

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

10:55 A.M.

*Worship begins with the Chiming of the Hour and the Voluntary.
To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.
✠ – Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Chiming of the Hour

At the end of our Advent journey, a savior is born. As we think anew about our dreams, our sense of belonging to God's family, and about the mysteries and miracles of the Holy Spirit, may we also consider the ways we need a savior. From what are we saved? For what are we saved? How does our recognition that Christ is God-with-us change us?

Voluntary

David Weigle

O Little Town of Bethlehem — arranged by A. D. Miller

✠ Call to Worship & Invocation

Congregation

Not in the mighty places of power,
but in little Bethlehem,
in a room out back:

The Messiah is coming.

Not born in nobility and wealth,
but of Mary and Joseph,
who pondered and planed wood:

The Messiah is coming.

Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings,
but by two women,
who were the first to know:

The Messiah is coming.

Nothing will be impossible for God,
but when and where we least expect it,
look among the straw and the stars:

The Messiah is coming.

Let us pray:

O come, O come, Emmanuel. In these waning days of Advent, grant us the patience to seek you. Free us from our fears and give us the strength to give names to things that matter. In these waning days of Advent, may our minds turn towards Christ as we prepare for his birth. Amen.

People, Look East — BESANÇON

Words of Welcome

Charlotte Sewell

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

*[Please record your attendance in the blue booklet at the end of the pew and pass it to others.
You may also register online at royallane.org/register or see QR code following Organ Dismissal.]*

Scripture Lesson

Scott Bryant

Matthew 1:18-25 [Pew Bible page 783 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

The Prophets Show the Way — LEONI

4. An An - gel said to them, "You need not be a - fraid,
To you is born this day the Lord For whom you've prayed!"
The road to Beth - le - hem, Though bu - sy_ as can be,_
Will lead God's chil - dren yet a - gain To_ Mys - te - ry.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Maryanne & Jack Pfeffer, Adam Visconti

(continued)

Unison Prayer

With these lights of hope, peace, joy, and love we pray,

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. Amen.

Time for Young Disciples

Barrett Wooten

*Children 3-year through 5th grade are invited to Godly Play,
You may collect your children in the Godly Play Room located in the Education wing following the service.*

✠Hymn 81 [see insert]

Congregation

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence — PICARDY

The Confession of Sin & Prayer for Justice

Alan Greider & Congregation

Friends, knowing that we pray to a God who longs for us to draw closer, who longs for us to always be more honest and courageous in naming our failings as well as our strengths, let us unburden our hearts with the ways we have fallen short of God's vision for our lives. God who is with us, closer even than our breath,

reveal to us the Savior.

Like so many before us, we fall short of your hope for us and need the hope of salvation.

Reveal to us the Savior.

Like David and the prophets of old, we need your promise of love.

Reveal to us the Savior.

Like Mary and Joseph, may we have peace and joy.

Reveal to us the Savior.

Like all the saints who have gone before us, grant us the gift of life.

Reveal to us the Savior.

Free us from the ways we have failed to be your people, your children. Free us from the ways we have hurt, ignored, and fallen short.

Reveal to us the Savior.

We now share silence together

(continued)

Let us pray:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!! We are so close to your arrival. Be with us as we finish waiting. You told people for eons not to fear, and yet sometimes we do. You gave us dreams to guide us and to pull us closer to your vision of the realm you create. We see places of injustice, poverty, oppression, and pain the world. Come to us in them. Come to us and show us what we need to do to change them. Come to us and be with us as we find that sometimes all we can do is watch and wait and see you at work in the ordinary parts of our lives. O come, o come, Emmanuel and be with us, restore us, help us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Anthem

Choir

Christmas Lullaby — John Rutter

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem:
Angels are singing, their sound fills the air.
Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah;
But only a mother and baby are there.

*Ave Maria, Ave Maria: Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.
Ave Maria, Ave Maria, Maiden and mother of Jesus our King.*

Where are his courtiers, and who are his people?
Why does he bear neither their sceptre nor crown?
Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people,
With peace as his septre and love for his crown.

What though your treasures are not gold or incense?
Lay them before him with hearts full of love.
Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother
Who bore us a Saviour by grace from above.

Sermon

Doug Watts

“ The Angels Show the Way ”

†Hymn of Commitment 125 [see insert]

Congregation

Angels We Have Heard on High — GLORIA
*If you would like to profess your faith or identify with this fellowship,
please refer to pew rack card – “How to Become a Member”*

Invitation to the Offering

Karen Miller

We see God in the ordinary places of our lives—sometimes without realizing it. We see God with us when we hold a hand, offer a smile, feed a stranger. God is with us when we offer the first fruits of our labors, as God’s people have done for generations. Let us give God the fruits of our labors as an act of worship and gratitude.

Offertory Prayer

God, may these ordinary gifts of paper and card swipes, of coins and electronic transactions, honor you. May the everyday gifts of our lives honor you and the work we do in your name. Amen.

Offertory

David Weigle

He Whom Shepherd Men Cam Praising — Paul Manz

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

See back cover for ways to give.

†Sending Forth

Doug Watts

An angel came to Joseph and proclaimed:

Emmanuel! God with us!

In this final week before Christmas day, may our waiting proclaim:

Emmanuel! God with us!

Go forth in joy to tell the world!

Emmanuel! God with us!

Amen.

Amen.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Voluntary on French Carols — Michael Helman

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Register Your Attendance

Royallane.org/register





Stewardship 2023 Who Are We...(becoming)?

Make your pledge today at
royallane.org/pledge

Pledge Update 12/14/2022
Total units pledged: 70
Total pledged: \$540,460



Cover Art

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Hymn Notes

People, Look East

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The Prophets Show the Way

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Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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Angels We Have Heard on High

Music: Austin C. Lovelace, Copyright © 1964 Abingdon Press
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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.

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!"

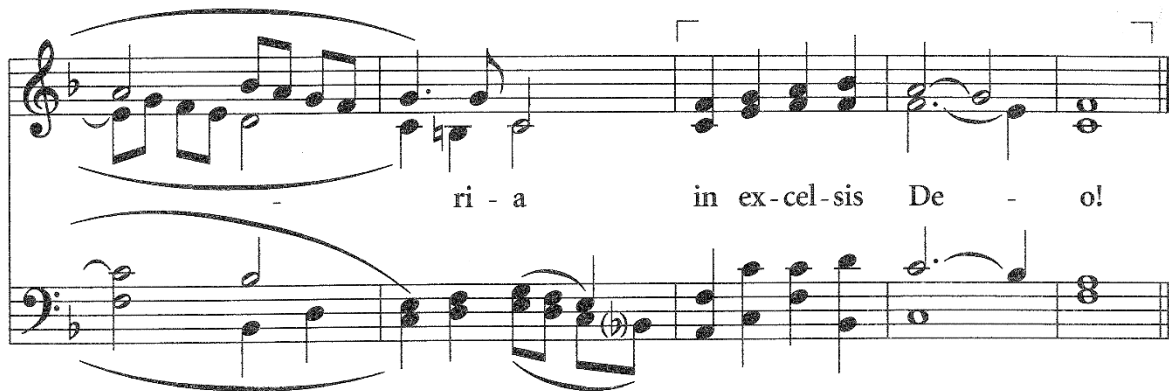
Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a



Carols, Candlelight & Communion

Saturday, December 24, 6:00 pm

(childcare provided)



Virtual Services for Christmas Day and New Year's Day

Livestream at 10:00 am

Doug Watts, Guest Preacher

(No Christian Education or on-site activities.)

The Scripture this morning is Matthew 1:18-25, which may be found on page 783 of the New Testament of the pew Bible or as an insert in your order of worship.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

(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!**



Christmas Eve Service for Families with Children

Please join us for a family Christmas Eve service at 10:00 AM. This will be an interactive chance for children to be a part of the nativity story, enjoy Christmas caroling, and celebrate the hope and endless possibilities that the Christ child brings. Squirming, wiggling, and noise are welcome as we meet each child where they are to celebrate in the incredible hope and joy of Christmas. The service will last about 45 minutes and will be followed by donuts and juice (or hot chocolate if it's cold) in the breezeway!

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Wednesday Evening Activities and Bible Study resume on January 4.

Scriptures for Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Scriptures for Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12) John 1:1-14

For the Children!

Children's bulletins are included in activity packets for ages 3+ and 7+.

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.

Doug Watts, Guest Preacher

Doug Watts is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a certified educator with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Doug has served as a pastor in Indiana, Ohio, and Texas and as a children's minister here at Royal Lane. He most recently served as Interim Pastor at Central Congregational Church. He is the Manager of Clinical Pastoral Education at UT Southwestern Medical Center here in Dallas.

He and his wife Charlotte share their life with their 4 children, 5 grandchildren and their dogs Madonna and Clara.



Schedule for the Week

- Wednesday December 21 – Mosaic**
No Wednesday Activities
- Saturday December 24**
10:00 am Christmas Eve Service for Families with Children — Sanctuary
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary or Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Carols, Candlelight, and Communion (*childcare provided*)
- Sunday December 25 – Christmas Day**
No Christian Education
10:00 am Virtual Christmas Day Service — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Doug Watts, Guest Preacher
- Monday December 26**
Church Office Closed
- Wednesday December 26**
No Wednesday Activities
- Friday December 30**
Church Office Closed for New Years
- Sunday January 1 — Epiphany Sunday**
No Christian Education
10:00 am Virtual Worship Service — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Doug Watts, Guest Preacher

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 placed in the offering plate.



Deacons on Call – John Helms & Cookie Stokes
Safety Shepherd – Janina Washington

When WE Give:
All ages can share in the preparation for the coming of Emmanuel.

October 2022 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 601,472
Expenses	\$ 634,346
Surplus (Deficit)*	\$ (32,874)

*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

[214] 361-2809 • <http://www.royallane.org>

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Barrett Wooten, Interim Minister to Youth
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship