

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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.*

Organ Prelude & Chiming of the Hour

David Weigle

La Nativité — Jean Langlais

Choral Introit

Choir

Non Nobis Domine — Rosephanye Powell

Non Nobis, Domine, non nobis, Not to us, O Lord, not to us
Sed nomini tuo da gloriam but to your name be the glory

†Hymn 79

Congregation

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel — VENI EMMANUEL

†Call to Worship

Congregation

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

Emmanuel, are you the one who will insist we remove poverty?

**Are you the one who will lead us
away from addiction and abuse?**

Are you the one who will steer us
toward treating all people as worthy of respect?

**Are you the one who will persuade us
to return to the education and protection of our children?**

Are you the one who will motivate us
to work on chronic diseases and mental health
until we solve their mysteries?

**Are you the one who will show us
how to love ourselves and others?**

Are you the one? O Come, Emmanuel!

†Invocation

Congregation

Let us pray:

God of dreams and visions, give us a broken and contrite heart for those who live in poverty, for the working poor, the homeless family, the addict, the forgotten, and the lost. Let us remember that as we do unto the least of these, we do unto you, O God. In Christ's name. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Gillian Simeon, Justin & Cherise

The Work of Christmas Calls Us — RUTHERFORD

3. The work of Christ - mas calls us to suf - fer with the least,

The first system of musical notation features a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass line consists of chords and single notes.

With love, to teach the na - tions, 'til all come to the feast;

The second system continues the melody and bass line, with the treble clef part showing more rhythmic movement in the second half.

'Til sys - tems of un - fair - ness give way to e - qui - ty,

The third system maintains the melodic and harmonic structure, with the treble clef part featuring a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

By can - dle - light, we strug - gle to set all peo - ple free.

The final system concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The treble clef part ends with a quarter note, and the bass line has a final chord.

Unison Prayer

Congregation

Let us pray:

God of hope, peace and joy, awaken us to the amazing wonder of today and our chance to spread your good news of joy to the world. Help us to become your peacemakers and healers in a world of violence and pain. Amen.

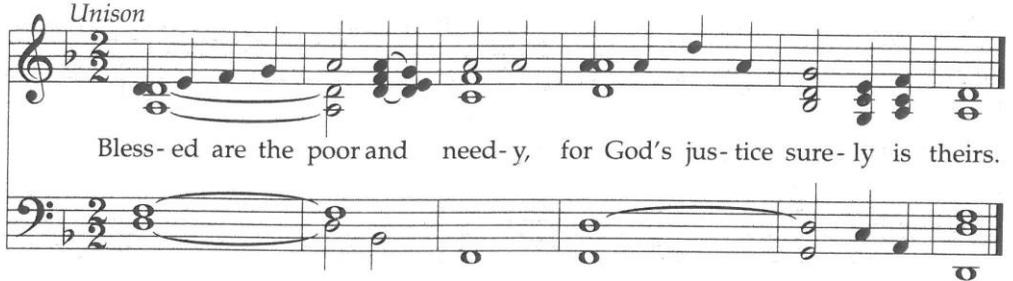
Anthem

Combined Choirs

Birthday Carol — David Willcocks
(texts for anthems on pages 7-9)

RESPONSE Luke 6:20, adapt.
French carol melody; harm. *The English Hymnal*

Unison



Bless-ed are the poor and need-y, for God's jus-tice sure-ly is theirs.

Psalms 146: 1-7

Melissa Walker-Luckett

R

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Do not put your trust in rulers, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Israel,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;

**who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry,**

R

Homily

Tim Schaefer

“ ...To Feed the Hungry ”

There must be always remaining in every[one]’s life some place for the singing of the angels—someplace for that which in itself is breathlessly beautiful and by an inherent prerogative throwing all the rest of life into a new and created relatedness. Something that gathers up into itself all the freshets of experience from drab and commonplace areas of living and glows in one bright light of penetrating beauty and meaning—and then passes. The commonplace is shot through now with new glory—old burdens become lighter, deep and ancient wounds lose much of their old, old hurting. A crown is placed over our heads that for the rest of our lives we are trying to grow tall enough to wear. Despite all the crossness of life, despite all the harshness of life, life is saved by the singing of angels.

