



# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

*Diverse People United in Christ*

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December 2, 2020

The Mosaic

Volume 34, Issue 23

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## ***Random Fact of the Day: Hiraeth***

Social Media has been brutally negative for the past several years. More than once, I've wanted to sign out of Facebook permanently to preserve my mental and emotional wellbeing. I did take an extended hiatus for Lent one year and it was so good for my soul. Yet, in an effort to remain connected to friends and family, I linger in the digital domain. In recent weeks, I have been pleasantly surprised to see more uplifting and encouraging posts. I feel it is important for us to catch moments of hope and optimism in this particular season of our lives where the road ahead is dim and we long for the world left behind.

In more lighthearted and enriching social media news, I stumbled upon an interesting Facebook page called "Random Facts with Matt." On November 29th, this was Matt's random fact: "'Hiraeth,' pronounced 'here-eyeth' (roll the 'r'), is a Welsh word with no direct English counterpart. It refers to homesickness or nostalgia, particularly for a home that you cannot return to, that no longer exists, that never was, or to which one has never been."

The pandemic, which is now almost a year old, has prodded us to ponder what our lives were like before being isolated and overwhelmed. Our memories are filled with movies, picnics, church services, and concerts. We imagine a world that was sweeter, kinder, and more connected. Yet, what if the nostalgia for our home before Covid was actually something that never was? Racism was prevalent and destructive long before the pandemic, but the deaths of black citizens seemed harder to tolerate when our own prejudices and problems became so transparent in quarantine. Loneliness was widespread pre-pandemic, but covered up by busyness, over functioning in our jobs, overextension with family, and many other distractions. Being isolated brought that loneliness to the surface. Financial insecurity had a grip on most Americans before the pandemic but became acute as companies began to lay people off and a recession hit our portfolios.

All of these uncertainties and struggles were the home in which we all lived before everything was shut down in March. And for me, it is a home I hope no longer exists and to which we do not return. My hope is that who we were as a people of God before Covid is 'hiraeth,' a nostalgia to which we shouldn't go back. Because, you see, there is no going back to normal. There is only the path forward. We are creating a new normal for how we do things, how we connect to one another, and how we practice the presence of God. Maybe the "good old days" weren't really as good as we thought they were?

We have a difficult new year ahead of us, no doubt. But I hope we can hear the messengers of God saying to a scared and confused people, a people waiting for a Savior, that we do not have to be afraid. Eternity collided with creation 2,000 years ago and the Christ-child has been remaking the world into the beloved community ever since. How things were before Covid is 'hiraeth.' So, it is up to us, as we look to a new year, to be people who lead our world into a good and fruitful future, rather than be hindered and haunted by the past.

*Pastor Mike*

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for December 16, 2020 & January 6, 2021.  
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

# *Be Not Afraid*

**Advent – 2020**

*It feels as if 2020 has been a year filled with fear. Yet, messengers throughout the Bible sought to comfort the people of God by telling them to not be afraid. It was a word that those looking for a Messiah and birthing Divine Love needed to hear. And we need to hear it too. The theme for this Advent Season at Royal Lane is "Be Not Afraid." Maybe God is telling us this year, as we wait with trepidation and anticipation, to offer up our fears to the divine and to hear God's comfort in the angel voices: "Do not be afraid."*



**December 6 – Advent II – 11:00 am — Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel**

## **Hanging of the Green**

*"The Fear of Disappointment"*

A virtual expression of Hanging of the Green featuring video clips of Royal Laners decorating their homes, clips from past Hanging of the Green services, and narrations presented by RLBC worship leaders.

**December 13 – Advent III – Worship – 11:00 am — Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel**

*"The Fear of Revision"*

**December 16 – Mourning Light – 6:30 pm — Zoom**

*"The Fear of Holiday Grief"*

This moving and poignant service will be experienced on Zoom this year. There will be opportunities to speak the names of those whom you mourn and remember. A Candle will be lit in their memory and an ornament placed on the Chrismon Tree.

**December 20 – Advent IV – Worship – 11:00 am — Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel**

*"The Fear of Ruined Reputation"*

This morning we are joined by the Classic Brass Quintet as we sing carols of the season.

**December 24 – Christmas Eve – 6:00 pm — Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel**

*"The Fear of Change"*

The service this year will feature choral music from the virtual combined choirs of Royal Lane and University Park UMC as they present the first movement of the GLORIA by Vivaldi, and lovely settings of *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night*. Soloists and readers from RLBC will also lead us in worship. The Gregg Family with baby Ford will light our Christ Candle.

## *Advent Afternoons*

**Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel**

Each Tuesday afternoon of Advent at 4:00 pm we will present organist Jonathan Gregoire playing a brief mini concert on our Royal Lane, Dan Garland pipe organ, Opus 50. Jonathan will feature Advent music and speak about the pieces and their connection to our Advent season.



# Coming Events

<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 4</b>
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 5</b>
12:00 pm	Stuff Stockings for Healing Hands Ministries — Center Parking Lot. Please bring your mask.
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Green</b>
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Zoom
10:00 am	4-6 Year Old Sunday School — Zoom
10:00 am	Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am	Morning Worship – Hanging of the Green — Royal Lane Baptist Church 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
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 8</b>
9:00 am	Red Cross Blood Drive — Vickrey Hall
4:00 pm	Advent Afternoons — Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 9</b>
6:15 pm	IN FOCUS — Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel
	Beloved Community – Interfaith Conversations
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Zoom
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 11</b>
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 12</b>
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent</b>
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Zoom
10:00 am	4-6 Year Old Sunday School — Zoom
10:00 am	Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am	Morning Worship — Royal Lane Baptist Church 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
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 15</b>
4:00 pm	Advent Afternoons — Royal Lane Baptist Church YouTube Channel
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 16 – Mosaic</b>
6:30 pm	Mourning Light Service — Zoom
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Zoom
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 18</b>
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
6:30 pm	Candlelight Prayer Walk — Church Grounds
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 19</b>
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom

**Schedule Your Appointment to  
Donate Blood**  
[redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive)  
 Sponsor Code – royallanebaptist

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

"Like" RLBC on Facebook or "Follow" RLBC on Twitter

**Help Us Stuff Stockings** The Missions Division and Women of the Church invite you to join us this Saturday, December 5th at 12:00 noon to stuff stockings for the children and teenagers who visit the medical team at Healing Hands Ministries. We will work outside in the center parking lot. Please bring your mask!

## 2020 Advent Devotions “Preparing to Hear God’s Call”

Authors for the 2020 Advent Devotions are: Ircel Harrison, Angela Barker Jackson, Mark Tidsworth, and Jessica Chadwick Williams. The Advent Devotions are available on the Royal Lane Website and are being distributed weekly via MailChimp.



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### Staff Love Gift



During this Giving time of year let us not forget those who give so much to us all year. Our church staff willingly and lovingly provides many services for us throughout the year. As in the past, if you would like to express your personal appreciation, please mail your check to the Church Office or make your donation online by December 6. Be sure your contribution is clearly marked “Staff Love Gift” or select the fund “Staff Love Gift” from the Giving option on the Royal Lane website.

*Charlotte Sewell, Deacon Chair*

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# IN FOCUS

## Beloved Community: Interfaith Conversations

The Education Committee invites you to join us Wednesday, December 9, at 6:15 pm, for our December IN FOCUS. Beloved Community: Interfaith Conversations.

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### COVID-19 Testing

Need at test after Thanksgiving gatherings or travel?

Go Get Tested has a testing site at Royal Lane.

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Schedule a test at: [gogettested.com](http://gogettested.com)

**GO GET TESTED .com**

## Keeping Texas Tested & Open

Royal Lane  
Baptist Church  
FREE COVID-19  
Testing for All

Royal Lane Baptist Church  
6707 Royal Ln, Dallas, TX 75230



## Deacons of the Week

### December 6

John Helms

Cathy Walling

### December 13

Melissa Orwig

Blake Miller

## Scriptures of the Week

### December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Mark 1:1-8

### December 13

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Psalms 126

John 1:6-8, 19-28

## All In-Person Midweek Services & Fellowship Meals Temporarily Suspended

6:15 p.m.

Wednesday

December 9

IN FOCUS

Beloved Community  
Interfaith Conversations

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

December 16

Mourning Light

## October 2020 Financials

### YTD Actual

Revenues \$624,102

Expenses \$624,736

Surplus (Deficit) (\$634)

### Text "GIVE" to 214-609-1200

Follow the prompts to complete the process.

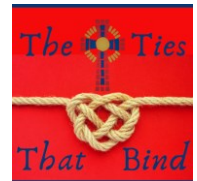
Standard text message rates may apply.

Donate online at [royallane.org/give/](http://royallane.org/give/)

2021 is just around the corner and we thank all who have made a commitment to Stewardship for 2021. If you have not done so already, we are asking that you make your 2021 Financial Commitment so that the division chairs can budget and plan programming for next year. Your commitment to this community will continue to help our church thrive and fulfill its mission.

*In Grace, Ed Meier, Finance Chair  
Charlotte Sewell, Deacon Chair*

If you have made your pledge online and have not received a confirmation from Janet, please contact Janet Schultz in the Church Office.



## Happy Birthday!

### December

Brodie Keller .....	6
Tim Schaefer .....	8
Gillian Simeon.....	13
Linda Binder.....	14
Kevin Hall .....	15
Janet Schultz.....	15



The Box Gallery  
is Temporarily Closed

To change mail or email preferences for *The Mosaic*, contact Barbara Merry, [bmerry@royallane.org](mailto:bmerry@royallane.org).





## Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane  
Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

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*Diverse People United in Christ*

**The Mosaic is published twice a month**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday - Friday: Open by Appointment**

**Wednesday Midweek: 6:30 pm - Zoom**

**Sunday School: Saturday & Sunday - Zoom**

**Sunday Worship: 11:00 am – Royal Lane YouTube Channel**

**Royal Lane Baptist Church**

**6707 Royal Lane**

**Dallas, TX 75230-4145**

**Office: [214] 361-2809**

**Fax: [214] 361-2988**

**[www.royallane.org](http://www.royallane.org)**

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Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping  
Michael Gregg, Pastor  
Laura Keller, Minister to Children  
Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant

Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant  
Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician  
David Weigle, Organist  
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship