

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Words & Candle Lighting

Christin Lavery

When we love God and our neighbors, everything changes. May your love, Eternal God, move all that stands before it. We yearn to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, but often find such love beyond us. Nurture us in your healing love, that fear may hold no sway over us.

Voluntary

Glenn Hummel, trumpet, & David Weigle

A Mighty Fortress EIN' FESTE BURG— arranged by Christina Harmon

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

We commit ourselves to working for justice,
standing up for the defenseless,
and defending the vulnerable.

**Heaven and earth, be witness to our work
of creating a world steeped in liberation for all.**

We cannot change the past.

We are invited to learn from it.

We can create a new reality in the present.

God, we know that the nation's hands are bloody.

We will no longer oppress.

We will no longer marginalize.

Poverty will no longer prevail.

Supremacy will be unwoven from this nation's tapestry.

Inequitable laws will not thrive in our justice system.

God, just as you love us, we will love all people.

Love will be infused in all that we do.

—Rev. Aretha R. Fletcher,

Director of Community and Spiritual Life, Brite Divinity School,

Member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance.

Invocation

Harry Wooten

Bless your servants, O God, and favor us with your steadfast love. May your love flow through us like springs of living water, that we may rejoice and be glad all the days of our lives. Amen.

Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God — EIN' FESTE BURG
(stanzas one and four)

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Tim Schaefer

Beloved, Who beckons us with the aroma of baking bread. Whose breast offers milk and sweet honey. Who showers manna in the wilderness, with fresh water from sheer rock, and instruction from the mountain.

We give thanks for our baptismal trek through the sea, on the road from slavery to freedom.

Even still, though the restraints on our hands have fallen, those on our hearts remain. We are anxious about our 401(k)s and find ourselves longing for Pharaoh's shiny baubles and Amazon's free delivery. Even as our ancient kin were skeptical about Moses' mandate, so too are we about the one from Jesus.

Disquiet haunts our dreams. Confidence in Your Dream fades. Sometimes, like Nicodemus—fear of losing a seat in the halls of power, of forfeiting “Gold” status or “Rewards” benefits—we slink through darkened streets for a clandestine encounter with Your incarnate Presence.

Thank you for keeping a light on, a door ajar, a gentle embrace, a welcoming table.

We live in a season, on a land, among a people, with much scalding. Our seas are burning. Our forests are burning. Our streets are burning. Pandemic's fever surrounds.

We are confronted with the awful truth that many who have worn crosses are prominent among those who burn them.

(continued)

Grant to us a reforming repentance that overshadows grief, that prompts not regret but joyful refrain. Rend and amend our hearts with the aborning power from above—beyond the reach of every marketeer—by the Spirit Who neither shames nor tames but unleashes courage and prowess and perseverance.

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

Let us pray:

Beloved, send Your angels to remind us that we are a delight to the Most High. And thereby make us audacious, for the living of these days. Amen.

—Ken Sehested, editor/author of the online journal *prayer&politics*,
founding director of Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

Scripture Lesson

Donna Wood-Martin

John 3:1-8 [see insert]

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

Sermon

James Forbes, Jr.

“ The Answer to the Soul’s Eternal Question ”

Stewardship Hymn

Worshippers

The Ties That Bind — DENNIS



And when__ we ga - ther here, No long - er kept__ a - part, Our



wor - ship will__ re - sound a - new__ From o - ver - flow - ing hearts.

A Stewardship Moment

Ed Meier

Offertory

Glenn Hummel, trumpet, & David Weigle

Meditation on THAXTED — Sterling Proctor

Deacon Ordination

Christin Lavery, Donna Wood-Martin

Statement of Purpose and Presentation of Ordinands

Michael Gregg

Do you reaffirm your faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; do you seek the peace, unity and purity of the church; and do you, in accepting the office of deacon in this congregation, promise faithfully to perform all the duties pertaining to your calling?

Ordinands: I do, God being my helper.

Do you, the members of Royal Lane Baptist Church, receive these persons as deacons within the shared ministry of Christ's mission, and do you covenant to encourage and support them in the fulfillment of their responsibilities?

All: We do, God being our helper.

Induction and Words of Affirmation

Terry Berrier & Worshipers

I now ask the congregation to join in a covenant of affirmation saying:

Reaffirming our faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we gladly receive these as servant leaders in our life together. We covenant to support them with our prayers, encouragement, and respect. We celebrate with thanksgiving the shared responsibilities for Christ's ministry which is ours as the church. Praise be to God.

