

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

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 in the blue booklet at the end of the pew and pass it to others.
To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.*

✠ — *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Prelude

Classic Brass

Christmas Bell Fantasy — Dennis Klophaus/Sterling Proctor

Chiming of the Hour

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

Faith is a place of mystery where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty.

—Brené Brown

If you wish to know how things come about, consult grace, not doctrine; desire, not understanding; prayerful groaning, not studious reading; the Spouse, not the teacher; God, not man; darkness, not clarity.

—Bonaventure (1221-1274)

Voluntary

Classic Brass

Angels We Have Heard on High — arranged by Keith Snell

✠Call to Worship

Congregation

Come away from times of weariness.

Dare to accept the energy God offers you.

Restore our energy, O Source of all power.

Let your goodness flow through us.

Come away from all your insignificant distractions.

Dare to let God show you a larger picture.

Help us to examine the flow of our lives.

Reveal to us what is really important.

Come away from the scorn of enemies.

Dare to laugh with those who have laughed at you.

Lead us to think of others in new ways.

Let us find grace and peace in Emmanuel.

†Invocation

Congregation

Let us pray:

Loving God, Emmanuel with us, help us to see your face and hear your voice in the refugee, the forgotten senior adult, the lonely child, the anxious parent. Help us to give our hearts and hands to bring beauty to their lives. In Christ's name, Amen.

†Hymn 103

Congregation

O Come, All Ye Faithful — ADESTE FIDELES

Welcome to Worshipers

Michael Gregg

Psalm 80

Cathy Walling

Response (R)



The God of Abraham praise, all praised be God's name,



who was, and is, and is to be, and still the same!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

(continued)

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved! R**

They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance!

**But let your hand be upon those of your right hand,
the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!**

Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name!

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

†Hymn 124

Congregation

The First Nowell — Traditional English Carol

Reading

Tim Schaefer

When we build our creché, light our special candles, decorate our evergreen with tinsel and color, hold our romantic tryst under the mistletoe, prepare the festive meal, share our gifts as the celebration of the privacy and universality of love, take the time to remember in many ways those who touched us in the midst of the traffic of the commonplace, and sing carols in honor of the birth [of Christ]—when we do these things we show that God has not been left without specific witness to Divine love and care of us who are God's children. To the strong and the weak, the happy and the sorrowful, to the barren and the fruitful womb, to the devout believer and the arrogant unbeliever, to the Christian and the non-Christian, there is the ever-present hope that tidings of great joy will find their way into the heart and life.

—Howard Thurman, 1899-1981

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Greg, Sarah, Graham & Cilla King

Advent Hymn

Congregation

The Work of Christmas Calls Us – RUTHERFORD

4. The work of Christ - mas calls us more deep - ly in - to prayer,

That Christ, who walks a - mong us, be brought to one and all;

A sense of joy sur - rounds us, ex - pressed through Ma - ry's song;

These can-dles yet il - lu - mine the day a - wait - ed long.

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

O God, we your people have waited and travelled together in this Season of Advent. We have journeyed toward the light of Christ. In Jesus, the love of God burns brightly. After the excitement of Christmas has passed, the love of God remains. God's love will burn like a candle in our hearts. May the light of hope, peace, joy, and love guide our living and our loving. Amen.

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

*Children through kindergarten are invited to Godly Play,
1st through 4th grade to Young Theologians.
You may collect your children in the Children's Building following the service.*

✠Hymn 90

Congregation

People, Look East — BESANÇON

Prayers of the People

Melissa Walker-Luckett & Congregation

Sovereign God, we long for your peaceable Kin-dom: A place where children can play outside without fear of predators, where the vulnerable are not exploited for their labor, where there is enough for all. We long for a world without the exploiters, the vultures, and abusers; a world where everyone will know your peace and love. Until then, we are trapped in a world where fear, pain, and suffering is inevitable, but where comfort can always be found in your love.

