



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

February 17, 2021

The Mosaic

Volume 35, Issue 4

We Are But Masks

My friend and mentor from Atlanta, Rev. Dr. Steven Sheeley, has written a lot about dust, dirt, and ashes. He said, “And every now and then my study and teaching of biblical texts took me back down those dirt roads, as an analogy of the dusty roads of ancient Judea. The cultural anthropologists gave me a context to explore the relationship between physical space and the cultural concepts of ‘clean’ and ‘unclean,’ and I always enjoyed the discussions about just how we defined what was ‘dirt.’”

To come to this day, this Ash Wednesday moment, we hear the admonition that we are ‘but dust’ and we will eventually return to that simple and “pre-enlivened” state. We feel as if we are fragile and frail, precariously held together until a hard rain or a strong wind erodes our best efforts and our fraught dreams. We struggle and strain to keep the spaces in our lives “clean” and free from dirt and dust. We often desire to hide our faults, our “dirt,” so that we give a persona of having it all together, that we’re living large, or that we’re living our best life. But ultimately, our squeaky-clean lives are still dusty. We are “but dust” and that is humbling and on many days disturbing.

To be reminded we are “but dust” as we enter another Lenten season is unsettling because we’ve swept our emotional and spiritual floors this year, hoping to get them clean. Yet, we’ve come to find out we are living on dirt floors and our repetitive actions are futile. We don’t need Ash Wednesday or Lent to remind us of the suffering and sorrow of Jesus and the spiritual posture of penitence. No, we’ve been through a season of COVID-19. We’ve been wearing masks for a year. These masks have been our marks of mortality, not in cruciform ash on our foreheads, but as cloth on our noses and mouths. We know how mortal and fragile we are, for God’s sake.

What if, this year, we see the masks we wear not only as a sign of our mortality but as a promise of grace and protection? The ashen cross of Ash Wednesday reminds us of our fragility and impermanence, and yet that same cross gives us hope that we are loved despite our dust and even because we are dust. We are loved and forgiven and protected by a God who put on the dirtiness of flesh to imprint on our hearts a love of humanity and a promise of paradise. And masks, this cold pandemic season, also remind us that we are protected even as we inch near to the possibilities of death. I wonder if we have a new sign on our faces this Ash Wednesday and Lenten season, new reminders of our dustiness.

This Lent will feel eerily similar to the yearlong journey we’ve experienced during the pandemic. But, it is my hope that we don’t simply attempt to sweep the dirt floors of our houses. It is my prayer that we abide in the presence of the spirit of God among us and within us that creates and re-creates clean hearts. May the ashes we wear on our foreheads draw us closer to the Christ who dwelt among us. And may the masks we wear each and every day draw us closer to one another in respect and in hope, as we all journey this dusty road to the cross, and eventually to resurrected life, together.

Amen.

Pastor Mike

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for March 3 & 17, 2021.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

The RLBC Staff Celebrates Rosa Barrientos

The RLBC staff celebrates the work anniversary of our colleague, Rosa Barrientos. Rosa has served at Royal Lane Baptist Church for fourteen years. We are glad that Rosa is a part of our team.

Gratefully, Mike Gregg, Harry Wooten, Laura Keller, Janet Schultz, Barbara Merry, and David Weigle.

Royal Lane Missions Seasons of Service...Easter



Please help us make Easter special for children experiencing homelessness. We want to create 60 Easter baskets for the families served by Hope Supply. You can donate items for the Easter baskets, or money that we will use to purchase toys and other goodies to make these baskets special for these special children.

We are collecting chocolate Easter bunnies, small stuffed animals, plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy, small Easter toys, crayons / small coloring books, play doh, slime, stickers, small sports balls, hot wheels cars, card games, fun socks, bubbles, flavored chapstick, etc.

Donation drop off dates and times:
(Royal Lane Baptist Church parking lot)
March 6th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
March 13th 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

We will also come pick up your donations if you can't get to the church one of these dates, just contact the church office to request a pick up.

Thank you all for helping to make Easter special for our beloved community!

IN FOCUS

The Education Committee invites you to join us Wednesday, March 10, at 6:15 pm for our March IN FOCUS. — The Beloved Community
See link on Home page of website or March web calendar.
Zoom link: us02web.zoom.us/j/88170730964

“Understanding the Consequences of the Death Penalty” with Kristin Houle Cuellar as the speaker.
Kristin is the executive director of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Coming Events

Friday	February 19
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
Saturday	February 20
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	February 21 – First Sunday in Lent
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
Tuesday	February 23
12:00 pm	Pastor's Book Group — Zoom
Wednesday	February 24
6:30 pm	Understanding the COVID-19 Vaccinations – with Jamie Lockett & Melissa Walker Lockett — Zoom
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Virtual
Friday	February 26
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
Saturday	February 27
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	February 28 – Second Sunday in Lent
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
Tuesday	March 2
12:00 pm	Pastor's Book Group — Zoom
Wednesday	March 3 – Mosaic
6:30 pm	Midweek Bible Study – with Mike Gregg — Zoom Acts 2:1-41, The Coming of the Spirit
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Virtual
Friday	March 5
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
Saturday	March 6
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom

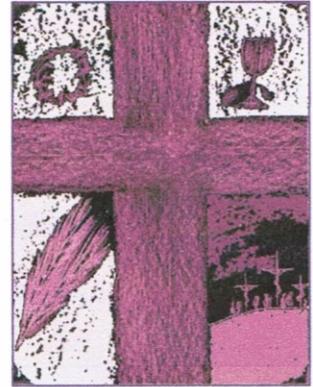
The deadline for the order of service, the Midweek, and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.

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

How to Connect

See the Weekly Mosaic, Weekend Update or Web Calendar for Links and details for
Zoom, Livestream and Virtual events — royallane.org/resources/events
Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

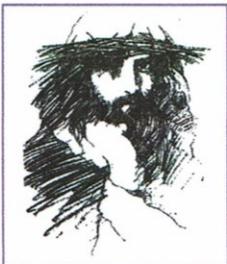
2021 Lent & Holy Week



Theme: I Wait...based on Psalm 130

First Sunday in Lent: "Out of the Depths, I Cry"
Second Sunday in Lent: "My Cry for Mercy"
Third Sunday in Lent: "If You, Lord, Keep a Record"
Fourth Sunday in Lent: "With You, Forgiveness, So We can Serve"
Fifth Sunday in Lent: "In God's Word is My Hope"
Palm/Passion Sunday: "I Wait for the Lord"
Easter Sunday: "For with the Lord is Unfailing Hope"

- Saturday February 13**
10:00 am Palm Frond & Ash Drive Through (10:00 am – Noon)
Drive Through to pick up Ashes, Palm Fronds and Lenten Packet
in preparation for virtual Ash Wednesday Service on February 17, and Lent.
- Sunday February 14 – Transfiguration Sunday / Farewell to Alleluia**
11:00 am Morning Worship — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
- Wednesday February 17 – Ash Wednesday**
6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service — Zoom
- Sunday March 28 – Palm/Passion Sunday**
11:00 am Morning Worship – Royal Lane YouTube Channel
- Friday April 2 – Good Friday**
7:30 pm Good Friday Service – Royal Lane YouTube Channel
- Saturday April 3**
2:00 pm Drive Through Holy Week & Easter Egg "Hunt" (2:00 – 4:00 pm)
- Sunday April 4 – Easter Sunday**
8:00 am Flowering of the Cross — Front Lawn (*Open All Day with Social Distancing*)
11:00 am Morning Worship — Royal Lane YouTube Channel



2021 Lent Devotionals

"Praying with Scripture During Lent"
by Rev. Roger Gench

Lent Devotionals are posted online and distributed via email.

Print copies available upon request.

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REGISTER TODAY!

Confronting Christian Nationalism in Your Congregation

WEBINAR
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
10-11:30 A.M. CENTRAL TIME

CHRISTIANS
AGAINST
CHRISTIAN
NATIONALISM



Featuring Amanda Tyler,
Executive Director of BJC

Christian nationalism webinar to help congregations face “hard questions”

How can congregations help their members deal with divisive questions that dominate the news and invade their worship spaces? They include:

- “What is the difference between patriotism and nationalism?”
- “How are Christian nationalism and white supremacy linked?”
- “How can we identify and root out Christian nationalism in our congregations?”

