

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ



The Worship of God

Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday

May 16, 2021

11:00 A.M.

Words of Welcome

Sharon Vickrey

Chiming of the Hour

Centering Words & Candle Lighting

Donna Wood-Martin & Worshipers

Blessed be God, Eternal Majesty, Living Word, Abiding Spirit.

Glory be to God forever.

Jesus said, the way to see God's dream for the world is to be born from above by the Spirit. The way to take part in that dream, says Jesus, is to be born of water and Spirit. That gift is available this day. May you receive God's Spirit, be made whole, and dwell more deeply in love divine.

Voluntary

David Weigle

Allemande from Suite V— J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Harry Wooten & Worshipers

Today is Ascension Sunday
when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

**We look up in wonder
as he is lifted up into heaven.**

But this is not a time to gaze upward.
There is work to be done.

**Jesus has entrusted
the ministry of God's love to us.**

Let's get to work.

**Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead
with prayer and praise!**

Invocation

Harry Wooten

God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. Amen.

Hymn [see insert]

Worshippers

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise — LLANFAIR
(stanzas 1 & 4)

Time for Young Disciples

Laura Keller

Prayers of the People

Nate Green

God of mercy and healing, you who hear the cries of those in need, receive these petitions of your people that all who are troubled may know peace, comfort, and courage.

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

Let us pray:

Life-giving God, heal our lives, that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds and offer you thanks from generation to generation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response [see insert]

Worshippers

Womb of Life, and Source of Being — IN BABILONE
(stanzas 1 & 2)

Scripture Lesson

Michael Massar

The Witness of Scripture – based on John 3:1-17 [see insert]

Sermon

Michael Massar

“ For Whom the Bell Tolls ”

Offertory

Ensemble

God so Loved the World — John Stainer
from The Crucifixion

Closing Hymn [see insert]

Worshipers

To God Be the Glory — William H. Doane
(stanzas 1 & 3)

Charge & Sending Forth

Michael Massar

Go out in faith,
trusting in God's sense of direction.
Remember how much God loves the world
and so love the world in the name of Christ,
that your testimony becomes the good news
someone else has been waiting to receive.
Amen.

Amen.

Postlude

David Weigle

Gavotte from Suite V — J. S. Bach

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Cover Art — *Born Again*, Copyright © 2016, Lauren Wright Pittman
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lewpstudio.com
(See Artist Statement, pg. 9)

Hymn Notes

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise
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Womb of Life, and Source of Being

Text: Ruth Duck, Copyright © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
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To God Be the Glory
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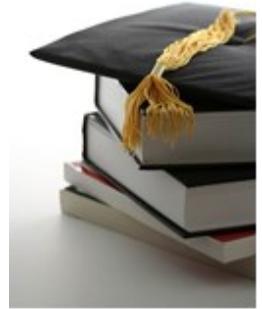
Today's Guest Preacher
Michael (Mike) Massar
Associate Pastor of Faith Formation
Woodland Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas

Mike hails from west Texas. His education background includes Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Mansfield College of Oxford University, the Graduate Theological Foundation and the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California.

He is married to Lisa, an early childhood specialist, and has three grown children whose families include four grandchildren.

To Families with Graduates!

Graduates will be recognized on June 6, 2021. Please notify the church office of students associated with Royal Lane who will be graduating this spring—high school, college, post-graduate degree or other. We would like a picture and brief bio for each student by Monday, May 17, for publication in the bulletin on Graduation Recognition Sunday, and in a June issue of the Mosaic.



In-Person Pentecost Service
Sunday, May 23, 10:00 am
South Lawn & Sanctuary Steps
Registration required



Registration opens Monday, May 17, 9:00 am at royallane.org
<https://bit.ly/2RiAOJQ>

Guest Preacher – Mark Wingfield

Mark Wingfield serves as executive director and publisher of Baptist News Global. He recently served 17 years as associate pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church. He and his wife, Alison are parents of two adult sons.

Virtual Pentecost Service — Sunday, May 23

Guest Preacher – Laura Mayo

11:00 am – Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Reverend Laura Mayo is the Senior Minister of Covenant Church, Houston, Texas. She is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Laura and her partner, Nicholas Stepp, have two sons, Owen & Grayson, who bring them such joy. Laura, Nick, Owen, and Grayson enjoy sailing, camping, projects, and cooking together.



Special Church Conference

Sunday, May 30

Jamie Luckett has been nominated by the Member Resource Committee to serve as a Deacon, filling the unexpired term of Amy Ward-Meier who will be joining Ed in Washington, D.C. Please join the Special Election by Zoom following worship, Sunday, May 30th.

Procedure for the Election of a Deacon to Fill an Unexpired Term

- At the close of worship Sunday, May 30th, members of RLBC will access the special church conference via a Zoom meeting. The Zoom ID for the meeting will be sent to members by email.
- Once the church has been called into conference, a link to access a ballot will appear in “Chat.”
 1. Members will open the ballot, mark the ballot, and submit it to be counted.
 2. Ballots must be accessed and submitted by 1:00 PM Sunday afternoon.
- Drive-by balloting will be available for one hour, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Sunday in the parking lot behind the sanctuary.
- Members of the Tabulating Committee will be tasked with counting the ballots and reporting the results to the deacon chair.
- The deacon chair will be responsible for communicating the results of the ballot to the congregation.

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

1. Hail the day that sees Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. There for Him high tri - umph waits, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. See! the heaven its Lord re - ceives, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. See! He lifts His hands a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!

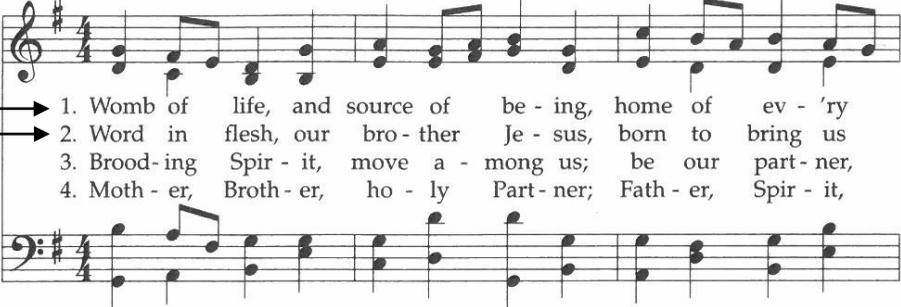
to His throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates, Al - le - lu - ia!
yet He loves the earth He leaves, Al - le - lu - ia!
See, He shows the prints of love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, Al - le - lu - ia!
He has con - quered death and sin. Al - le - lu - ia!
though re - turn - ing to His throne, Al - le - lu - ia!
Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!

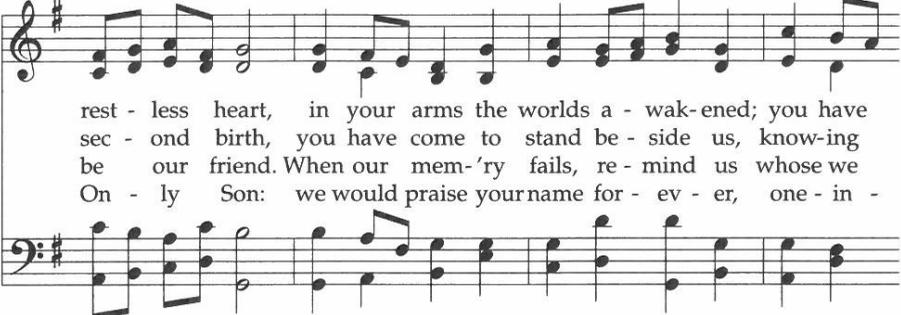
en - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!
Take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
still He calls the world His own. Al - le - lu - ia!
bless - ings on His church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a vocal line above and a bass line below. The first system includes four numbered verses. The second system contains four lines of lyrics. The third system contains four lines of lyrics. The fourth system contains four lines of lyrics. The score concludes with a double bar line.

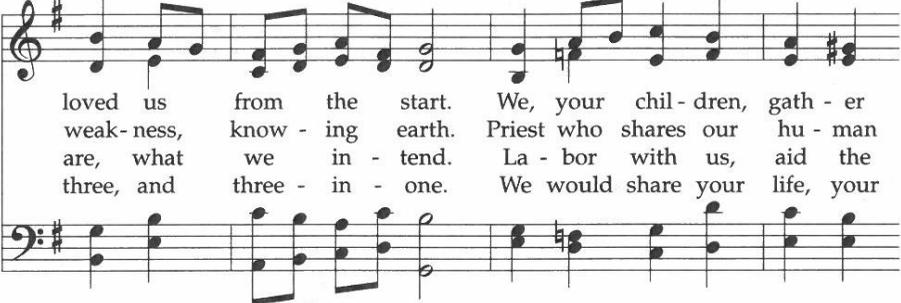
Womb of Life, and Source of Being



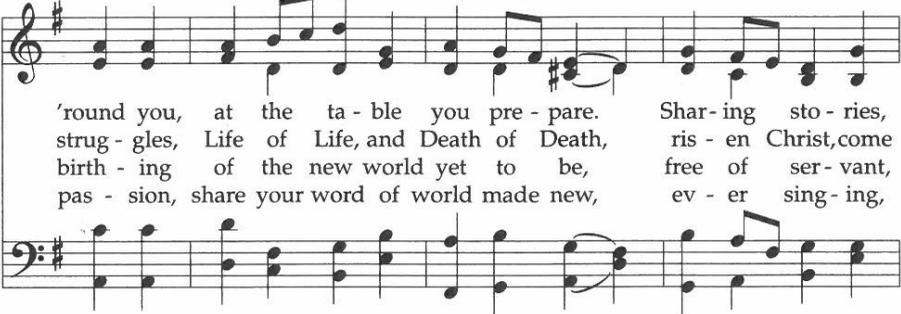
→ 1. Womb of life, and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry
→ 2. Word in flesh, our bro - ther Je - sus, born to bring us
3. Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
4. Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fath - er, Spir - it,