Words of Encouragement

Worshipers

From the earliest times the church has acknowledged and confirmed God's call to ministry through the symbolic act of the laying on of hands and prayer. Since we are unable to be in person for worship, please post words of encouragement and prayers in the comment section or send cards to the Church Office for Christin and Donna.

Prayer of Blessing & Declaration

Charlotte Sewell

Gracious God, we thank you for these your servants who have been called and ordained as deacons. As we set them apart for this ministry we ask that you fill them with all the graces needed to fulfill their responsibilities. Grant them the spirit of compassion for human needs, and devotion to the well-being of your church, that together we may grow ever more fully into the likeness of Christ. Amen.

(continued)

In the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and in accordance with the actions of this congregation, I declare that you are now a member of the diaconate of this church.

Affirmation: **Thanks be to God!**

Recognition of Outgoing Deacon Chair, Paulette Harrison

Charlotte Sewell

Closing Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow — OLD HUNDREDTH

Blessing

Michael Gregg

God's love sends us forth.

God's love sets us free.

God's love makes us whole

God's love brings us hope.

God's love blesses our lives.

God's love brings healing to our world.

Amen.

Amen.

Postlude

Glenn Hummel, trumpet, & David Weigle

Rondeau — Jean Joseph Mouret

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See Page 12 for At Home Communion Liturgy

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Cover Art — *The Ties That Bind*, 2020 stewardship theme

Hymn Notes

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Text and Music: Martin Luther, tr. Frederick H. Hedge, Public Domain

The Ties That Bind

Text: Terre Johnson

Used by permission

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Text and Music: Public Domain

The Ties That Bind

Our stewardship theme for this year is “The Ties That Bind”. We are bound together by many aspects of our lives even though we cannot be physically together every Wednesday night and Sunday morning. We are grateful for all the ways our ties have not changed due to COVID-19. As a church community we continue to care for the vulnerable and those who struggle with chronic health issues. We reach out to the elderly. We teach our children. We worship virtually. And we help each other in hard times.



Pledge online at royallane.org/pledge/

Newly Elected Deacons

Three-Year Term

Nate Green

John Helms

Mike Keith

Christin Lavery

Sandy Washington

Donna Wood-Martin

One-Year Unexpired Term

Joey Belgard

Melissa Orwig

Deacon Officers

Charlotte Sewell, Deacon Chair

Terry Berrier, Deacon Vice-Chair

Cathy Walling, Deacon Secretary

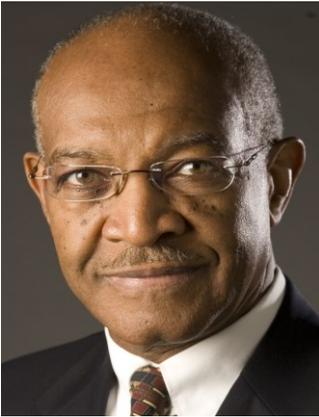
Today is the Day for the
Drive-Thru Trick or Treat



Royal Lane Baptist Church

Sunday, October 25 ~ 4:00 - 5:00

Sponsored by the RLBC Youth and Fellowship Committee



The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr., is National Minister of the Drum Major Institute, Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church, The Harry Emerson Fosdick Distinguished Professor at Union Theological Seminary, and President of the Healing of the Nations Ministries (all of these institutions of New York City). Additionally, Dr. Forbes is a highly acclaimed author, scholar and nationally sought-after speaker, affectionately referred to in national and international religious circles as the *preacher's preacher* because of his extensive preaching career and his charismatic style. *Newsweek* magazine once recognized Forbes as one of the 12 “most effective preachers” in the English-speaking world. As a passionate educator, administrator, community and human rights activist and interfaith leader, Dr. Forbes was twice designated as one of America’s greatest Black preachers by *Ebony* magazine. Dr. Forbes is a featured TEDex speaker and also a frequent guest & contributor to top national media outlets including Huffington Post, MSNBC and others.

As Senior Minister of the Riverside Church—an interdenominational, interracial, and international church built by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. in 1927, Dr. Forbes led a 2,400 member church. Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches and the United Church of Christ. Forbes was installed as the fifth senior minister of Riverside on June 1, 1989 and retired on June 1, 2007. He was the first African-American to serve as minister of this multicultural congregation. Dr. Forbes is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches.

In the fall of 2018, Dr. Forbes offered a lecture series entitled “Preaching and the Next Great Awakening” at Shaw University Divinity School to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is currently teaching a course, “Preaching Jubilee Justice”, at Duke University Divinity School.

Born in 1935 in Burgaw, North Carolina, Dr. Forbes is married to Bettye Franks Forbes, formerly of San Antonio, Texas. They are the proud parents of one son, James A. Forbes, III and two grandchildren, Hannah Rose and James IV.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los - ing,
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat-en to un - do us,
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

our help-er He, a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choos - ing,
we will not fear, for God has willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - ba - oth, His
The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
name, from age to age the same, and He must win the bat - tle.
dure, for lo, his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.
kill: God's truth a - bid-eth still, His king-dom is for - ev - er.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures

The first system of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The accompaniment starts with a whole note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. There are fermatas over the first and fifth measures of both staves.

here below; praise Him, above ye heavenly host; praise

The second system of music continues in G major and 4/4 time. The treble staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff continues with quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. There are fermatas over the first and fifth measures of both staves.

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The third system of music concludes the piece in G major and 4/4 time. The treble staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff continues with quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. There are fermatas over the first and fifth measures of both staves.

The Scripture this morning is John 3:1-8

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

(NRSV)

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

At Home Communion Liturgy

Communion

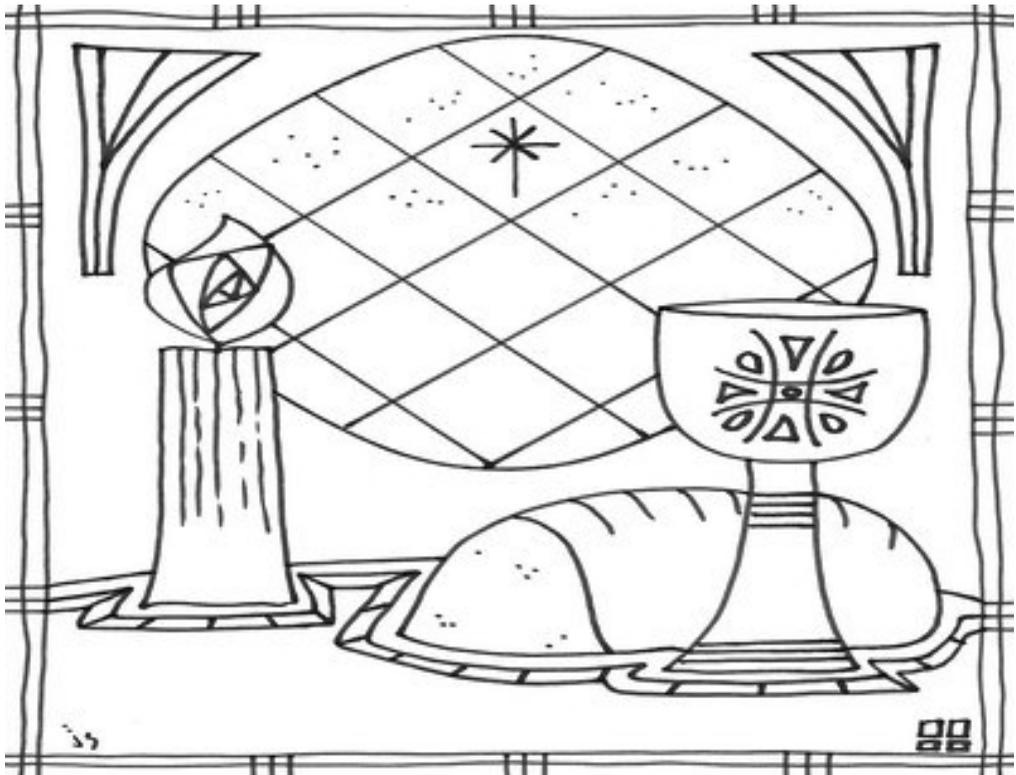
God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around the table we enact our faith. The body broken is restored to wholeness; lifeblood poured out brings healing to our world.

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

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

Communion Prayer

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Schedule for the Week

- Sunday** **October 25 – Reformation Sunday**
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
4:00 pm Drive-Thru Trick or Treat — Church Grounds (4:00 – 5:00 pm)
6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — Zoom
- Wednesday** **October 28**
6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study with Mike Gregg — Zoom
 Luke 23:1-25, Jesus before Pilate and Herod
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir — Zoom
- Friday** **October 30**
12:00 pm Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
- Saturday** **October 31**
2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
- Sunday** **November 1 – All Saints Sunday / Daylight Savings Ends.**
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
3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm Memorial Service – Dr. Raymond Vickrey, Pastor Emeritus
 Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel
6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — Zoom

Next Sunday – November 1, Daylight Savings Ends



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

Garey Wisdom & Blake Miller

When WE Give: our worship resounds with overflowing hearts.

August 2020 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues	\$ 522,107
Expenses	\$ 499,852
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 22,255

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