

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Words & Lighting of the Advent & Christ Candles

Simeon and Anna were steeped in revered tradition, and yet spent their lives praying to recognize the action of God pointing to a future they could not imagine. Far from being held back by tradition, for them it was a constant stretch toward faithfulness: where is God at work? What are the signs? What needs to be let go, entrusted to a new way, new people, new and unexpected shape?

Ways of being Church are changing quickly in these Covid-19 days, and “getting back to normal” may mean a “new” normal.

So, in this moment, what are we clinging to?

What do we need to relinquish

so that we can recognize the call of God in this moment?

Voluntary

Joy To the World — arranged by Joseph Martin

David Weigle

Call to Worship

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

God is there.

When they present Jesus at the temple,

God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

God is there.

When Anna recognizes Jesus as the answer to prayer,

God is there.

This very morning,

God is here.

In the future we cannot see.

God is there.

Let us worship God!

Harry Wooten

Invocation

Harry Wooten

O God, in the sweetness of the story we tell today,
the encounter of old and young—
Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus to the elders—
We feel the movement of your Spirit making all things new.
Awake us to your presence in this moment
As we seek Christ in our midst:
Let us recognize God-with-us,
A light to the nations, your glory revealed.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice — IN DULCI JUBILO
(stanzas 1 & 3)

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Mike Keith

Nurturing God, remembering the exile of the holy family and Herod's slaughter of the children, we remember all who need our sustaining love. Hear our prayers for the church and the community in the world.

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

Let us pray:

Grant that all people may hear together the song of joy and find their homes in the garden of justice and hope, that we may experience the fullness of life, which is your will for all, in the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response [see insert]

Worshippers

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence — PICARDY
(stanza 1)

Scripture Lesson

Margaret Darden

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple – based on Luke 2:22-40 [see insert]

Sermon

Michael Gregg

“ The Fear of Getting Back to Normal ”

Offertory

Rita Nsumbu & Brittany Jones

He Shall Feed His Flock from MESSIAH — G. F. Handel

Closing Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

The First Nowell — Traditional English Carol
(stanzas 1 & 4)

Blessing

Michael Gregg

Later

after the angels,
after the stable,
after the Child,
they went back . . .
as we always must,
back to the world that doesn't understand
our talk of angels and stars
and especially not the Child.

We go back complaining that it doesn't last.

They went back singing praises to God!

We do have to go back,

but we can still sing the alleluias!

Amen.

Amen.

—Ann Weems – *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Postlude

David Weigle

Fantasy on IN DULCI JUBILO — Joseph Martin

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Cover Art — *La presentación de Cristo en el templo*
by Kelly Latimore, used by permission
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a Project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Note from the artist:

"I started painting icons in 2011 while I was a member of the Common Friars from 2009-2013. Our collective work was about being more connected: to ourselves, each other, our surrounding community and the land. This manifested itself as a place called "The Good Earth Farm" where we held weekly services and meals, and grew produce for our community and local food pantries.

Iconography has since become a practice of more considerations: of color and light, of brush stroke and form, symbol and meaning...However, I do not wish to approach Iconography as an art form that simply follows an inherited tradition, knowledge and practice. I want it to be a creative process, meditation, and practice that brings about new self knowledge for the viewer and myself. Who are the saints that are among us here and now?

I was not taught by a traditional Iconographer, and so to some, I am breaking many rules. There are icons here that people may find theologically unsound and wrong, or for others, helpful and inspiring. I think both reactions are important. My hope is that these icons do what all art can potentially do, which is, to create more dialogue.

The other may have something to teach us about what we know, about who God is, the world we live in and who are our neighbors. This is the real work of being human and of art. Being more present." kellylatimoreicons.com

Christmas Eve Missions Offering

Please join us in giving to two very important organizations who are meeting the most basic needs of our beloved community this Christmas season. We will divide any missions offerings evenly between Hope Supply and North Dallas Shared Ministries. You can read more about these wonderful organizations below. To give to the Christmas Eve Missions Offering, choose this fund in the dropdown menu under “Give” on the RLBC website, or mail or drop off a check with “Christmas Eve Missions Offering” written in the memo section.

Hope Supply Co.



Hope Supply meets the critical needs of homeless and at-risk children across North Texas by providing necessities including diapers, clothing, school supplies and toys. to enhance their lives. They provide diapers and other essentials to social service organizations, including homeless shelters, transitional living centers, school districts and state agencies. We currently have a

network of 70+ partner agencies, ensuring that our items are given directly to the families and children that need them the most. Right now, they have seen requests for their help increase by almost 300%.

North Dallas Shared Ministries

NDSM is an interfaith community of volunteers, partners and collaborators providing charitable assistance to persons in need. NDSM is one of the Missions to which we regularly give, but they are seeing higher than average need from their clients right now. According to Judy Rorrie, the Executive Director of North Dallas Shared Ministries, requests for food and financial assistance has increased sharply. Since April 27, a very small group of NDSM volunteers has reviewed 1,864 applications for financial assistance; to date in just under seven months, 644 Covid-19 related households have received \$480,643 in rent and/or utility assistance. The expectation is that the need for life-sustaining basic services will increase significantly as we begin the new year.



Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!
2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!
3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day.
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this.
Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save;

Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now:
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
calls you one and calls you all, to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

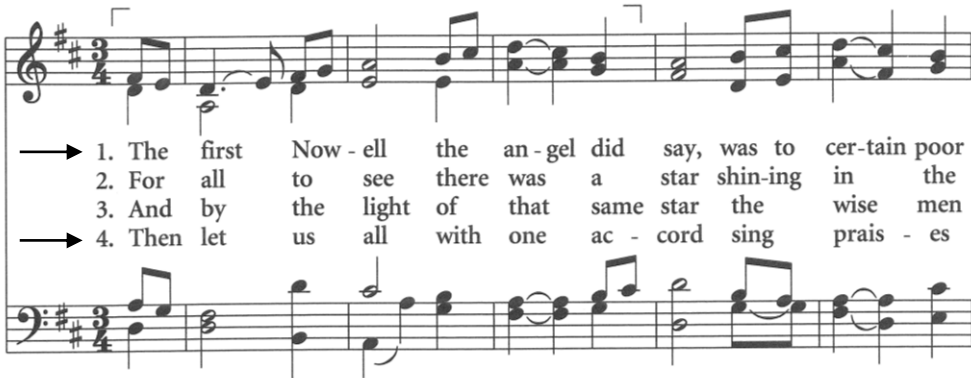
1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the Pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in His hand, Christ our God to earth de -
 in the bod - y and the blood; He will give to all the
 from the realms of end - less day, that the powers of hell may
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav - en - ly food.
 van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Lord Most High!"

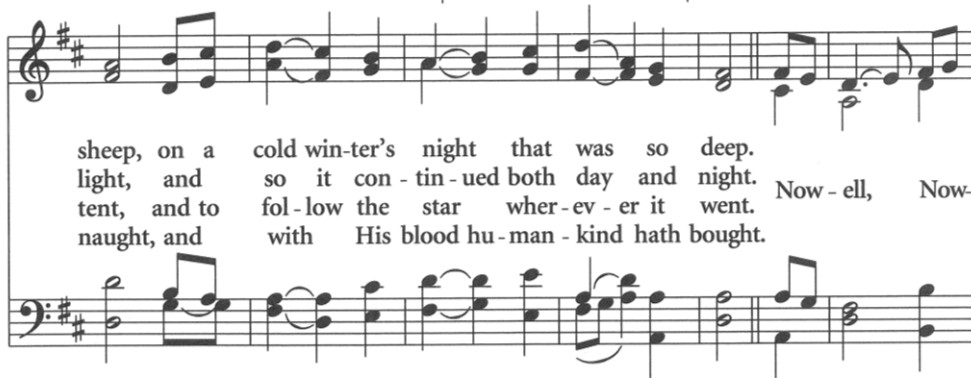
The First Nowell




→ 1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor
2. For all to see there was a star shin - ing in the
3. And by the light of that same star the wise men
→ 4. Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es



shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their
east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their in -
to our heav - en - ly Lord who hath made heaven and earth of



sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night. Now - ell, Now -
tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
naught, and with His blood hu - man - kind hath bought.



ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The Scripture this morning is Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her

marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

(NRSV)

Schedule for the Week

- Sunday** **December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas**
No Christian Education Classes
- Wednesday** **December 30**
No Wednesday Evening Activities
- Friday** **January 1 – New Year's Day**
- Saturday** **January 2**
2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
- Sunday** **January 3 – Epiphany Sunday**
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
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

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

Deacons on Call

Mike Keith & Margaret Darden

When WE Give: we can celebrate the work of our ministers and staff!

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/



Royal Lane Baptist Church

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