

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Christmas Eve

To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.

† – *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

December 24, 2019

6:00 P.M.

Prelude

Jordan Stubblefield & David Weigle

Chiming of the Hour

David Weigle

Welcome to Worshipers

Michael Gregg

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.]*

Processional Hymn 104 (*remain seated for stanzas one & two*)

Congregation

Once in Royal David's City — IRBY

Penelope Meier – stanza one

Choir – stanza two

† Congregation – stanzas three & four

† The Bidding & Lord's Prayer

Michael Gregg & Congregation

Let us pray:

Beloved in Christ, in this Advent season let us prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger. But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all God's people. Let us also remember, in God's name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children. These prayers and praises we humbly offer to God and in the words which Christ himself hath taught us, saying boldly:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

†Hymn 125

Congregation

Angels We Have Heard on High — GLORIA

Coming of the Light

The Light of Hope

Anthony Hatcher

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

Solo

Donnie Ray Albert

*For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth
The People That Walked in Darkness
Recitative & Air from MESSIAH — G. F. Handel*

The Light of Peace

Betty Garrett

John 1:1-14

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

†Hymn 139

Congregation

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly — W ZLOBIE LEZY

The Light of Joy

Nate & Brandon Green

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Solo

Donnie Ray Albert

Sweet Little Jesus Boy — Robert MacGimsey

The Light of Love

DeeDee Young

Luke 2:1-20

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

The Work of Christmas Calls Us — RUTHERFORD

Christmas Eve

The work of Christ - mas calls us up - on this Ho - ly Night

To love all those ex - clud - ed, and bring them to the light;

In deeds of love and mer - cy, make mu - sic in the heart;

For in a low - ly man - ger, God brings a brand new start!

Text: Copyright © 2019, Michael Dell, for Royal Lane Baptist Church, Advent 2019.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

David, Amanda & Elijah Doom;
David Doom; Rebecca Doom;
Darcy, David & Cameron Soraiz;
Donald & Dorothy Dana

Unison Prayer

Congregation

Let us pray:

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

†Hymn 107

Congregation

O Little Town of Bethlehem — ST. LOUIS

Offertory Prayer

Garland Hamic

Holy Child of Bethlehem, bless these gifts, that they may be the grace of God for a community in need; that they may be the light of Christ for people who dwell in darkness; and that they may be the Spirit of peace for a world at war with itself. Bring your peace into our darkness, and flow through our lands with your glorious love. Amen.

Offertory

Donnie Ray Albert

O Holy Night — Adolphe Adam

Communion

Christmas Reflection & Invitation to the Table

Michael Gregg

The Receiving of Communion

All

Following the choir, please move by way of the center aisle to partake of communion by intinction or separate cups.

Gluten free bread is available in the center of the paten.

Return via the outside aisles.

Greensleeves — Richard Purvis

Away in a Manger — arranged by Mack Wilberg
Adam Visconti, clarinet & Jordan Stubblefield, viola

The Passing of the Light

Charge to the Bearers of the Light

Michael Gregg

Do not be afraid—the light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Bear the light of Christ into the world with hope and great joy!

*During the introduction to Peace, Peace/Silent Night,
please move your unlit candle toward the flame of the lighted candle and
pass the light to one another.*

†Hymn [see text below]

Choir & Congregation

Peace, Peace/Silent Night — Rick & Sylvia Powell, arranged by Fred Bock

Please sing on direction.

**Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

†Benediction

Michael Gregg & Congregation

The people who walked in the darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.**

We are that people. Christ is that light.

**For a child has been born for us.
God's own Son has been given to us.**

He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace through his glorious reign.**

Let the trees of the forest shout for joy.

Let heaven and nature sing.

†Hymn 102

Congregation

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come — ANTIOCH
(stanzas 1 & 4 only)

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Ding Dong, Merrily on High — arranged by Roy Brunner



Donnie Ray Albert

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.

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Schedule for the Week

- Wednesday December 25 – Christmas Day**
Church Office closed
No Wednesday Evening Activities
- Sunday December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas**
9:30 am Donuts, Coffee/Juice — Family Hall
9:45 am Christian Education — Christian Education Classrooms & Portable 1
10:55 am Morning Worship — Sanctuary
- Wednesday January 1 – New Year's Day**
Church Office closed
No Wednesday Evening Activities
Wednesday Evening Activities Resume January 8, 2020

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

*Please deposit candles at the exits as you depart and
take poinsettias to grace your home or share with others.*

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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David Weigle, Organist
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship

The Light of Hope – Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

The Light of Peace – John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

The Light of Joy – Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

The Light of Love – Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that

has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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