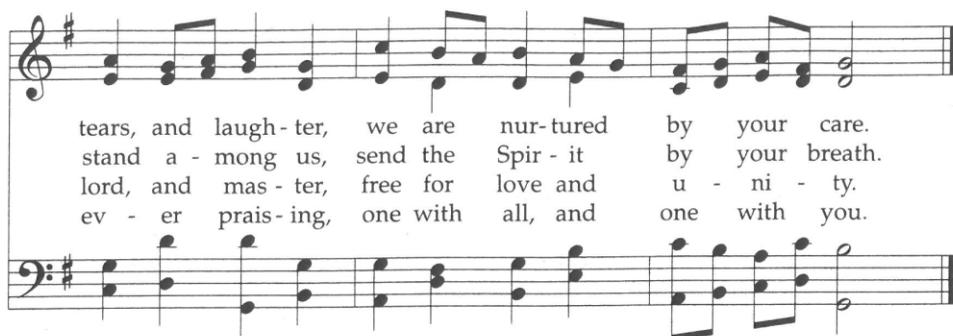
rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have
sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing
be our friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we
On - ly Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, one - in -



loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er
weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man
are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us, aid the
three, and three - in - one. We would share your life, your



'round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing sto - ries,
strug - gles, Life of Life, and Death of Death, ris - en Christ, come
birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of ser - vant,
pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er sing - ing,



Artist Statement – Lauren Wright Pittman
Born Again (Nicodemus) © 2016
John 3:1-17

In reading this text, I felt the kind of dizzying brain space that I think Nicodemus is reeling in at this moment. Jesus lists metaphors that swirl around and fly over Nicodemus' head, such as, "the wind blows where it chooses." Jesus' words create a halo of confusion around Nicodemus' head.

I imagine Nicodemus faced away from Jesus with his eyes closed, grappling for answers by playing the metaphors in his head like little vignettes on repeat.

While Nicodemus spins in his searching, Jesus says simply, "We speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony."

In Jesus' perspective, his explanations to Nicodemus are as real and tangible as earthly things, but for Nicodemus Jesus' words seem so distant, so celestial. Nicodemus is a leader of the Jews; he has all of the knowledge of the law and of doctrine, but he doesn't know Jesus. He's not even really listening to Jesus. Jesus is right in front of his face. He can reach out and touch him. But they are light years away from one another.

I wonder how things would shift for Nicodemus if he would just look at Jesus. . .

To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done; so loved He the
2. O per - fect re - demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to ev - ery be-
3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our re-

world that He gave us His Son, who yield - ed His life an a -
liev - er the prom-ise of God; the vil - est of-fend-er who
joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high-er, and

tone-ment for sin, and o-pened the life-gate that all may go in.
tru - ly be-lieves, that mo-ment from Je - sus a par-don re-ceives.
great - er will be our won-der, our trans-port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,

praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re-joice! O come to the Fa - ther, through

Je - sus the Son, and give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

The Scripture this morning is John 3:1-17

3Now 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." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (NRSV)

Schedule for the Week

Sunday May 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday

- 12:00 pm Youth Sunday School Class — Zoom
- 12:15 pm Program Council — Zoom
- 3:00 pm 1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
- 4:00 pm Formations Class — Zoom
- 6:30 pm Middle School Sunday School — Zoom

Wednesday May 19

- 6:30 pm Midweek Bible Study — Zoom
- 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir — Zoom

Saturday May 22

- 10:00 am Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
- 2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom
- 3:00 pm 3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
- 8:00 pm Non-Traditional Class — Zoom

Sunday May 23 – Pentecost Sunday

- 9:45 am Foundation Stones Class — Zoom
- 10:00 am 4-6-Year-Old Sunday School — Zoom
- 10:00 am In-Person Worship Service – Guest Preacher – Mark Wingfield
South Lawn and Sanctuary Steps (registration required)
- 11:00 am Virtual Morning Worship – Guest Preacher – Laura Mayo
Royal Lane 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
- 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

Nate Green & Donna Wood-Martin

When WE Give: we bring meaningful discussion through IN FOCUS

March 2021 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues	\$ 189,340
Expenses	\$ 157,802
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 31,538

Text “GIVE” to 214-609-1200

Follow the prompts to complete the process.

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Royal Lane Baptist Church

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