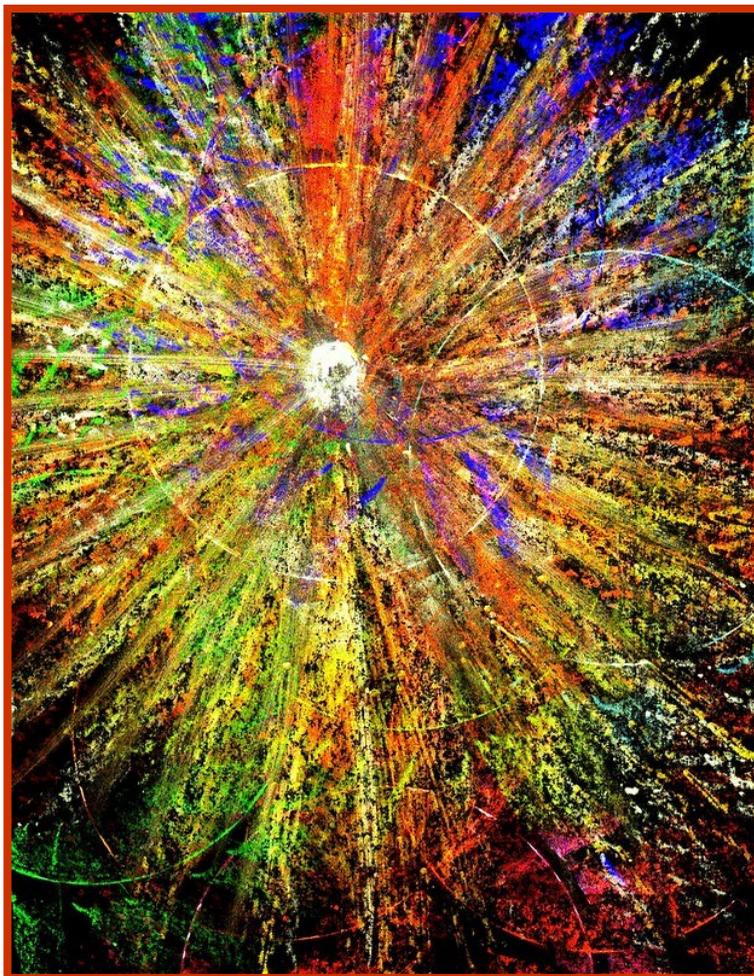


ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Easter / Earth Sunday

April 25, 2021

11:00 A.M.

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Words & Candle Lighting

Michael Gregg

Welcome to this Earth Day worship service! Like so many days, this day holds wonder and sorrow. Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970 as a day to honor the Earth and to participate in environmental teach-ins. Since then, the environmental movement has grown in this country and environmental awareness permeates much of our society. At the same time, the environmental problems we face have grown as climate change has had deeper and graver impact on Earth. Problems with consumption and other environmental degradation have also grown with the world's economy and population. Today we join together to hold our hope and our pain, to honor Earth, and to recognize how deeply our relationship with Earth and our work for environmental justice is intertwined with ALL of our spiritualities. This is not the work of one day, but on this day we honor Earth. Come, let us worship together!

Voluntary

David Weigle

Fantasy on EASTER HYMN — William H. Harris

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten

Morning has broken!

We gather to greet the new day by praising God.

God created us for relationship with God, one another, and the earth.

Let us honor those relationships today and every day.

We seek to care for all of God's kin-dom around the world and for God's good Creation.

Let us honor those relationships today and every day.

May we commit to new ways of honoring God's Creation as a means of sharing Jesus' transforming love,

And let us seek God's grace, justice and mercy for all.

Invocation

Harry Wooten

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

Morning Has Broken — BUNESSAN

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Blake Miller & Worshippers

Caring God, we thank you for your gifts of Creation. We thank you for the glory of your heavens, the beauty that surrounds us, and for the resources and rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth, that we may use your gifts responsibly; for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry, that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors and marvel at your creation. For artists, scientists, and visionaries, that through their work we may see creation afresh.

We pray for all creatures and plants that have been put in peril by our actions, for all who through their own or other's actions are deprived of fullness of life, for prisoners, refugees, the handicapped, and all who are sick; for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for your Church, for all who seek to bring life to others.

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

Let us pray:

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your creation.

