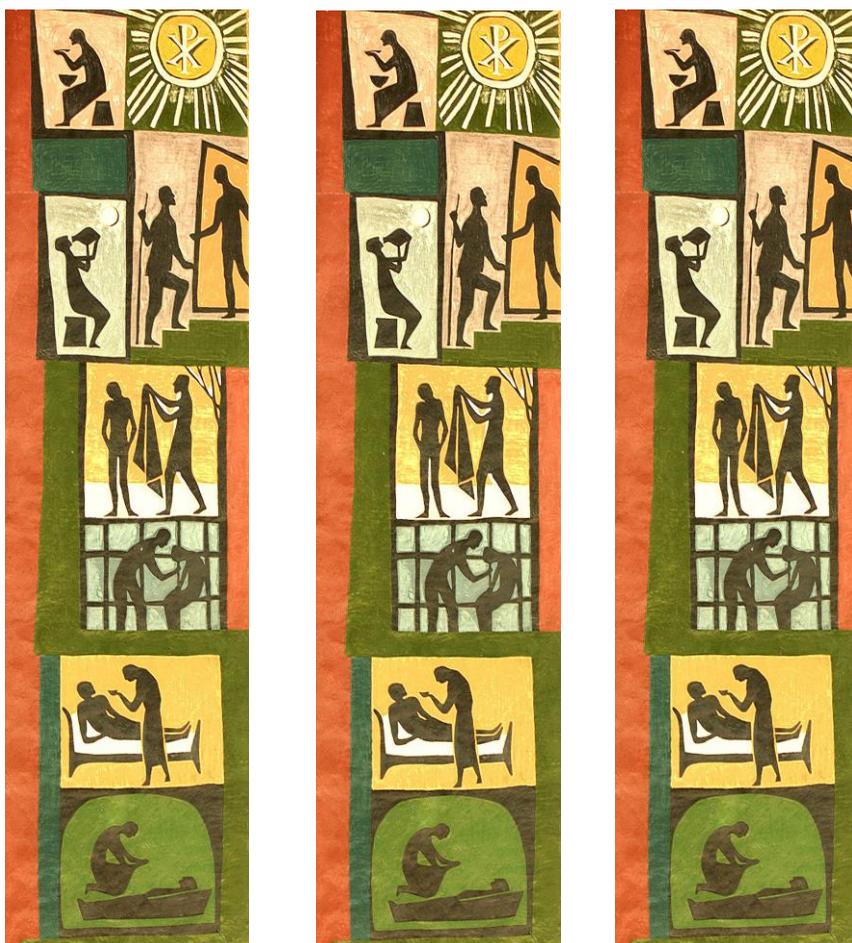


ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Words of Welcome

Michael Gregg

Centering Words & Candle Lighting

Laura Keller

Loving Creator, we gather to take in your mercy. May what comes out of our lives be filled with your grace. May the thoughts and actions that emerge from our lives be inspired by your creativity and grounded in your truth. Help us to recognize ourselves as part of your creation, and to affirm that you do not hold us away in anger and judgment but draw us near in forgiveness and mercy. As we approach you in worship today, recognize us as your beloved family.

Voluntary

David Weigle

God of Grace CWM RHONDDA — Paul Manz

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

God of goodness and mercy; we admit that we have gotten off-track.

We know we need to do justly.

To love mercy

And walk humbly.

We are enticed by retribution and take vengeance for ourselves.

We are enamored by damnation

And forget about goodness.

We are in love with judgement and disregard mercy.

We need a change of heart.

Christ have mercy on us.

We need to look into your eyes and have our inner world transformed

Before we begin on the world around us.

Transform and renew us now

Into the image of Christ.

Into a peace-making people,

Into a just and merciful people.

May we scatter seeds of goodness and mercy wherever we go,

And always live in the light of your presence.

Invocation

Harry Wooten

Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone, gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice in your astounding grace through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy — WELLESLEY
(stanzas one, two, and five)

Testimony of Joy

Christin & Richard Lavery

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Tim Schaefer

Gracious God, show us how to be released from all that keeps us tethered to our anger and resentments. Help us to participate in the grace and mercy you give us so freely every day.

Christ have mercy.