These are hard questions that confront congregations across the country, noted Amanda Tyler, executive director of Washington-based BJC (Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty), the only national faith-based group solely focused on protecting religious freedom for all people.

Tyler will be the keynote speaker for “Confronting Christian Nationalism in Your Congregation,” a webinar sponsored by BJC, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas, Christians Against Christian Nationalism, Faith Commons, and Fellowship Southwest. The webinar will feature a presentation by Tyler and an open question-and-answer session with participants.

“Confronting Christian Nationalism in Your Congregation” will be held Friday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m. Central Time. Registration is required. To participate, register at fellowshipsouthwest.org/events/cacn



Easter Flower Dedications

It's time to submit dedications for Easter Flowers. These may be submitted online at royallane.org/easter-flower-dedications/. You may also email the church office at info@royallane.org, or leave a message at 214-361-2809, ext. 11. Printed forms are available in the church office. \$15.00 per dedication. Please submit dedications by Thursday, March 25.

Payment Options:

Check – mail or bring to the church office.

Credit card – contact Janet to provide information or email to instruct her to use information on file

Online bill – through personal bank account

Pay online – click the link provided in the online order which opens in a new window - complete payment then return to form window to SUBMIT Easter Flower Dedication.



Wednesdays at RLBC

Acts of the Apostles Bible Study
Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM
Teaching: Pastor Mike Gregg
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88170730964>

January 13 – Outline and Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles

January 20 – Quarterly Church Conference

January 27 – Overview and History of the Acts of the Apostles

February 3 – Acts 1:1-26, The Ascension and Preparation for Pentecost

February 10 – In Focus – Becoming Beloved Community: An Anti-Racist Church

February 17 – Ash Wednesday Service

February 24 – Understanding the COVID-19 Vaccination: A Conversation with Jamie Lockett and Melissa Walker-Lockett

March 3 – Acts 2:1-41, The Coming of the Spirit

March 10 – In Focus – Understanding the Consequences of the Death Penalty

March 17 – Acts 2:42-47, The New Community

March 24 – Acts 3:1-26, Healing at the Temple and Peter's Speech

March 31 – Acts 4:1-31, Peter and John Arrested and Praying Together

April 7 – Acts 4:32-5:11, Living in Radical Community

April 14 – In Focus

April 21 – Quarterly Church Conference

April 28 – Acts 5:12-6:7, The Apostles Before the Sanhedrin and Appointing of the Seven

May 5 – Acts 6:8-7:60, The Ministry and Martyrdom of Stephen

May 12 – In Focus

May 19 – Acts 8:1-40, The Church is Scattered and Philip's Ministry

May 26 – Acts 9:1-31, Saul's Conversion and Calling

Deacons of the Week

February 21

Sarah Fuller Phillips

Karen Simmons

February 28

Mike Keith

Margaret Darden

Scriptures of the Week

February 21

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Psalm 25:1-10

Mark 1:9-15

February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Romans 4:13-25

Psalm 22:23-31

Mark 8:31-38

All In-Person Midweek Services & Fellowship Meals Temporarily Suspended

6:30 p.m. Wednesday

February 24

Understanding the
COVID-19 Vaccination
with Jamie Lockett &
Melissa Walker-Lockett

March 3

Acts 2:1-21,
The Coming of the Spirit
with Mike Gregg



The Box Gallery
is Temporarily Closed

To change mail or email preferences for *The Mosaic*,
contact Barbara Merry, 214-361-2809, ext. 10 or
bmerry@royallane.org.

December 2020 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues	\$747,063
Expenses	\$706,863
Surplus (Deficit)	\$40,201

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/

Giving menu includes:

General Fund

Columbarium

Easter Flowers

The Lowe Scholarship Fund

Other

Optional Memo Line available.

Happy Birthday!

February

Darlene Carpenter	17
Glenn Brown	23
Dina DiMaria	23
Cilla King	23
Daniel Robinson	23
Lisa Waters	23
Ashley Fleenor	24
Amy Brown	26
Franklin Gitlin	27

March

Addison Birdwell	1
Mark DeWitt	2



Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane
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ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

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