

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Words & Candle Lighting

Michael Gregg

Choices have consequences. Choosing to follow God changes everything. Choosing to remain vigilant keeps us ready when the bridegroom appears. Christ offers us peace when we choose life and follow God. Listen for the word of God and keep your lamps lit. Listen...hear...receive...choose to let God in.

Voluntary

David Weigle

Variations on HOLY MANNA — Charles Callahan

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

Come, pay attention.

Let us listen carefully.

Come, make ready.

Let us anticipate with haste.

Come, prepare.

Let us be wise in our preparations.

Invocation

Harry Wooten

We long to have the courage to choose you, O God, each and every day. We yearn for the forbearance to wait patiently, through the long watches of the night—for we long to be found ready, when you appear in your glory. Fill our lamps with your grace, that we might share your light with our children and with the generations to come. Amen.

Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers — LLANGLOFFAN
(stanzas one and two)

Time for Young Disciples

Michael Gregg

Prayers of the People

Harry Wooten

God of life, we praise you for your abiding presence from generation to generation, blessing your people, strengthening us to lives of service, empowering us to witness. Hear the prayers we offer on behalf of our congregation and your creation.

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

Let us pray:

Grant that as we serve you now on earth, so may we one day rejoice with all the saints in your kingdom of light and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response [see insert]

Worshippers

Wait for the Lord — Jacques Berthier, Taizé

Scripture Lesson

Terry Berrier

Enough for All – a retelling of Matthew 25:1-13 [see insert]

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

Anthem

Choir – August 11, 2019

Keep Your Lamps — André Thomas

Sermon

Jason Smith

“ Stay Awake ”

Offertory

David Weigle

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren — Johann Gottfried Walther

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation

Communion

Worshippers

Readiness for service is one way to interpret the diligence of the Wise Wedding Attendants. Their lamps are filled and available to be sparked into light at the moment the Beloved appears to begin the wedding feast of justice, love and peace. Let us be ready, too, as we gather at Christ's table to receive the bread and the cup.

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

(continued)

Communion Prayer

O God, we need oil for our lamps, food for our tables, and love for our lives. Let us share the bounty we have at your table that no one may be left out alone in the dark.
Amen.

Closing Hymn [see insert]

I Want to Be Ready — Afro-American spiritual

Worshippers

Blessing

Keep your lamps filled and your hearts open,
ready for the call of God.
Go in peace, counting on
the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jason Smith

Amen.

Postlude

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott — Johann Gottfried Walther
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

David Weigle

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Cover Art — *The Ten Young Women* by JESUS MAFA
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Advent – 2020: “Be Not Afraid” November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

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.”



Image: *Messenger*, by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com, used by permission

Hymn Notes

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, trans. Sarah Borthwick Findlater, Public Domain

Wait for the Lord

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I Want to be Ready

Music Arrangement: R. Nathaniel Dett, Copyright © 1936 CPP/Belwin Music

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November Missions Project



Join us for our third annual collaboration between the Missions Committee and Women of the Church to bring Christmas cheer to our youngest neighbors in need. Please bring small toys and candy that will fit and fill 15 -inch stockings for the children and teenagers who visit the medical clinic at Healing Hands Ministries. Donations will be accepted through the month of November. Our goal is to fill 100 stockings! Drop off dates at RLBC will be announced soon.

Suggestions: small plush animals, stretchy gloves and hats, fuzzy socks, small Christmas toys, card games, flavored lip gloss, hand sanitizer and hand lotion, ear buds (for teens), small holiday puzzles or coloring books, Play-Doh, Hot Wheels, Christmas candy and hot chocolate...

Rev. Jason Smith, Guest Preacher

Jason serves as a Congregational Engagement Specialist with the Alliance of Baptists, focusing on development and fundraising strategy. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Sutton School of Social Sciences with Ouachita Baptist University. Previously, he served as Director of Youth at Calgary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. In D.C., he studied at Wesley Theological Seminary ('14, M. Div.), and focused on urban ministry. He was ordained at Calvary in June 2014. He serves on the board of directors of Interfaith Arkansas and the Executive Committee of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.



