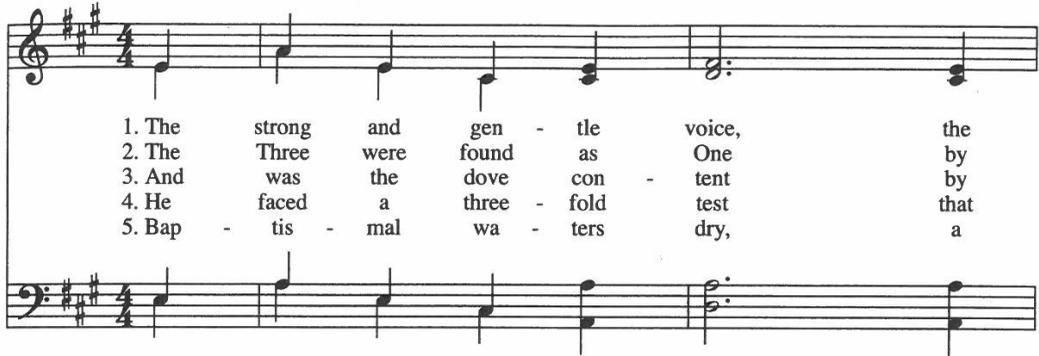
1. Wild and lone the proph-et's voice Ech - oes through the des - ert still,
2. "Bear the fruit re - pent - ance sows: Lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
3. With such preach - ing stark and bold John pro - claimed sal - va - tion near,

Call - ing us to make a choice, Bid - ding us to do God's will:
Trust no oth - er claim than those; Set your heart on things a - bove.
And his time - less warn - ings hold Words of hope to all who hear.

"Turn from sin and be bap - tized; Cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Soon the Lord will come in power, Burn - ing clean the thresh - ing floor:
So we dare to jour - ney on, Led by faith through ways un - trod,

Quit - ting all the sins you prized, Yield your life to God's con - trol.
Then will flames the chaff de - vour; Wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
Till we come at last like John To be - hold the Lamb of God.

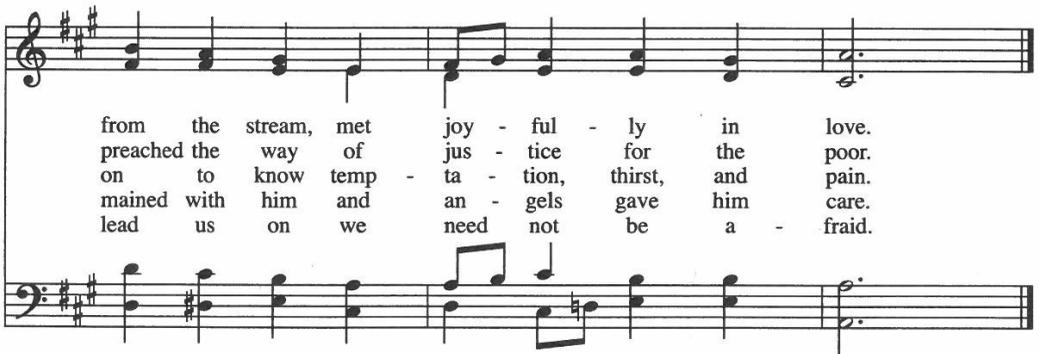
The Strong and Gentle Voice



1. The strong and gen - tle voice, the
2. The Three were found as One by
3. And was the dove con - tent by
4. He faced a three - fold test that
5. Bap - tis - mal wa - ters dry, a



swift de - scend - ing dove, and Je - sus, ris - ing
Jor - dan's rug - ged shore where John the Bap - tist
Jor - dan to re - main? She guid - ed Je - sus
no one else could bear. The des - ert beasts re -
mo - ment's bliss will fade, but with the Dove to

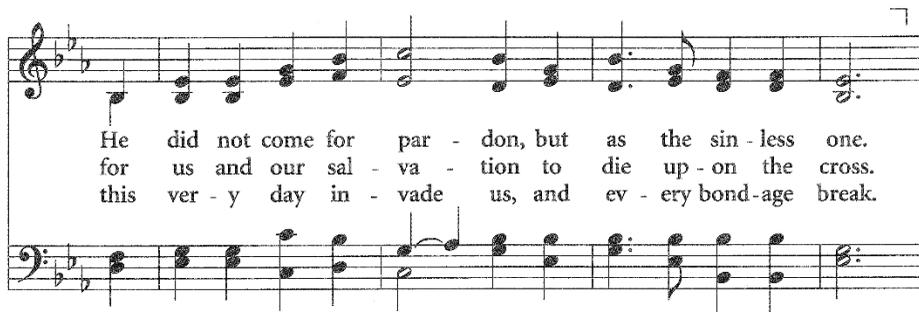


from the stream, met joy - ful - ly in love.
preached the way of jus - tice for the poor.
on to know temp - ta - tion, thirst, and pain.
mained with him and an - gels gave him care.
lead us on we need not be a - fraid.

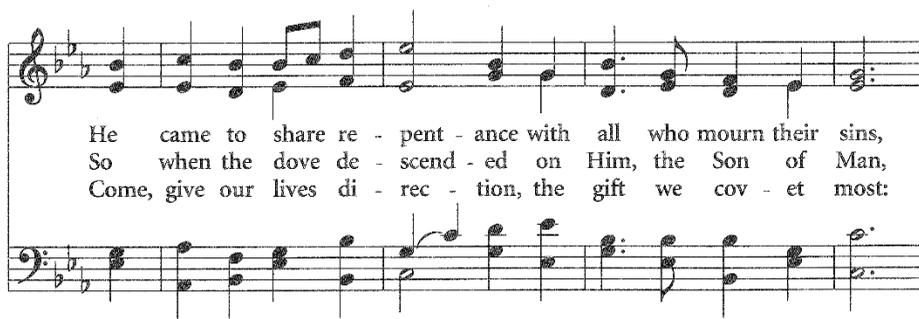
When Jesus Came to Jordan



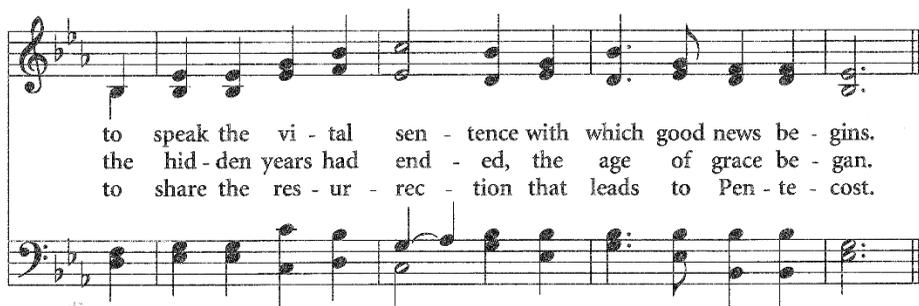
1. When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2. He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



He did not come for par - don, but as the sin - less one.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - ery bond-age break.



He came to share re - pent - ance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on Him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

The Scripture this morning is Luke 3:15-17, 21-22, which may be found on page 834 of the New Testament of the pew Bible or as an insert in your order of worship.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

(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!**

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 placed in the offering plate.



Deacons on Call

Blake Miller & Cathy Walling

When WE Give: inspired worship feeds our spirits.

November 2021 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 625,950
Expenses	\$ 621,796
Surplus (Deficit)*	\$ 4,154

*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/



Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane • Dallas, Texas 75230

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Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping
Steve Graham, Interim Minister
Laura Keller, Minister to Children &
Interim Minister to Youth
Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant

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