

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

10:55 A.M.

Welcome & Centering Words

Michael Gregg

God opens for us the crystal fountain, the river of the water of life, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Come, let us wash in its healing stream, led by God's powerful hand.

—*Revelation 22:1*

Voluntary

David Weigle

Bound For The Kingdom WARRENTON — arranged by Joseph M. Martin

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

May God be gracious to us and bless us;
make your face to shine upon us, O God,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you, Alleluia!**

—*based on Psalm 67:1-5*

Invocation

Harry Wooten

God our deliverer, you raised your Son Jesus from the dead, and now he calls us his friends: Show us the way to live in love and friendship with all earth's people. Help us to bring your gift of peace wherever conflict reigns. Make us ready to receive your Spirit of truth, our companion and guide, and lead us into the light of your glory to join those who bring you the honor of the nations. In the name of Jesus Christ, risen and glorified. Amen.

Hymn [see insert]

Worshipers

Loving God, Whose Heart Embraces — HYMN TO JOY
*A hymn of remembrance for the events of 9/11, by Michael G. Dell, 2001,
Revised May 4, 2020, in reflection of the Covid-19 Pandemic*
(stanzas one & two)

Testimony of Joy

Doug & Sandy Washington
Janina Washington & Addison

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Tim Schaefer

God, explain to me the cruelty of your world! Make sense of that which makes no sense! Tell me why the innocent die and evil seems to go unpunished!

God in your goodness, Hear our prayer.

Tell me why the faithful are shunned, and the self-righteous point their fingers! Tell me why the wounded are wounded, and sorrow falls on the shoulder of sorrow!

God in your goodness, Hear our prayer.

Tell me why the abused are abused, and the victims victimized! Tell me why the rains come to the drowning, and aftershocks follow earthquakes.

God in your goodness, Hear our prayer.

Today we pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud.

O Merciful One, let us rest between tragedies! Speak to us for we are your people. Speak to us of hope for the hopeless and love for the unloved and homes for the homeless and dignity for the dying and respect for the disdained.

God in your goodness, Hear our prayer. Amen.

—Ann Weems, *“Lament Psalm Thirty-two”*
Psalms of Lament, Westminster John Knox Press, 1995

Response [see insert]

Worshipers

Loving God, Whose Heart Embraces — HYMN TO JOY
(stanza four)

**Healing God, whose holy presence brings rich comfort to the soul,
Through your Spirit, by your essence, make our wounded spirits whole;
Even when our hearts are reeling, speak through us that we may be
Loving, weeping, knowing, healing by your truth that sets us free!**

Scripture Lesson

Laura Keller

1 Peter 3:13-22 [see insert]

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

Solo

Brittany Jones

How We Love — Beth Nielsen Chapman, arranged by Craig Hella Johnson

Sermon

Michael Gregg

“ Baptism Is Like That ”

Offertory

Jonah Hammett, horn

Excerpt from 1st Movement, Horn Concerto in B-flat — Reinhold Glière

Invitation to the Table

Michael Gregg

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Communion

Worshippers

Come to Christ's table, and Christ's presence will be revealed. As we break the bread and take the cup, let us discover what Christ will bring us this day.

As we break bread with you, reveal your presence to us.

As we take the cup, nourish us with your wisdom.

Blessing

Thank you, God, for uniting us with yourself and with all your people everywhere in sharing the body and blood of Jesus. Now send us forth by your Spirit to build and to plant and to work for the welfare of everyone around us. Amen.

Closing Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

What Wondrous Love Is This — WONDROUS LOVE
(stanza four)

(continued)

Blessing

Michael Gregg

Go in the name of the one who created all the nations of the earth.

We go in the name of God.

Go in the name of the one who abides in love and abides in you.

We go in the name of Christ.

Go in the name of the one who advocates for you and guides you.

We go in the name of the Spirit of truth.

Amen.

Amen.

Postlude

David Weigle

Higher Ground — arranged by Mark Hayes

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Hymn Notes

Loving God, Whose Heart Embraces

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What Wondrous Love Is This

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Loving God, Whose Heart Embraces

→ 1. Lov - ing God, whose heart em - bra - ces your cre - a - tion's vast con - fines,
 → 2. Weep - ing God, whose heart is break - ing, for a world in dis - ar - ray,
 3. Know - ing God, whose depth sur - pas - ses truth from scien - tists' bright - est minds,
R 4. Heal - ing God, whose ho - ly pres - ence brings rich com - fort to the soul,

Bright - en all earth's dark - est pla - ces; sil - ence Co - vid's fright' - ning signs;
 Move us t'ward a new a - wak' - ning, to a hope - ful bright new day.
 Break down walls of so - cial clas - ses; rid the pre - ju - dice that blinds;
 Through your Spir - it, by your es - sence, make our wound - ed spir - its whole;

Bless ex - haust - ed health care peo - ple; bring new hopes of health and peace;
 When dis - eas - es of de - struc - tion lose their pow'r to make us ill,
 May Un - com - mon Sense yet find us while there's op - por - tu - ni - ty;
 E - ven when our hearts are reel - ing, speak through us that we may be

Make our life a stur - dy stee - ple, strong and car - ing with - out cease.
 Giv - ing way to mass pro - duc - tion of new cures to do your will.
 Blest be all the ties that bind us in a world com - mu - ni - ty.
 Lov - ing, weep - ing, know - ing, heal - ing by your truth that sets us free!

What Wondrous Love Is This

Unison

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when
 3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; to
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 down be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my
 Lamb Who is the great "I Am," while mil-lions join the theme, I will
 free I'll sing and joy - ful be; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

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.

Deacons on Call

Terry Berrier & Karen Miller

When WE Give: we can support missions through many avenues.

February 2020 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 230,770
Expenses	\$ 128,569
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 102,201

*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/ – Online Giving



Royal Lane Baptist Church

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Tim Schaefer, Minister to Youth
Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician
Ray Vickrey, Pastor Emeritus
David Weigle, Organist
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship

The Scripture this morning is 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

(NRSV)

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