—Howard Thurman

Anthem

Choir

Angels Visit When We Sing — Tom Trenney

Psalm 146: 8-10

Blake Miller

R

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
and opens the eyes of the blind.

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
and loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers, and upholds the orphan and the widow,
but brings to ruin the way of the wicked.

**The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

Praise the Lord!

R

Homily

Laura Keller

“ ...To Release the Prisoner ”

Jesus remains the symbol of the dignity and worthfulness of the common humankind. . . . If the theme of the angels’ song is to find fulfillment in the world, it will be through the common person’s becoming awareness of her or his own worthfulness and asserting her or his generic prerogative as a child of God.

—Howard Thurman

Anthem

Choir

The Wexford Carol — arranged by Victor C. Johnson
Jordan Stubblefield, viola

The symbol of Christmas—what is it? It is the rainbow arched over the roof of the sky when clouds are heavy and foreboding. It is the cry of life in the newborn babe, when forced from its mother's nest, it claims the right to life. It is the brooding presence of the Eternal Spirit making crooked ways straight, rough places smooth, tired hearts refreshed, dead hopes stir with newness of life. It is the promise of tomorrow at the close of every day, the movement of life in defiance of death, and the assurance that love is sturdier than hate, that right is more confident than wrong, that good is more permanent than evil.

—Howard Thurman

Choral Reflection

Choir

The Work of Christmas — Dan Forrest

Homily

Michael Gregg

“ The Road Ahead ”

Once this spirit becomes part of a person's life, every day is Christmas and every night is freighted with the dawning of fresh, and perhaps holy, adventure.

—Howard Thurman

✠Hymn of Commitment 85

Congregation

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming — PLEADING SAVIOR

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

Jeff Hammett

Offertory

Treble Choir

Gloria in Excelsis — Will Todd

Presentation of Decisions & Concerns of the Church

Michael Gregg

Affirmation: **Thanks be to God!**

Festive Benediction

Choir

Gloria in Excelsis — Allen Pote

†Sending Forth

Michael Gregg & Congregation

Go forth and magnify the Lord

We will rejoice in God, our Savior.

Go forth and live in the Lord.

**We will draw strength from the one
who scattered the proud
and brought down the powerful
from their thrones.**

Go forth and bless God's holy name.

**We will give glory and honor
to the Lord, our God.**

Go with God.

Amen.

Amen.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen — Mary Beth Bennett

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Hymn Notes

The Work of Christmas Calls Us

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Birthday Carol — David Willcocks

Rejoice today with one accord, *Alleluia*, This is the birthday of our Lord. *Alleluia*.

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis, Gloria, Gloria Deo!

Shepherds abiding in the field, *Alleluia*, To them God's glory was reveal'd, *Alleluia*.

And to the shepherd's sore afraid, *Alleluia*, And angel said, "Be not dismayed," *Alleluia*.

'Tidings of joy to you I bring,' *Alleluia*, 'Today is born a heav'nly King,' *Alleluia*.

'And ye shall find in manger laid,' *Alleluia*, 'The babe in swaddling clothes arrayed.' *Alleluia*.

A host of angels fill'd the sky, *Alleluia*, Thus singing praise to God on high: *Alleluia*.

Angels Visit When We Sing — Tom Trenney

Angels visit when we sing and the morning stars rejoice,
We can hear them echoing in each faithful heart and voice: *Alleluia!*

Angels visit when we sing as they did at Jesus' birth
And the music that they bring link the heavens with the earth!

Angels visit when we sing and remind us with their praise
Sin and death have lost their sing! For the crucified is raised!

Angels visit when we sing and our hearts are touched by fire,
As our hymns and anthems ring with the sound of heaven's choir.

—*Thomas H. Troeger*

The Wexford Carol — Victor C. Johnson

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind,
A tiny child to us is born in Bethlehem this blessed morn.

Now let our hearts and voices raise a song of gladness this Christmas Day.

Let all the earth rejoice and sing the birth of this, our newborn King.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;

To whom the angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem; be not afraid,

For there you'll find, this happy morn, a holy babe, sweet Jesus born."