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

Let us pray:

O God, surround those of us who are suffering from the ills of this world, and send all as messengers of your love, grace, and peace wherever and whenever possible. May those who are conflicted find comfort in those who are comfortable, and those who are comfortable be with the conflicted until all are at peace. We join these prayers together in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Anthem

Choir & Congregation

Hallelujah from MESSIAH — G. F. Handel

Sermon

Michael Gregg

“ To Rebuild the Nations and Bring Peace Among the People ”

✠Hymn of Commitment 127

Congregation

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing — MENDELSSOHN

*Please come forward during the singing of this hymn if you wish to confess or reaffirm
your faith or identify with this fellowship. A minister will greet and receive you.*

Offertory Prayer

Karen Simmons

Offertory

Classic Brass

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming — arranged by Ken Mullen

Presentation of Decisions

Michael Gregg

Affirmation: **Thanks be to God!**

✠Sending Forth

Michael Gregg & Congregation

The word of the prophet is finding fulfillment.

Emmanuel is arriving; God is with us.

Outcasts have become a holy family.

Rejected ones carry the promise of salvation.

God widens the circle of acceptance to include us.

God welcomes us to the obedience of faith.

Some laugh at our beliefs and taunt us.

Sometimes we are scorned for trusting.

Surely God's face shines on us to strengthen us.

Gifts of grace and peace are ours to receive.

God helps us turn away from doing evil.

God equips us to choose what is good.

Amen.

Amen.

Organ Dismissal

Classic Brass

Joy to the World — arranged by Camp Kirkland

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Worship Leaders

Karen Simmons

Karen has been a member of RLBC for over 30 years, and she and her late husband, Terry, raised their children here. Karen is the current deacon board secretary, a member of Women of the Church and the Properties and Accessibility Committees. She is a board member of Baptist Church and Family Services and is the proud grandmother of Carter who will become a big brother next year. Karen enjoys cooking, reading, crocheting and knitting for charity, and she loves her extended RLBC family who has walked life's journey with her.

Cathy Walling

Cathy joined Royal Lane in October of 2016. The first time she visited RLBC she knew it was a very special church and when Pastor Gregg became the pastor, she joined the following Sunday. She grew up in Richardson, Texas and graduated from Baylor in 1978. She retired from Verizon this year after 40+ years in the Telecom industry. She is now working for HomeVantage Mortgage as a Loan Officer. Cathy loves animals and has four dogs and one cat of her own that were rescued. She is very passionate about music. She is RLBC Choir President and is co-chair of the Social Justice committee. Cathy recently joined Resounding Harmony, a Dallas-Fort Worth philanthropic chorus that raises money for non-profit organizations. She loves traveling and has enjoyed trips to Israel and Germany this year.

Classic Brass

Glen Hummel, Trumpet
Simon Willats, Trombone

Don Burks, Trumpet
Vurl Bland, Tuba

Gerald Wood, Horn
Jay Mjernik, Timpani

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Hymn Notes

The Work of Christmas Calls Us

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Donnie Ray Albert Guest Soloist – Christmas Eve

Born in Louisiana, Donnie Ray Albert earned a Bachelor of Music Degree at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a Master of Music Degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His voice teachers included Victor Klimash, Bruce Foote and Thomas Hayward. Mr. Albert spent two summers as an apprentice at Wolf Trap.

Upon graduating from SMU, Mr. Albert began his operatic and concert career in the summer of 1975 with Houston Grand Opera as Parson Alltalk in TREEMONISHA. Mr. Albert would subsequently go on to perform in ten HGO productions including the award-winning tours of PORGY AND BESS and SHOWBOAT.

Thirteen years of Mr. Albert's career were as Bass-Baritone. In 1988, the switch to Baritone repertoire proved to be a welcome fit which led to engagements by most of the major opera companies and orchestras in North America and Europe.

Orchestral engagements have been in Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Jerusalem, London, Cleveland, Toronto, and New York. Mr. Albert has collaborated with notable conductors, John DeMain, James Conlon, Paavo Järvi, Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, Alexander Joel, John Fiore and Karel Mark Chichon.

Mr. Albert can be heard on RCA's PORGY AND BESS (Grammy 1977 – Best Opera Recording and the Grand Prix du Disc); THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY (2 Grammys: 2008 Best Opera Recording and Best Classical Album) conducted by James Conlon; EMI's EINE FLORENTINISCHE TRAGÖDIE, also conducted by James Conlon. Mr. Albert's discography can be found on CD Baby and Amazon.com.

Mr. Albert has also been an Affiliate Artist and one of the original Resident Artists with the Center for Black Music Research Ensemble (CBMRE) at Columbia College in Chicago. Other awards include the 1992 Alumnus of the Year at L.S.U. School of Music, the 2010 Musical Legend Award by the Shiloh Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA., the 2010 Lift Every Voice Legend Award from the National Opera Association and the 2010 DMMA/NANM Musician of the Year Award.

Donnie Ray Albert is currently Senior Lecturer in Voice at the University of Texas at Austin, Butler School of Music.

The Work of Christmas Calls Us

*The work of Christmas calls us, to recommit our heart
to find the lost among us: all those who feel apart;
to heal all broken creatures, in body, mind or soul;
this candle draws us closer to hope that makes us whole.*

*The work of Christmas calls us to grow in heart and mind;
to feed the hungry masses, to poverty resigned;
to free the captive pris'ner, unjustly stripped of rights;
these candles light our pathways, in peace, through darkened nights.*

*The work of Christmas calls us to suffer with the least,
with love, to teach the nations, 'til all come to the feast;
'til systems of unfairness give way to equity,
by candlelight, we struggle to set all people free.*

*The work of Christmas calls us more deeply into prayer,
that Christ, who walks among us, be made known ev'rywhere;
a sense of joy surrounds us, expressed through Mary's song;
these candles yet illumine the day awaited long.*

*The work of Christmas calls us upon this Holy Night
to love all those excluded, and bring them to your Light;
in deeds of love and mercy, make music in the heart;
for in a lowly manger, God brings a brand new start!*

*The work of Christmas calls us to tasks which never end,
to reconciliation, injustices to mend;
when Beth'lem's star is absent, and kings and princes gone,
and shepherds back to herding, The work of Christ goes on.*

Text: Michael G. Dell, for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX, Advent 2019
Music: RUTHERFORD, Chrétien Urhan (1834)

Schedule for the Week

- Tuesday** **December 24 – Christmas Eve**
Church Office closed
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary (*childcare provided*)
Carols, Candlelight & Communion
- Wednesday** **December 25 – Christmas Day**
Church Office closed
No Wednesday Evening Activities – Activities resume January 8, 2010
- Sunday** **December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas**
9:30 am Donuts, Coffee/Juice — Box Gallery
9:45 am Christian Education — Christian Education Classrooms & Portable 1
10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary

The deadline for the order of service, the Midweek, and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.

Scriptures for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

For the Children!

Children's bulletins are available for ages 3-6 and 7-12.

Don't miss the Secret Code to allow your child to unlock on-line games, in a safe environment, that supplement today's scripture at games.childrensbulletins.com/games/playcode.aspx



Please recycle your order of worship in a marked bin.

Copies of Hallelujah are to be saved for future use.

Prayer Cards

We invite you to use the Prayer Cards, available in the “pockets” on the back of each pew, to submit prayer requests. These may be placed in the offering plate or handed to a minister or deacon of the week.

Deacons on Call

Cathy Walling & Karen Simmons

Safety Shepherd – Jennifer Hammett

Godly Play

Kirsten Fleenor & Cheryl Robinson

Young Theologians – Laura Keller & Cookie Stokes

When WE Give: we can support missions that bring Christ to all.

October 2019 Financials

	YTD Actual	YTD Adjusted*
Revenues	\$ 705,031	\$ 673,836
Expenses	\$ 614,063	\$ 614,063
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 90,068	\$ 59,773

*One Time Pledges Amortized Monthly

Text **Royallane** to **73256** to give to the General Fund.

Standard text message rates apply.

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Royal Lane Baptist Church

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