

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



Matthew 20:1-16

The Worship of God

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Words & Candle Lighting

Tim Schaefer

In our gospel lesson for today Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. This parable is about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Voluntary

David Weigle

A Thousand Tongues NETTLETON — William A. McNair

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

The Spirit now calls us to worship.

The worship of God involves a declaration of worth.

So let us declare again the things that are worthy.

You have heard it said,

You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemies.

But I say to you, love your enemies.

The powers that rule—and sometimes overtake our own hearts—consider the Way of Jesus a foolish option.

The last shall be first, and the first will be last.

Day by endless day the world insists that you are what you make;

that your value equals what you earn;

that your worth accumulates according to your ability to hoard.

Day by endless day the world insists that only the strong will survive.

But Jesus said:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.

Day by endless day the world insists

that ultimate power flows through the barrel of a gun,

that mercy impairs strength;

that policies of dominance will ensure a life of prosperity.

(continued)

**But we believe the meek shall inherit the earth;
that the last shall be first;
that the way to peace involves the risk—
yes, even this, beloveds—of loving enemies.**

—inspired by Matt 5:5, Matt 20:16, Matt 5:44, Matt 6:19, 24

Invocation

Harry Wooten

Call all the laborers, O God,
Call your laborers who woke early,
Call your laborers who came late,
Call your laborers who feel wronged,
Call your laborers who feel overlooked,
Call your laborers who have no employment,
Call your laborers who can't feed their children with this wage,
Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,
Call you laborers who use their wage to increase your love,
Call your laborers, O God,
Tell us to roll up our sleeves
For we know that we have work to do.
Let us find you in the work we share here and now,
in Christ's presence we pray. Amen.

—inspired by Matthew 20:1-16

Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy — RESTORATION

Testimony of Joy

Jonah, interviewed by Tim Schaefer

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Michael Gregg

God, we come to this day in need of reassurance. We know we have been at fault.
We know we have been complicit in various ways.

**We become discouraged and hopeless. We become cynical and apathetic.
We need assurance of your unfailing love.**

(continued)

Sometimes, in the mess and busyness of everyday life, it's hard to remember that we are loved unconditionally, that you are merciful and gracious; that forgiveness is a given, that your compassion is ours to share in.

We are learning more deeply: That justice for the oppressed is your business, that redemption and healing are your business, and we are invited to join you in your work of liberative, forgiving, merciful love. Your priorities become our priorities.

Reassure us, oh God, in meaningful, tangible ways, of your steadfast love toward us. In the hour of our despair buoy us up on waves of peace. Let us share in your endless supply of forgiveness.

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

Let us pray:

We ask all this so that, despite our current trials, we might be heralds of your Kin-dom—that good and peaceful Promised Land as it makes its steady progress here on earth. Amen.

Response [see insert]

Worshippers

Jesus, Lover of My Soul — ABERYSTWYTH
(stanza one)

Scripture Lesson

Andy Cavins

Matthew 20:1-16 [see insert]

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

Solo

Dan Thompson

People Need the Lord — Gregg Nelson & Phill McHugh

Sermon

Tim Schaefer

“ The First Will Be Last ”

Offertory

Jonah, French Horn

Caprice — J. F. Gallay

Communion

Worshippers

As God gave our ancestors manna in the wilderness, so now God offers us sustenance in this gift of holy communion. Come to be fed. Come to be filled. Come to be satisfied with the grace of Christ's love.

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen!

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen!

Communion Prayer

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us your gracious love and your abiding presence, that we may be your presence and your love in the world. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us in one spirit and mind, and strengthen us for the journey of faith, to be one with you, united in ministry to all your world. Through your child, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

For the Fruit of All Creation — AR HYD Y NOS
(stanza one)

Blessing

Tim Schaefer

Go out this day practicing God's strange generosity toward others, sharing the good news with them, and rejoicing in their well-being that you, too, may be well.

Benediction

May the generous grace of Christ attend you,
the astounding love of God find you,
and the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you,
everywhere and always.

Amen.

Amen.