With hearts of love and hymns of joy, come let us greet the baby boy,

And as the angels had foretold, let all the tiny child behold.

Within a manger he was laid, and by his side his mother stayed.

Let all the earth sing with delight, the holy child is born this night.

—*traditional Irish Carol*

The Work of Christmas — Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart. —*Howard Thurman*

Gloria in Excelsis — Will Todd

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus,
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis,
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostrum,
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, Miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, Cum Sancto Spiritu,
in Gloria Del Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you.
We give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One.
You alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
—*from the Christian Mass*

Gloria in Excelsis — Allen Pote

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus. Bonae voluntatis*

Shepherds were watching their flocks by night, when suddenly an angel appeared
“Be not afraid” said the angel to them.

“For I bring you good news of great joy. For unto you a Savior is born.”

The angels sang and the heavens rang. Glory to God in the highest.
Peace and goodwill to all people on earth. Glory to God in the highest.

Staff Love Gift



During this Giving time of year let's not forget those who give so much to us all year. Our church staff consists of twelve members: ministers, office staff, housekeeping, nursery, kitchen, and maintenance — all of whom willingly and lovingly provide many services for us throughout the year and have had to take on extra responsibilities in 2019.

As in the past, if you would like to express your personal appreciation, please place your gift in the offering plate, bring it to the church office, call the church office, or donate online. **The deadline has been extended through Wednesday, December 18.** Be sure your contribution is clearly marked “Staff Love Gift.” To give online, go to “Staff Love Offering” at onrealm.org/RoyalLane/Give

Join us in showing our appreciation and support.

Paulette Harrison, Deacon Chair. Charlotte Sewell, & Karen Simmons

Mourning Light Service & Food Offering

December 18, 6:00 p.m. – Vickrey Hall.

We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a meal of soup and bread. A service of healing and wholeness for those who mourn during the Advent and Christmas seasons will be held at 6:00 p.m. We will receive communion as a part of this service. **Bring a gift of canned goods or nonperishable food to bring forward at communion to support North Dallas Shared Ministries.** (*childcare provided*)



NDSM Needs: Chili, Soup, Pasta, Canned Pasta sauce. (NDSM cannot accept glass containers.) *Artwork – 2019 Blue Christmas, John Stuart, used by permission*

Schedule for the Week

Wednesday December 18 – Mosaic

- 3:30 pm Holy Rollers Mission Project — Room 202
- 5:30 pm Midweek Family Dinner — Vickrey Hall
Chicken Noodle Soup, Salad, Bread, Brownies
- 6:15 pm Mourning Light Service & Food Gift Offering — Vickrey Hall
Holy Communion offered (*childcare provided*)
- 6:00 pm Youth Activities/Study Hall — Youth Basement
- 6:15 pm Children's Activities — Children's Building
- 7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Thursday December 19

- 6:00 pm Personnel Committee — Library

Saturday December 21

- 9:00 am Men of the Church Breakfast — First Watch

Sunday December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 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.

The Work of Christmas

Advent & Christmas – 2019

December

December 18 – Mourning Light & Food Offering (benefiting North Dallas Shared Ministries)

6:15 pm — Vickrey Hall, Holy Communion offered (*childcare provided*)

December 21 – Men of the Church Breakfast

9:00 am — First Watch, Preston Forest

December 22 – Advent IV – Worship

10:55 am — Sanctuary, Festival Carol Sing featuring Glen Hummel's Classic Brass Quintet

December 24 – Christmas Eve

6:00 pm — Sanctuary

Carols, Candlelight & Communion (*childcare provided*)

December 25 – Christmas Day

Church Office Closed, No Wednesday Activities (Activities resume January 8)

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

Jeff Hammett & Blake Miller

Safety Shepherd – Brian Chastain

Godly Play

Kirsten Fleenor & Cheryl Robinson

Young Theologians – Laura Keller & Cookie Stokes

When WE Give: we feed the hungry with our gifts of food to NDSM.

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.

Donate online to General Fund
at onrealm.org/RoyalLane/Give



Royal Lane Baptist Church

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