Give us reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;

may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love as you love us.

God, Creator, bring us life. Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

Set us, your new creation, to walk through this new world,

watching and learning, loving and trusting, until your kingdom comes. Amen.

Response [see insert]

Worshipers

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us — BRADBURY
(stanzas 1 & 2)

Scripture Lessons

Melissa Orwig

Ezekiel 34:2b-5, 11-15 [see insert]

John 10:11-18 [see insert]

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

Anthem

Ensemble

For the Beauty of the Earth — John Rutter

Sermon

Sarah Macias

“ Earth Shepherds ”

Offertory

David Weigle

Rain Down — arranged by Mark Hayes

Closing Hymn [see insert]

Worshipers

The Day of Resurrection! — LANCASHIRE
(stanzas 1 & 3)

Blessing

Sarah Macias

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd,
and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action.
Believe in the name of Jesus Christ,
and love one another, just as Christ has commanded.
May the Holy Spirit abide in you
and tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord
...In the name of Christ.
Amen.

Postlude

David Weigle

The Lily of the Valley — arranged by Eleanor Whitsett

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Cover Art — *The Art of Creation: And God Said...* John Stuart
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Hymn Notes

Morning Has Broken

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931; Music: arr. Mark Edwards, 2007

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Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Public Domain

The Day of Resurrection

Public Domain

Join us for a Service of Remembrance for

EDWIN (ED) BENJAMIN BRIGHT

Husband of

SHEILA BRIGHT

Father of

LAURIE BRIGHT PAGE

LISA BRIGHT GILL

LESLIE BRIGHT MCKINNEY

Service of Remembrance will be held

Saturday, May 1, 10:00 am

Photo Gallery at 9:45 am

Join us for the online service on the

Royal Lane YouTube Channel

<https://bit.ly/3axQxuW>



Women of the Church Picnic
“Together Again” – Brown Bag Picnic
Saturday, May 1, 12:00 pm
Drinks & Desserts Provided

We will gather to reminisce about the past year, make plans for the coming year and enjoy each other's company.

Bring your own lunch, wear your mask and we will visit outside under our beautiful trees.

If you need a ride or more information,
contact Karen Miller,
kmiller238@sbcglobal.net



Gregg Family Farewell
Saturday May 8th
2-4 pm



Please join us as we celebrate Pastor Mike and send the Gregg family off to Nashville with love. Come and say goodbye on the lawn under the trees next to the east parking lot. We will have a basket to collect cards for the family, and a photo book to sign. If you want to give a monetary gift to the Gregg family, we will be collecting a Love Gift for them. You can send your Love Gift to the church or use the dropdown menu on the website under "Give". We hope to see all of you then!

Morning Has Broken

Unison

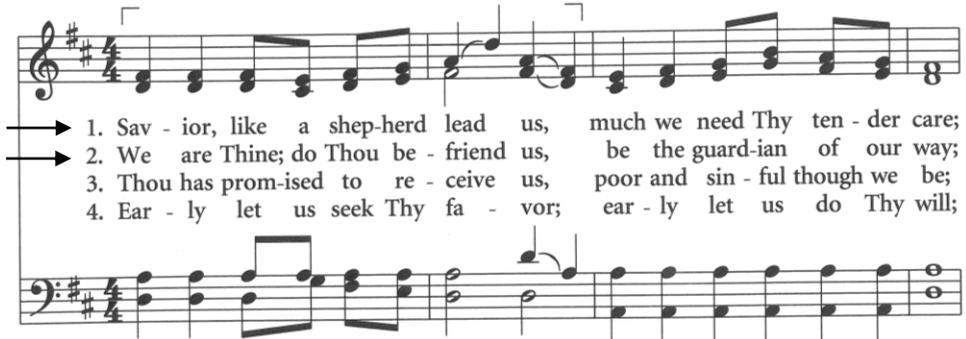
1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the

morn - ing, black-bird has spo - ken like the first
 heav - en, like the first dew - fall on the first
 morn - ing born of the one light E - den saw

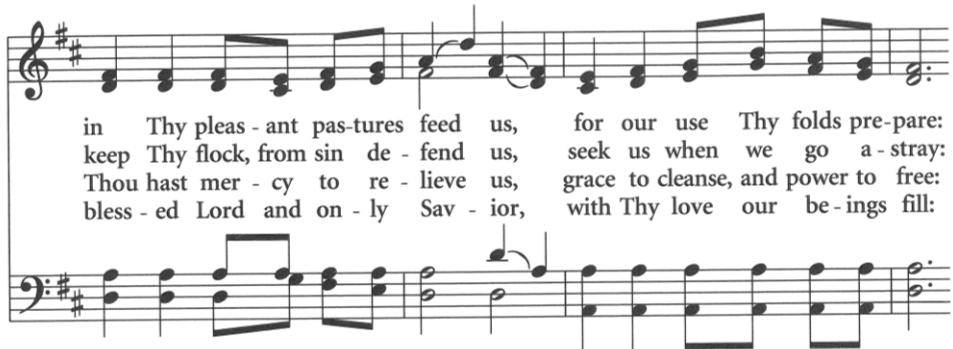
bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

morn - ing! Praise for them spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where His feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

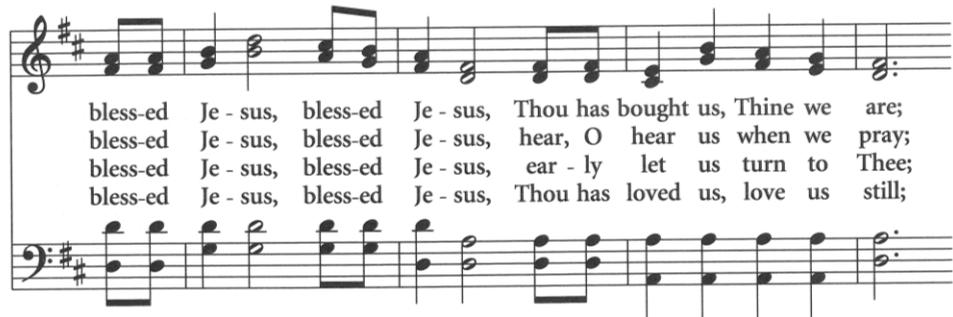
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us



1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need Thy ten - der care;
2. We are Thine; do Thou be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3. Thou has prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do Thy will;



in Thy pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use Thy folds pre-pare:
keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:
Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with Thy love our be - ings fill:

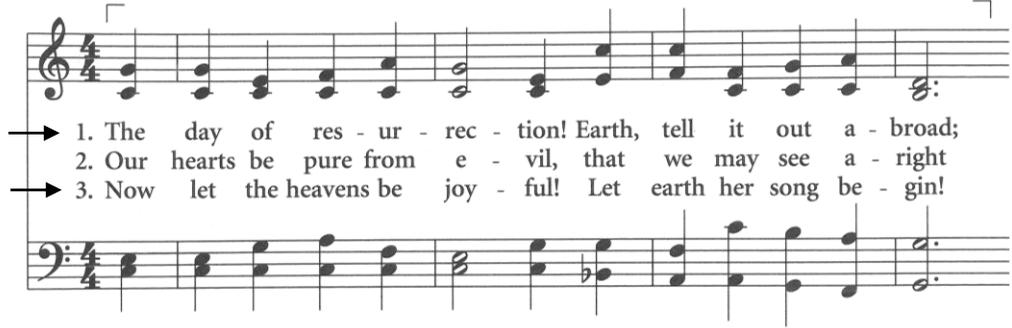


bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou has bought us, Thine we are;
bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou has loved us, love us still;