When our relationships are broken, help us to choose unity over our need to be right. When our work is more burden than a joy, help us to embrace it as an opportunity to learn.

Christ have mercy.

When we feel abandoned and alone, show us the path to experiencing your profound and perpetual presence with us always.

Christ have mercy.

When our spirits are diminished, help us to reach out to others for renewal and support.

Christ have mercy.

When we are overwhelmed by the challenges of the day, help us to slow down, breathe deeply, and take your loving hand.

Christ have mercy.

When our bodies are frail and sources of pain, help us to listen deeply to them, and tend carefully to them, with thanksgiving for the miracles that they are.

Today we pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud or post in the comments section.

(continued)

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation. Amen.

Response

Worshippers

If My People's Hearts Are Humbled — PLEADING SAVIOR
(stanza one)

Scripture Lesson

Cathy Walling

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 [see insert]

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

Solo

Suré Eloff

Ave Maria — Franz Schubert

Sermon

Michael Gregg

“ A Spirit of Mercy ”

Offertory

Jordan Stubblefield

Just a Closer Walk with Thee — arranged by Gary Lanier

Communion

Tim Schaefer & Worshippers

Christ invites to this table all who profess the Christian faith, who endeavor to be at peace with their neighbors, and who seek the mercy of God.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and the eve of his death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. He took bread and after giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying:

“This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

(continued)

Communion Prayer

God of Hope and Renewal, pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grape that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ and upon us so that we might be empowered by and for your ministry of reconciliation. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing — NETTLETON
(stanzas one and three)

Blessing

Michael Gregg

By the power of the Holy Spirit, go forth to serve your neighbor, to love your enemy, and to embody God's mercy in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Amen.

Postlude

David Weigle

Salutation on "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" — arranged by Alice Jordan

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Cover Art — *Seven Works of Mercy*, mural, 2008
The Diakonie Neuendettelsau is one of today's major independent
Christian institutions for social welfare work in German, est. 1854.

DiaLog-Hotel, Neuendettelsau, Germany

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Hymn Notes

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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If My People's Hearts Are Humbled

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Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Text: Robert Robinson, 1738; Music: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813
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White Fragility It's Not Too Late to Join the Conversation!



Join us in August and September for our virtual conversation about race and white fragility. Copies of *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo are available for purchase online and in the Church Office. Contact Laura Keller, lkeller@royallane.org, to purchase books in the Church Office. \$12.00 per copy.

Registration is required. A Zoom link and instructions for joining will be emailed to you after you have completed the registration process. Register Online at <https://bit.ly/3fNJ0c4>.



Deacon Recommendation Procedure

This year, because we cannot safely meet in person, we will be suggesting members for nomination to the deacon board in a different way. On Sunday, August 2, we began accepting your suggestions for nomination. You can write your suggestions on paper and mail them to the church, where they will be collected for consideration. If you want to submit your suggestions online, you can do so through a link that was provided in an email sent to members on Sunday, August 2nd. We must receive any suggested names by Friday, August 28th. All names submitted will be gathered and considered by the Member Resource Committee.

Deacon Recommendations

In October, the church will elect six (6) deacons to serve a three (3) year term, and two (2) Deacons to serve a one (1) year unexpired term. They will take office in November.

By-Laws Provisions

Article VIII, 3) "No one shall be eligible for election to the Board of Deacons unless such person has been a member of this Church for at least one (1) year prior to his or her election. Upon completion of a term on the Board of Deacons, no one shall be eligible for re-election to the Board of Deacons until the expiration of one (1) year, provided that this restriction shall not be applicable to any Deacon who has been elected to fill the unexpired term of another Deacon and who has served less than one year of such unexpired term. In order that there not be a conflict of interest (or the appearance of a conflict of interest), no member of the Board of Deacons shall also be a full-time or permanent part-time paid member of the staff of this Church. Only one member of an immediate family of the same household shall be elected to serve on the active board of deacons at the same time. Immediate family includes spouse, domestic partner, child, parent or sibling.

Listed below is the active Board of Deacons. The dates indicate when they will rotate off the Board. **Resigned or moved to reserve status.*

November 2020

Ray Cox
Melanie Ferguson
Paulette Harrison
Harry Hunter
Cathy Webb
Garey Wisdom

November 2021

Margaret Darden
Jeff Hammett*
Karen Miller
Charlotte Sewell
Karen Simmons
Dennis Turnbull*

November 2022

Terry Berrier
Alan Greider
Blake Miller
Sarah Fuller Phillips
Cathy Walling
Amy Ward-Meier

Please consider carefully and prayerfully your recommendations for deacons. Use the spaces below to suggest to the Member Resource Committee your recommendations for deacons.

Your Deacon Recommendations

Nominations are due in the church office by noon on Friday, August 28th.

If you have any questions regarding the recommendation of deacon, please contact either Charlotte Sewell (214-533-7326) or Paulette Harrison (214-577-8058).

Qualifications and Characteristics of a Deacon

When accepting a call to serve as a deacon, the person is accepting a call from the congregation and from God. And so, a deacon is ordained because the ordination of deacons indicates that those serving in this capacity should be believers who are Christ-like, mature in faith, and exercise their office with prayer, patience, trust, and humility. Additionally, serving as a deacon puts that person in a leadership role within the congregation, one that should be modeled as that of a servant. The heart of a deacon's calling is to "lead by serving others" in the church and community, as well as to "lead by equipping church members" to serve in the ongoing ministries of the church.

As a believer in God as revealed through the life and works of Jesus Christ, the deacon must care about the members of Royal Lane, be committed to and support the work of the ministries of the church, and appreciate and embrace the diversity of the congregation. This is achieved through careful listening, a humble attitude, and fervent prayer.

Duties and Responsibilities of a Deacon

- Accepts a 3-year commitment to serve on the Board of Deacons
- Faithfully attends each in person or virtual monthly deacons meeting and participates in discussions honestly and with openness to differing opinions
- Supports Royal Lane financially through pledging and regular giving
- Conscientiously fulfills her/his Deacon of the Week duties (on the assigned week):
 1. Greeting visitors in the narthex following worship
 2. Attend Wednesday evening Midweek Meeting and offering a prayer
 3. Contacting visitors by phone, card, or email to answer any questions they may have about Royal Lane
- Leads a Deacon Ministry Group (DMG) consisting of a small group of congregation members:
 1. Regularly check in with assigned DMG through text, email, phone call, or note.
 2. Let the DMG know of upcoming church events and activities
- Prays for the members of the DMG and shares needs with church staff
- Assists with the introduction and engagement of new members into the life and ministries of Royal Lane
- Actively participates as a member of at least one church committee
- Assists the pastor with the preparation and administration of the church ordinances: communion and baptism

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



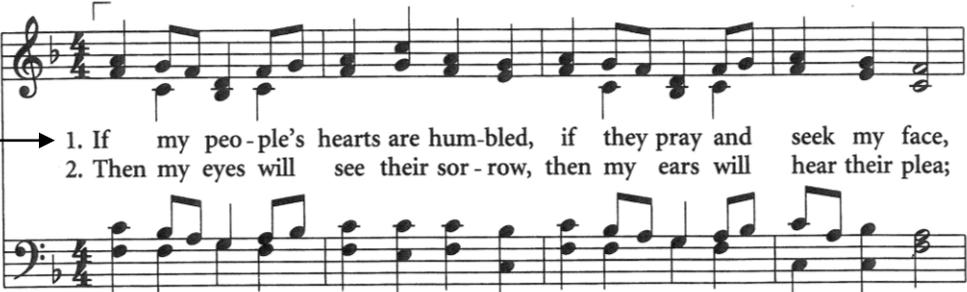
- 1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good;
- 3. But we make His love too nar-row by false lim-its of our own;
- 4. For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sure of the mind;
- 5. If our love were but more sim-ple, we could take Him at His word;



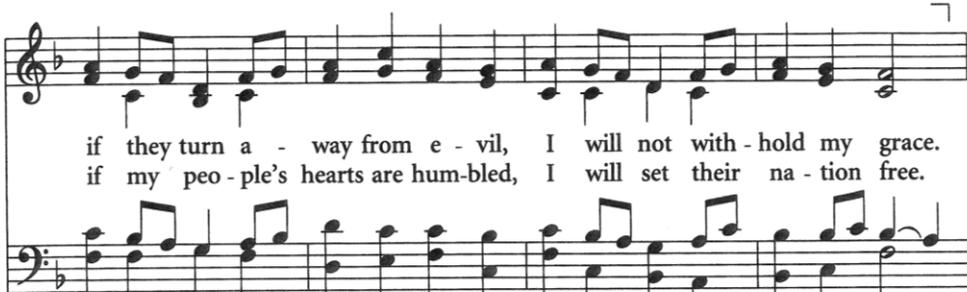
there's a kind-ness in His jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in His blood.
and we mag-ni-fy His strict-ness with a zeal He will not own.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
and our lives would be more lov-ing in the like-ness of our Lord.



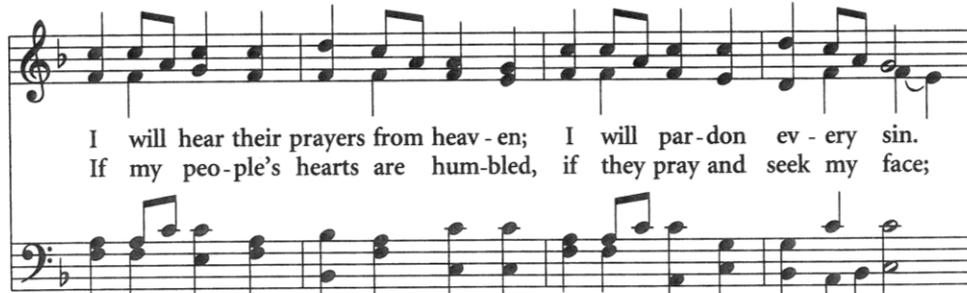
If My People's Hearts Are Humbled



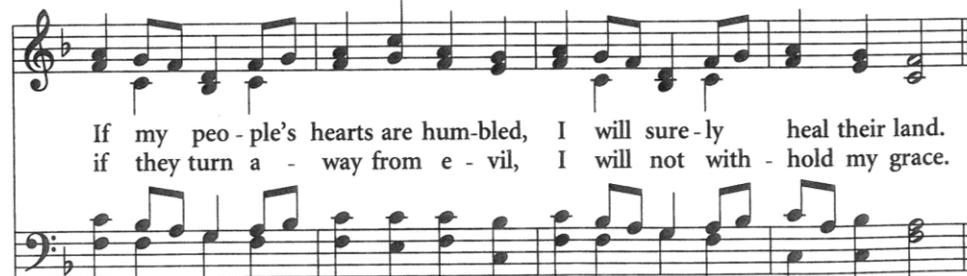
1. If my peo-ple's hearts are hum-bled, if they pray and seek my face,
2. Then my eyes will see their sor-row, then my ears will hear their plea;



if they turn a-way from e-vil, I will not with-hold my grace.
if my peo-ple's hearts are hum-bled, I will set their na-tion free.

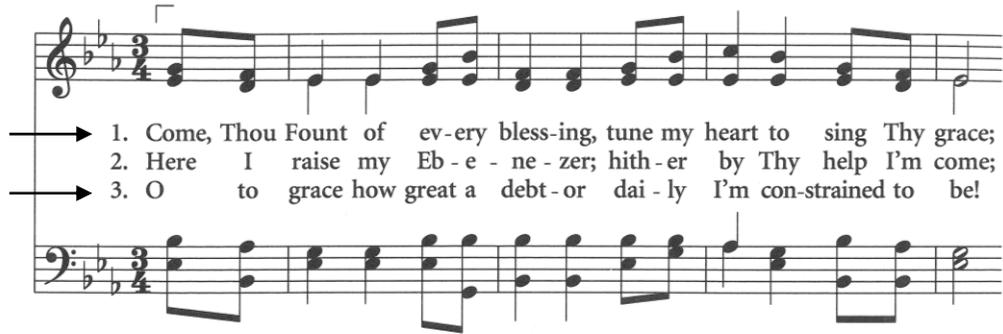


I will hear their prayers from heav-en; I will par-don ev-ery sin.
If my peo-ple's hearts are hum-bled, if they pray and seek my face;

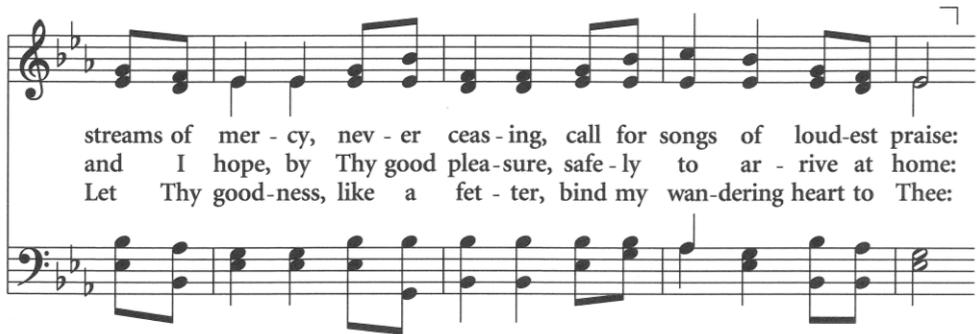


If my peo-ple's hearts are hum-bled, I will sure-ly heal their land.
if they turn a-way from e-vil, I will not with-hold my grace.

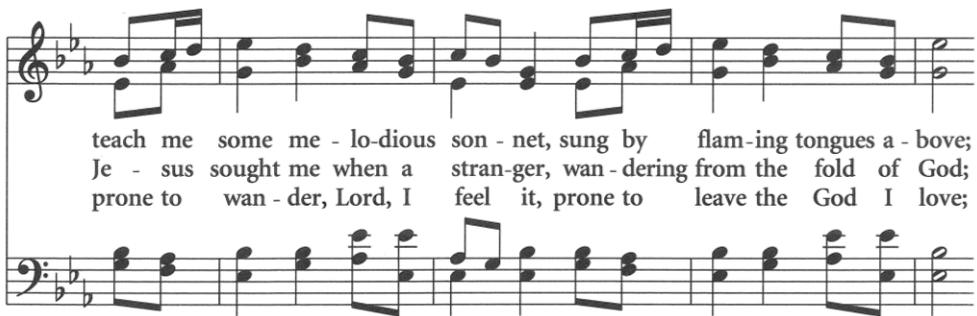
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



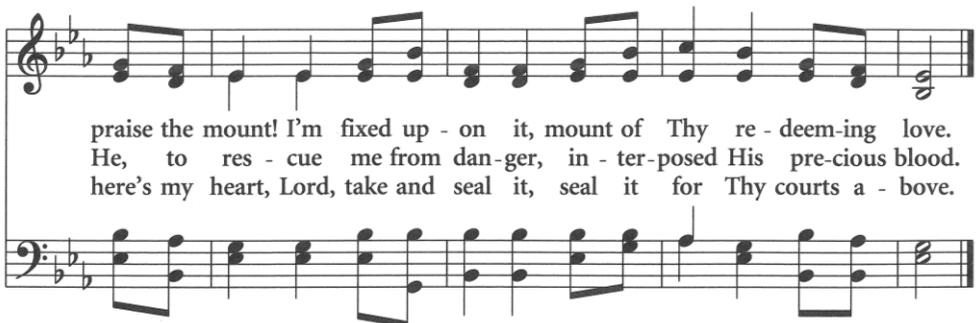
1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise:
and I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home:
Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:



teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

The Scripture this morning is Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

(NRSV)

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

Schedule for the Week

- Sunday** **August 16 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School – Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
- Tuesday** **August 18**
12:00 pm Pastor’s Book Group — Zoom
- Wednesday** **August 19 – Mosaic**
6:30 pm Virtual Conversation – “White Fragility” – Register Online
- Friday** **August 21**
12:00 pm Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
- Saturday** **August 22**
2:00 pm 4-6-Year-Old Saturday School – Zoom
2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
- Sunday** **August 23 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:45 am Foundation Stones Class — Zoom
10:00 am Women’s Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am Morning Worship — Livestream
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School – Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom

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

Paulette Harrison & Cathy Walling

When WE Give: we can show mercy to those in need through support of NDSM.

July 2020 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 481,535
Expenses	\$ 439,295
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 42,240

*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

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Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship