

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



Matthew 2:16-18

The Worship of God

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 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.*

Chiming of the Hour

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

*A good portion of the evils that afflict humankind is due to the erroneous belief that life
can be made secure by violence.*

—Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910)

Voluntary

David Weigle

Joy to the World — arranged by Joseph Martin

✠ Call to Worship

Congregation

Praise the Lord from the highest heavens.

**Praise God, sun and the moon;
sing for joy, you shining stars.**

Praise the Lord from the deepest seas.

**Praise God, fire and hail;
dance in ecstasy, snow and frost.**

Praise the Lord from the hearts of the faithful.

**Praise God, young and old;
laugh with mirth, wise and meek.**

Worship the Lord our God.

Pay homage to the ruler of heaven and earth.

—Psalm 148

†Invocation

Congregation

Let us pray:

We give thanks for the miracle of Bethlehem, born into the Jerusalem heritage. We do not understand why the innocents must be slaughtered; we know that your kingdom comes in violence and travail. We pray for the coming of your kingdom on earth as it is around your heavenly throne. We are people grown weary of waiting. We dwell in the midst of cynical people, and we have settled for what we can control. And so we wait for your coming, in your vulnerable baby in whom all things are made new. Amen.

—Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003)

†Hymn 126

Congregation

Angels From the Realms of Glory — REGENT SQUARE

Scripture Lesson

Ray Cox

Matthew 2:13-23 (Pew Bible page 784 of the New Testament)

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

Time of Silent Reflection

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.*

Lighting of the Advent & Christ Candles

†Hymn [see insert]

Congregation

The Work of Christmas Calls Us — RUTHERFORD

Call to Confession

Melissa Walker-Luckett & Congregation

Merciful God, we long to be more than we have become. In this season of joy, remove the scales from our eyes, that we might respond with passion and purpose to the needs all around us.

(continued)

The Confession of Sin

Let us pray:

We rejoice with the angels who proclaimed Christ's birth and warned Mary and Joseph to flee from Herod's soldiers, but we give little notice to the tyrants who cause the death of innocent children in our world today. Open our eyes and our hearts this day, that we might be new creations, transformed and reborn in the love and the joy of Christmas. Amen.

Silence Is Kept

Promise of Forgiveness

It is no messenger or angel who saves us—
it is the very presence of God.
God is the horn of our salvation.

**In Christ, God's salvation dwells with us
and makes us whole.**

Hymn [see insert]

Congregation

When Jesus Went to Egypt — PASSION CHORALE

Prayers of the People

Tim Schaefer & Congregation

God of mercy, in this holy season, there are people in need of your tender mercies: we pray for those who are ill and for those who are recovering; for those whose sadness is made heavier by memories of Christmases past or by some present pain. We pray for those who do not have enough: enough food, enough money, enough companionship, enough hope. Because there is not yet peace on earth, we pray for those in harm's way. Protect them from war, violence, and cruel oppression. For these and many other needs, we offer our intercessions.

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:

Fill us with hope as we wait upon your coming realm. Give us the will to work for justice and peace and the courage to follow you into every place. As a new year dawns, we know that all our times are in your hand. We entrust ourselves and those we love to your care. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Solo (text: page 7)
Brittany Wooten

The Coventry Carol — arranged by Mark Hayes

Sermon

Michael Gregg

“ To Protect the Innocent ”

†Hymn of Commitment 143

Congregation

Go, Tell It on the Mountain — GO TELL IT

*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

Margaret Darden

Offertory

David Weigle

Pastorale from CHRISTMAS CONCERTO — Arcangelo Corelli

Presentation of Decisions & Concerns of the Church

Michael Gregg

Affirmation: **Thanks be to God!**

†Sending Forth

Michael Gregg

As we journey through the Christmas season,

more than a star guides us.

As we traverse the hillsides of faith,

more than a messenger shows us the way.

As we ride the rapids of our lives,

more than an angel shields us from harm.

When we live the truth of Christmas,

more than the delight of holiday meals blesses us.

In Christmas, we taste the joy of our salvation.

We touch the presence of the living God.

Go with God.

Amen.

Amen.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Allegro from CHRISTMAS CONCERTO — Arcangelo Corelli

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When Jesus Went to Egypt

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2018

Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

1. When Je - sus went to E - gypt, Safe on his mo-ther's arm,
2. O God, we pray for chil - dren And fam - ilies com-ing here
3. O God, you're like a mo - ther Who won't for - sake her own.

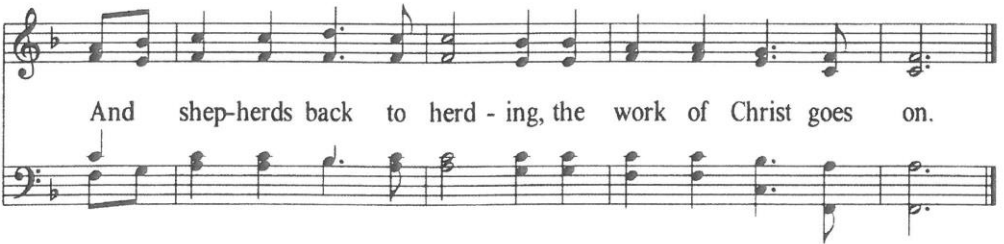
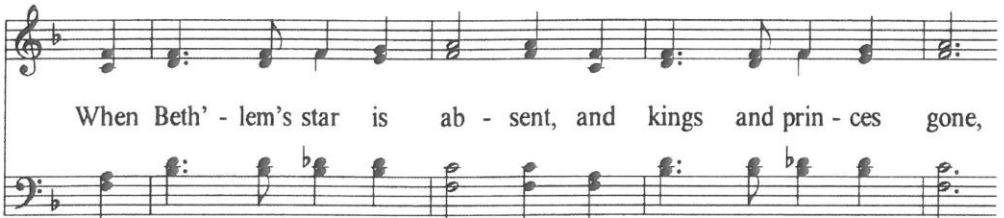
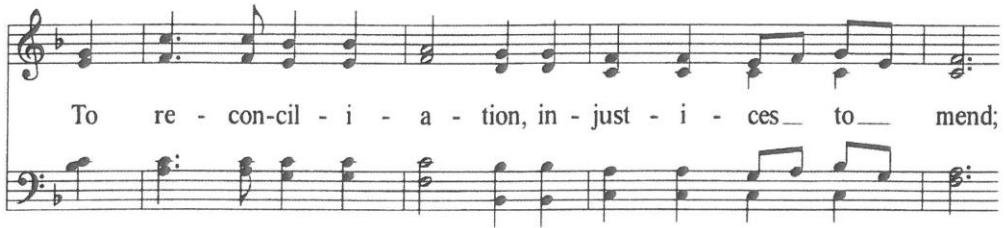
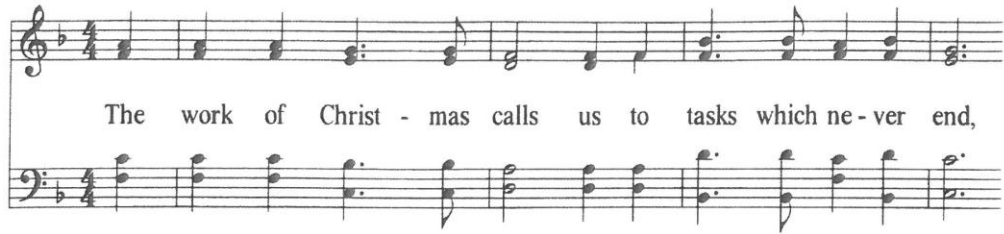
His pa-rents stayed be - side him To keep him safe from harm.
Now fac-ing se - pa - ra - tion, And filled with grief and fear.
You're like a lov - ing fa - ther Who wel-comes his son home.

And when they crossed the bor - der, They were al - lowed to be
For chil - dren, loved and trea - sured, Are ripped from lov - ing kin.
Now give_ us, by your Spi - rit, The strength to chal - lenge wrong,

To - ge - ther—seek - ing ref - uge—A Ho - ly Fa - mi - ly.
This deed, by a - ny mea - sure, Is tor - ture. It's a sin!
To seek the best for chil - dren, And keep all fam - ilies strong.

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass staff with a grand staff bracket. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of text. The music consists of a steady bass line and a more active treble line with chords and single notes.

The Work of Christmas Calls Us



Coventry Carol

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, by by, lully lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do
for to preserve this day this poor youngling,
for whom we do sing by by, lully lullay?

Herod the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day
his men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

Then woe is me, poor child for thee! and ever morn and say,
for thy parting nor say nor sing by by, lully lullay.

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

Ray Cox & Margaret Darden

Safety Shepherd – Charlotte Sewell

Godly Play

Kirsten Fleenor & Cheryl Robinson

Young Theologians – Laura Keller & Cookie Stokes

When WE Give: our children share in the joy of Christmas giving.

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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Laura Keller, Minister to Children

Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant

Samuel Quesada, Video Technician

Tim Schaefer, Minister to Youth

Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant

Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician

Ray Vickrey, Pastor Emeritus

David Weigle, Organist

Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship

The Scripture this morning is Matthew 2:13-23, which may be found on page 784 of the New Testament of the pew Bible.

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰"Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean." (NRSV)

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