Jason grew up in Costa Rica, where his parents served as Baptist missionaries, and continues to be involved in special projects collaborating with communities of faith in Latin America. He co-led intercultural immersion projects to El Salvador in 2011 and 2012 with mentor and hero, Rev. Edgar Palacios. In 2014, he served as a New Testament instructor with Baptist churches in the Guna Yala indigenous province of Panama through the Latino Network of Virginia Baptists. He has represented the Alliance on official visits with the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba in 2015 and 2016 and returned for the Fraternity's 30th Anniversary in 2019. He serves as an interpreter/translator with the Church at Ponce and Highland in Atlanta visiting the Mayan Intercultural Seminary and partnering with Tzotzil churches in central Chiapas to develop an agricultural/livestock cooperative.

Jason and his wife Myra live in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where Myra is Assistant Professor of History at Ouachita Baptist University with an emphasis on contemporary southern African legal and constitutional history. They have three kids, Maryi (13), Santi (10), and Elton (3 months). The Smith-Housers share their home with three dogs, Coco, Bogey and Teddy.

IN FOCUS

Beloved Community: Honoring Our Vets — Learning from the “Greatest Generation”

The Education Committee invites you to join us Wednesday, November 11, at 6:15 pm, for our November IN FOCUS. Beloved Community: Honoring Our Vets — Learning from the “Greatest Generation.” Talking with 98-year-old WWII veteran, Opal Keith.

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 provide 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 at Royallane.org/give by December 6. Be sure your contribution is clearly marked “Staff Love Gift” or choose this option online.

Charlotte Sewell, Deacon Chair

Blood Drive at RLBC

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive in Vickrey Hall at RLBC on November 10 and December 8. We hope you will schedule a donation through the American Red Cross at Royal Lane or the location of your choice. Find a blood drive at redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.

Space is available at Royal Lane for November 10. Sign Up with the Red Cross and be a part of this Blood Drive.

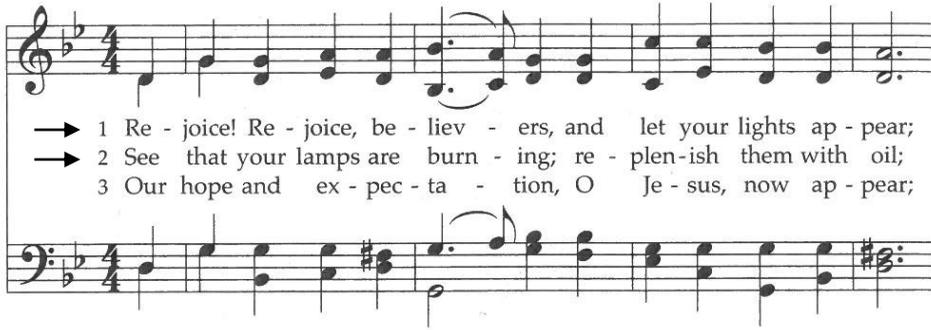
Candlelight Prayer Walk

The next Candlelight Prayer Walk will be November 20 at 7:00 pm. Add this event to your calendar. Information and participant guide available on the Royal Lane website at:

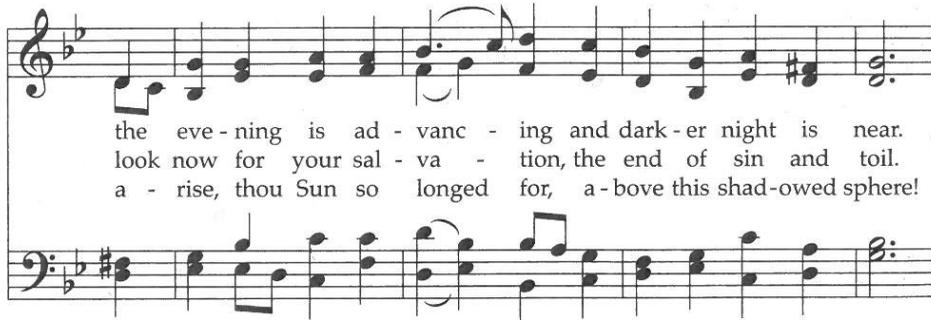
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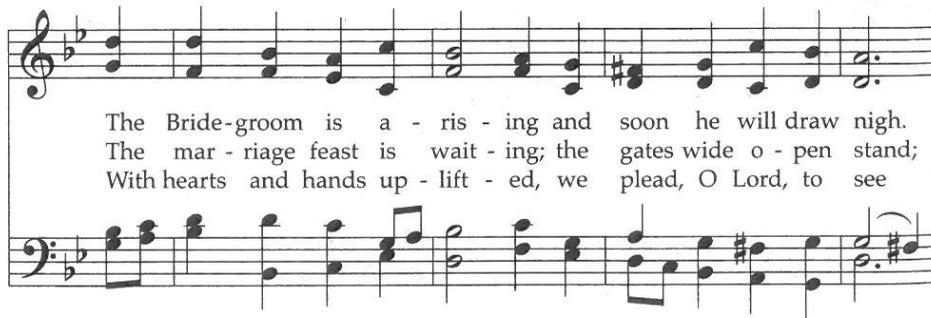
Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



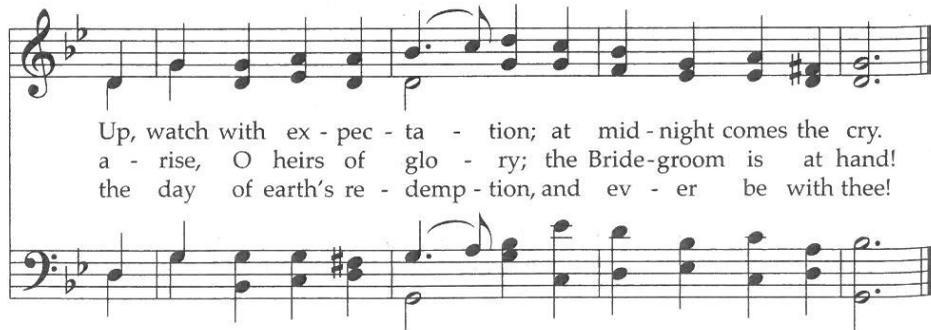
→ 1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
→ 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen - ish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. It contains a melody with lyrics: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. Both staves end with a fermata over the final note.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The second system of music also consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/2 time signature. It contains a melody with lyrics: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. Both staves end with a fermata over the final note.

I Want to Be Ready

Refrain

I want to be read - y, I want to be read - y,

I want to be read - y to walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.

1 John said that Je - ru - sa - lem was four-square,
2 When Pe - ter was preach - ing at Pen - te - cost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John,

Refrain

I know, good Lord, I'll meet you there,
oh, he was filled with the Ho - ly Ghost, walk in Je - ru - sa - lem just like John.

The Scripture this morning is Matthew 25:1-13

25“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

(NRSV)

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

Schedule for the Week

- Sunday** **November 8 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**
Following Worship – Chat with the Pastor — Zoom
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — Zoom
- Tuesday** **November 10**
9:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive — Vickrey Hall
- Wednesday** **November 11**
6:15 pm IN FOCUS – Beloved Community — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
 Honoring Our Vets – Learning from the “Greatest Generation”
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir — Zoom
- Friday** **November 13**
12:00 pm Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
- Saturday** **November 14**
2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
- Sunday** **November 15 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:45 am Foundation Stones Class — Zoom
10:00 am 4-6-Year-Old Sunday School — Zoom
10:00 am Women’s Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am Morning Worship — Livestream
 Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel
2:00 pm Youth Gathering – Visioning the Future — Zoom
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — 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/prayer

Deacons on Call

Terry Berrier & Karen Miller

When WE Give: we can provide space for the Red Cross Blood Drive
September 2020 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues	\$ 558,740
Expenses	\$ 559,362
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 622)

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