Postlude

David Weigle

Improvisation on OLD HUNDREDTH — Alice Jordan

§ § § § § § §

Cover Art
Workers in the Vineyard – Orthodox Icon, Mural
from Art in the Christian Tradition
A Project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN
Used by permission

Hymn Notes

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

*Text: Joseph Hart, Music: William Walker's Southern Harmony
Public Domain*

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Text: Charles Wesley, Music: Joseph Parry, Public Domain

For the Fruit of All Creation

*Text: Fred Pratt Green, Copyright © 1970, Hope Publishing Company
All rights reserved, Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722998*

Missions Project Supporting Teachers at Foster Elementary School



Please join the RLBC Missions Division in supporting the teachers and staff at Stephen C. Foster Elementary School in Dallas. We will be providing snacks and drinks to bless the teachers and staff in September as they return to distance learning in September. If you want to contribute, visit our wish list on Amazon at this link:

RLBC Missions Project for Foster Elementary School
<https://amzn.to/3gTUkms>

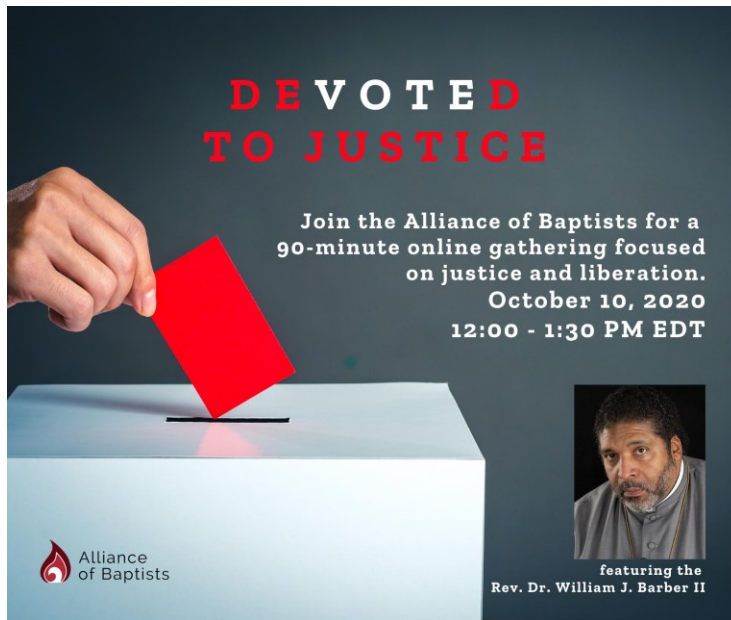
You can purchase items which will ship to a central location, where Missions Division members will collect and deliver the goodies to the teachers and staff at Foster Elementary. Help us bless these amazing hard-working educators. If you do not use Amazon but still want to contribute, you can contact Charlotte Sewell (charlottesewell@yahoo.com) or Laura Keller (lkeller@royallane.org) to find out how to help.



Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle Guest Preacher Sunday, September 27

Stephen V. Sprinkle is Professor of Practical Theology and has held the office of Director of Field Education and Supervised Ministry since 1994 at Brite Divinity School, located on the campus of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. A native of North Carolina, and educated with a B.A. from Barton College, an M.Div. from Yale University Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Duke University Graduate School, he is an ordained minister of the Alliance of Baptists. Dr. Sprinkle was named 2010-2011 Hero of Hope by the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Texas for his advocacy on behalf of the LGBTQ community, and currently serves as Theologian-in-Residence for the Cathedral. In 2013, he was named Director of Baptist Programming for the Divinity School. He holds professional memberships in the Academy of Religious Leadership, the Association of Theological Field Educators, and is a member of the Forum on the Military Chaplaincy. Dr. Sprinkle is a human rights advocate, a widely sought speaker, and an internationally recognized authority on anti-LGBTQ hate crimes.

Dr. Sprinkle is the author of many articles and chapters in books, and of three books, *Disciples and Theology* (1999) and *Ordination* (2004), both published by Chalice Press, and *Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memories of LGBTQ Hate Crimes Victims* (2011) by Resource Publications. *Unfinished Lives* won the International Silver Medal in Gay/Lesbian Non-fiction, given by the Independent Book Publishers Awards (the IPPYs) in 2012. In 2013, his book was translated into Korean and published in the Republic of Korea under the title, *Who Trampled Down the Rainbow Flag?: Remembering the Death of Victims of Hate Crimes Against the Sexual Minority* (Seoul, South Korea: Alma Publishing Co. Ltd.). Dr. Sprinkle is the founder and webmaster of unfinishedlivesblog.com, and an official blogger for the Huffington Post.



Join the Alliance of Baptists on October 10 for Devoted to Justice, the Alliance's fall online gathering. This 90-minute online gathering will focus on liberation and justice in our current climate and will feature keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. William Barber II. The program will provide the opportunity for inspiration, reflection, connection, a chance to check-in with your Alliance family and to hear the state of the Alliance in these unprecedented times.

Register at <https://bit.ly/32kBiR8>



Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy



1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;
2. Come, ye thirst - y, come, and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3. Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y - la - den, lost and ru - ined by the fall;
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
all the fit - ness He re - quir - eth is to feel your need of Him.



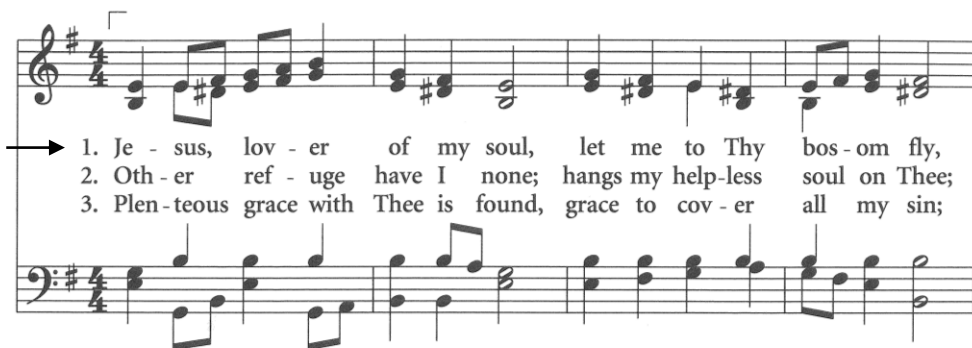
I will a - rise and go to Je - sus, He will em - brace me in His arms;



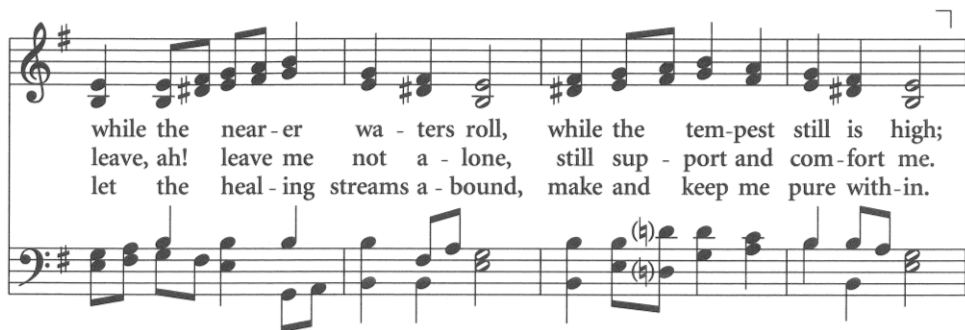
in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.



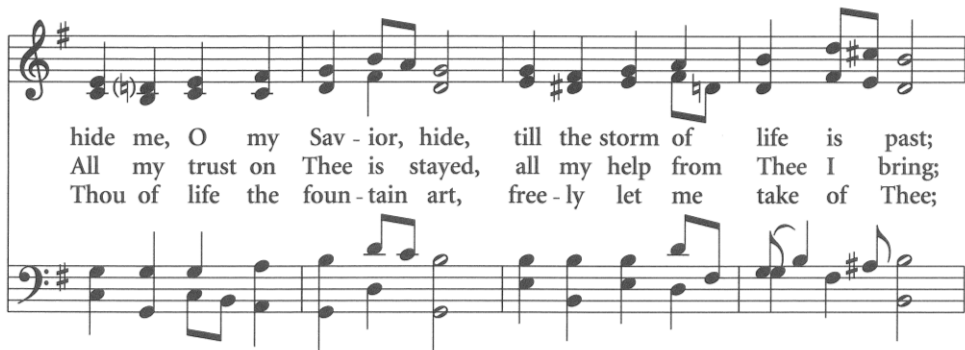
Jesus, Lover of My Soul



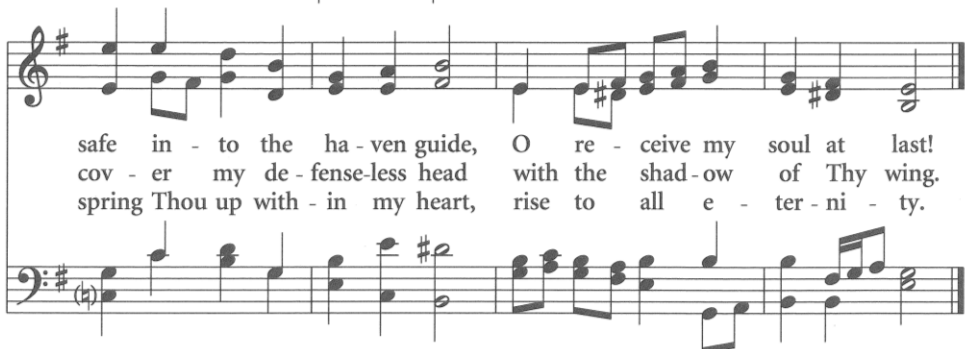
1. Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to Thy bos - om fly,
2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help - less soul on Thee;
3. Plen - teous grace with Thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;



while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high;
leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me.
let the heal - ing streams a - bound, make and keep me pure with - in.



hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
Thou of life the foun - tain art, free - ly let me take of Thee;



safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of Thy wing.
spring Thou up with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

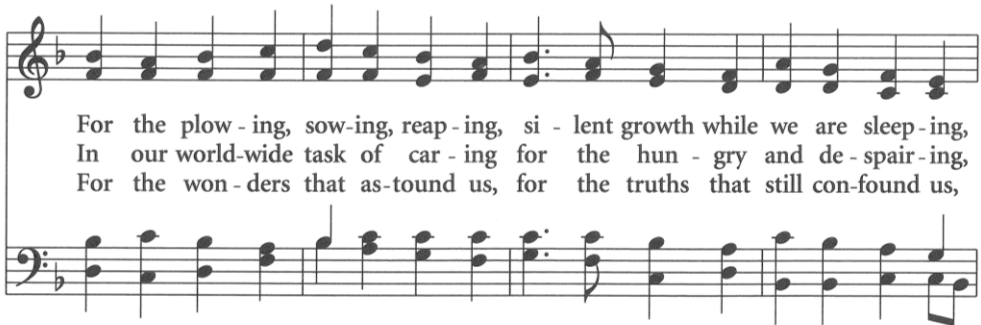
For the Fruit of All Creation




1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

The Scripture this morning is Matthew 20:1-16

20“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

(NRSV)

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

Schedule for the Week

- Sunday** **September 20 –Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School – Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
- Wednesday** **September 23**
6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study with Mike Gregg – Zoom
 Luke 21:1-38, Jerusalem’s Destruction and End
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir — Zoom
- Friday** **September 25**
12:00 pm Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
- Saturday** **September 26**
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** **September 27 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**
9:45 am Foundation Stones Class — Zoom
10:00 am Women’s Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am Morning Worship — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
 Steve Sprinkle, Guest Preacher
12:30 pm Missions Committee — Zoom
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School – Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom

November 1, All Saints’ Sunday

On Sunday, November 1, 2020, we will honor the saints of Royal Lane Baptist Church who have passed away since November 1 of 2019. If you have a family member you would like to honor in this service, please leave a message with the church office, 214-361-2809, by Wednesday, October 21 for listing in the Order of Worship. Include name, date of death, and your relationship to this person. We have gathered many names for this list. Please check with the church office to make sure we have included your family member.

You may also submit your remembrance requests by email to bmerry@royallane.org or jschultz@royallane.org.



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 benefit from quality office support for our ministries.

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

6707 Royal Lane • Dallas, Texas 75230

[214] 361-2809 • <http://www.royallane.org>

Like RLBC on Facebook or Follow RLBC on Twitter

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