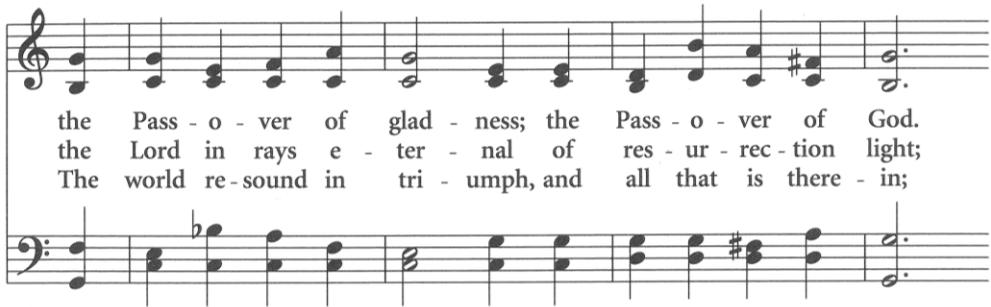


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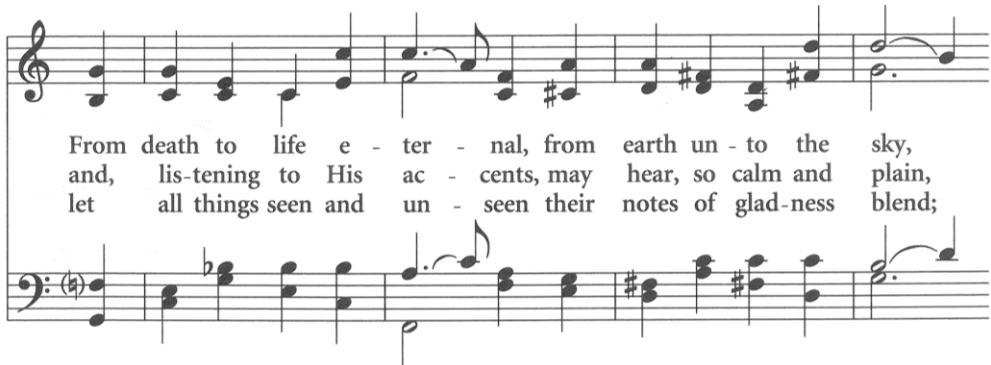
The Day of Resurrection!



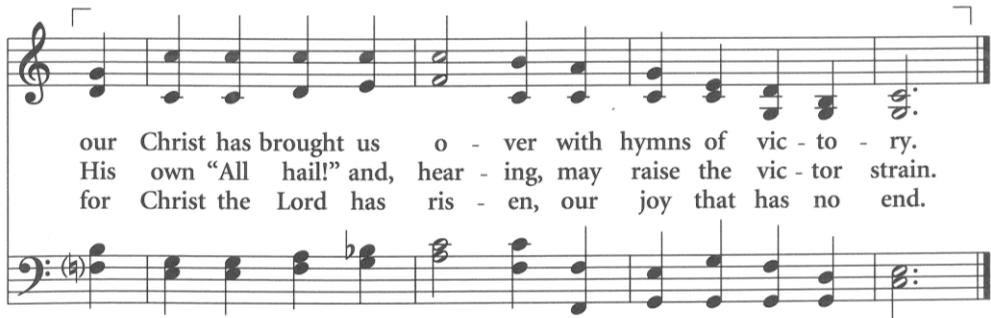
1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth her song be - gin!



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness; the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
The world re-sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
and, lis - tening to His ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend;



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The first Scripture this morning is Ezekiel 34:2b-5, 11-15

Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ³You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. ⁴You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. ⁵So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals.

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.
(NRSV)

The second Scripture this morning is John 10:11-18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

(NRSV)

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

Schedule for the Week

Sunday April 25 – Fourth Sunday of Easter / Earth Sunday

- 12:00 pm Youth Sunday School Class — Zoom
- 3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
- 4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
- 6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — Zoom
- 7:00 pm Connections Care Group — Zoom

Wednesday April 28

- 6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study with Mike Gregg — Zoom
Act 5:12-6:7, The Apostles Before the Sanhedrin and Appoint of the Seven
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir — Zoom

Friday April 30

- 12:00 pm Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom

Saturday May 1

- 10:00 am Service of Remembrance, Ed Bright — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
Photo Gallery at 9:45 am
- 12:00 pm Women of the Church Picnic — Church Grounds
- 2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom
- 2:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — RLBC Campus
- 8:00 pm Non-Traditional Class — Zoom

Sunday May 2 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:30 am Education Division — Zoom,
- 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 — Royal Lane Baptist YouTube Channel
- 12:00 pm Missions Division — Zoom
- 12:00 pm Youth Sunday School Class — Zoom
- 3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
- 4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
- 6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — Zoom

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.

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

Melissa Orwig & Blake Miller

When WE Give: we can reach out in prayer and support of our community.

February 2021 Financials

| | YTD Actual |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Revenues | \$ 93,029 |
| Expenses | \$ 104,857 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (\$ 11,828) |

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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Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant

Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician
David Weigle, Organist
Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship