



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

November 18, 2020

The Mosaic

Volume 34, Issue 22

Being Grateful When Life is Exhausting

I have an ever-changing written to-do list on my desk in my home office. And I look at this list often as I try to keep up with all of the church tasks I have to do in between homeschooling our daughters, taking our newborn to doctor appointments, running errands, and other household chores. One afternoon, I was away from my desk for a couple of hours holding my newborn son, Ford. When I returned to my desk to finish up some work, I looked down at one of my church to-do lists – pray for a congregant, write an article, finish sermon. And there in the margin, written in the handwriting of my oldest child, was a note she had snuck onto my busy to-do list, a list that felt overwhelming and long. There in the margin was the sentence, “I love you, Dad.”

We are overwhelmed, distracted, and exhausted. I’m not sure it is very easy for us to think about gratefulness. And since gratitude hasn’t been on my to-do list, I opened my Bible and flipped over to the words of the apostle Paul who struggled, like we are struggling today. “Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NIV)

The Apostle Paul wrote these words in about 55 CE. You see, the Corinthian church was going through a lot of division, disagreement, and polarization. Sounds familiar, right? But they found a way to work it out, to get through it together. And when they did, they began working for the common good. They began to be grateful for their lives in the faith and grateful for one another. And when they became grateful, they became generous. The apostle Paul talked about the generous churches in the region of Macedonia, largely foreign Christians of different cultures, who gave to their Christian counterparts of Jewish heritage in Jerusalem. Paul exhorted these Corinthian believers to make their own donations to the good work happening there. And, when people started to give, two things happened: They gave generously beyond their financial abilities and these people of faith gave their money across racial and national lines. That is the kind of generosity and gratitude I hope we can begin to experience in our nation and our world this holiday season.

What is your gratitude story? It is my hope that we don’t have to force it, or strain for it, or fake it. Maybe our gratitude story is to simply look in the margins of our lives and affirm the places of hope that remain outside of our busy to-do lists, our deep depression, and our overwhelming exhaustion. I wonder what it would be like if we looked in the margins of our lives, this day, to where God has written on our hearts and our spirits, “I love you...”

Pastor Mike

*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for December 2 & 16, 2020.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

2020 Advent Devotions “Preparing to Hear God’s Call”

Authors for the 2020 Advent Devotions are: Ircel Harrison, Angela Barker Jackson, Mark Tidsworth, and Jessica Chadwick Williams.

The Advent Devotions will be available on the Royal Lane Website and will be distributed weekly via MailChimp.

Print copies of the entire series will be available for those who prefer a print copy. These may be picked up at the church on Saturday, November 28, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm — the same time as you are invited to Drop Off items for the November Missions Project – Stocking Stuffers.



Read the full intro at <https://bit.ly/32T5wMg>



Message from the Intro to the 2020 Advent Devotions:

Many of us are keenly aware of our need for spiritual engagement this Advent season. During volatile periods like 2020, our spiritual fuel is being burned to the maximum each day. We are stretched and challenged, needing God’s sustaining power on a regular and consistent basis. Biblical accounts such as the Exodus take on new meaning because we know what it is like to pass through the wilderness. Perhaps more than ever, we need Advent this year.

We are delighted to offer this Advent devotional guide for your personal and communal use. We enjoyed crafting these devotionals and found the strength of the Lord seeping into our homes as we engaged scriptures, offered prayers, and put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard). We hope that our experience will be replicated many times over as you engage with this devotional guide during the Advent season....

We pray the daily reflections and worship resources will enrich your spiritual journey as individuals and as faith communities over these weeks. We eagerly anticipate engaging with you and your church as we await Christ’s appearing in ourselves and in our churches in 2021.

Blessings to you during this season of preparation, anticipation, and holy waiting.

Rev. Dr. Angela B. Jackson, Rev. Jessica C. Williams
Central Seminary

Rev. Mark Tidsworth, Rev. Dr. Ircel Harrison
Pinnacle Leadership Associates

Thanksgiving Greetings to all from the RLBC Staff



Coming Events

Friday	November 20
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
Saturday	November 21
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
3:00 pm	3rd-5th Grade Saturday School — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	November 22 – Reign of Christ Sunday
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 – Paula Dempsey, Guest Preacher — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
3:00 pm	1st-2nd Grade Sunday School — Zoom
4:00 pm	Formations Class — Zoom
Wednesday	November 25
6:30 pm	Advent Hymn Sing— Zoom
	Introducing the 2020 Advent Hymn – “Be Not Afraid” – text by Michael Dell
Thursday	November 26 – Thanksgiving Day
Saturday	November 28
	No Children's Saturday Classes — Thanksgiving Holiday
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
8:00 pm	Non-Traditional Class — Zoom
Sunday	November 29 – First Sunday of Advent
	No Children's Sunday Classes — Thanksgiving Holiday
9:45 am	Foundation Stones — Zoom
10:00 am	Women's Share & Prayer — Zoom
11:00 am	Morning Worship — Royal Lane YouTube Channel
12:00 pm	Youth Sunday School Class — Zoom
4:00 pm	Formations Class — Zoom
Wednesday	December 2 – Mosaic
6:30 pm	Midweek Bible Study with Mike Gregg — Zoom
	Luke 24:28-53 – Walk to Emmaus and Ascension
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Zoom
Friday	December 4
12:00 pm	Midday Meditative Prayer — Zoom
Saturday	December 5
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

It is time to request poinsettias that will be placed in the Sanctuary of Royal Lane Baptist Church during the Advent/Christmas season in honor or memory of a loved one.

Make your requests by Friday, November 27 so that your dedication can be included in the order of worship for the *Hanging of the Green* on December 6.

Order online at:
royallane.org/poinsettia-dedications,
 via email to info@royallane.org or
 mailed request to the church.

Staff Love Gift



During this Giving time of year let us not forget those who give so much to us all year. Our church staff willingly and lovingly provides many services for us throughout the year. As in the past, if you would like to express your personal appreciation, please mail your check to the Church Office or make your donation online by December 6. Be sure your contribution is clearly marked “Staff Love Gift” or select the fund “Staff Love Gift” from the Giving option on the Royal Lane website.

Charlotte Sewell, Deacon Chair

Be Not Afraid

Advent – 2020



It feels as if 2020 has been a year filled with fear. Yet, messengers throughout the Bible sought to comfort the people of God by telling them to not be afraid. It was a word that those looking for a Messiah and birthing Divine Love needed to hear. And we need to hear it too. The theme for this Advent Season at Royal Lane is "Be Not Afraid." Maybe God is telling us this year, as we wait with trepidation and anticipation, to offer up our fears to the divine and to hear God's comfort in the angel voices: "Do not be afraid."

November 25 – Advent Hymn Sing – 6:30 pm — Zoom

Join David Weigle and Harry Wooten for an Advent/Christmas and Thanksgiving hymn sing to begin preparing our hearts and spirits for Advent. We will post a link of texts for this Zoom meeting and we will all sing for the very first time our 2020 Advent Hymn, "Be Not Afraid" written for Royal Lane by composer and lyricist, Michael Glenn Dell.

November 29 – ADVENT 1 – 11:00 am — Royal Lane YouTube Channel

"The Hopes and Fears of All the Years"

December 6 – Advent II – 11:00 am — Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Hanging of the Green

"The Fear of Disappointment"

A virtual expression of Hanging of the Green featuring video clips of Royal Laners decorating their homes, clips from past Hanging of the Green services, and narrations presented by RLBC worship leaders.

December 13 – Advent III – Worship – 11:00 am — Royal Lane YouTube Channel

"The Fear of Revision"

December 16 – Mourning Light – 6:30 pm — Zoom

"The Fear of Holiday Grief"

This moving and poignant service will be experienced on Zoom this year. There will be opportunities to speak the names of those whom you mourn and remember. A Candle will be lit in their memory and an ornament placed on the Chrismon Tree.

December 20 – Advent IV – Worship – 11:00 am — Royal Lane YouTube Channel

"The Fear of Ruined Reputation"

This morning we are joined by the Classic Brass Quintet as we sing carols of the season.

December 24 – Christmas Eve – 6:00 pm — Royal Lane YouTube Channel

"The Fear of Change"

The service this year will feature choral music from the virtual combined choirs of Royal Lane and University Park UMC as they present the first movement of the GLORIA by Vivaldi, and lovely settings of *Away in a Manger* and *Silent Night*. Soloists and readers from RLBC will also lead us in worship. The Gregg Family with baby Ford will light our Christ Candle.

Welcome

Please welcome **Sarah Plunk**,
who joined RLBC on October 27, 2020.

Advent Afternoons

Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Each Tuesday afternoon of Advent at 4:00 pm we will present organist Jonathan Gregoire playing a brief mini concert on our Royal Lane, Dan Garland pipe organ, Opus 50. Jonathan will feature Advent music and speak about the pieces and their connection to our Advent season.

JONATHAN M. GREGOIRE

jg@jonathangregoire.com | www.jonathangregoire.com

Praised for his “top-notch technique and musicianship” by the Dallas Morning News, Jonathan M. Gregoire is an imaginative keyboardist and advocate for the power music has to transform lives. Gregoire brings his passion for music, intuitive gifts for the healing powers of the arts, and warm charisma to his creative output. As a soloist, his engaging performances are praised for their “unfailing drive, energy, and expression,” with equal parts style and flair. As a collaborative artist, his elegance and facility at both the piano and the organ are further augmented by his sensitivity and innate ability to support and lead from the keyboard. He supports congregational and choral singing as the organist at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. As an educator, Gregoire is driven by the belief that through education we promote understanding, and with understanding we can foster appreciation. With this belief, he founded and serves as the Executive Director of the Arts Foundation of St. Andrew, which is dedicated to “enriching spirituality through the power of the arts.” Additionally, he is the faculty accompanist for the Greenhill School in Addison and Plano West Senior High School, nurturing a love for music in the lives of the students and choirs he supports. For additional information, including recordings, please visit: jonathangregoire.com



November Missions Project

Join us for our third annual collaboration between the Missions Committee and Women of the Church to bring Christmas cheer to our youngest neighbors in need.

Stocking Stuffers

SPONSORED BY THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE AND WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Donations of small toys and candy are needed to fill 15 inch stockings for the children and teenagers who visit the medical clinic at Healing Hands Ministries.

SUGGESTED ITEMS	
Small plush animals	Fuzzy socks
Small Christmas toys	Flavored lip gloss
Card games	Hand sanitizer
Small holiday puzzles	Hand lotion
Coloring books	Ear buds (for teens)
Play-Doh	Christmas candy
Hot Wheels	Hot chocolate
Stretchy gloves and hat	

DROP OFF DAYS AND TIMES	
RLBC parking lot in front of the church office	
Wednesday 11/11	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday 11/14	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday 11/18	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Saturday 11/21	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Saturday 11/28	10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please bring small toys and candy that will fit and fill 15 -inch stockings for the children and teenagers who visit the medical clinic at Healing Hands Ministries. Donations will be accepted through the month of November. Our goal is to fill 100 stockings!

Candlelight Prayer Walk

You are invited to participate in the **Social Justice Team Candlelight Prayer Walk**, Friday, November 20, 7:00 pm. Please read the following Participant Guide prior to your arrival on November 20. Consider attending as a Sunday School Class or Care Group. Invite your friends and neighbors. Seating available for those with limited mobility.

Participant Guide

Royal Lane Baptist Church - Social Justice Team

Candlelight Prayer Walk

Arriving at church:

- Park anywhere other than the big, corner parking lot.
- Wear masks, have personal hand sanitizer, and maintain social distancing.
- No entrance to buildings - Gathering Site and Walking Path are outside
- Move from your car to the Gathering Site, near the Cottage and the Missions Donation shed.

Arriving at the Gathering Site:

- Silence cell phones
- Pick up a single, sanitized candle, only touching that one
- Greet one another in joy with a sense of fervent expectation as all gather at the Site
- Keep your mask on and maintain social distancing

At the Gathering Site - Instructions from the Site Leader:

- Instructions for the Walking Path - a preview
 - description of Walking Path location given by Site Leader
 - the path for walking is a one-way circuit, walking individually at least 6-8 feet apart
 - move intentionally and with careful steps, remaining in single file as you walk together
 - hold your candle in front of you - hold it especially high as you walk near the shrubs along the perimeter of the parking lot, as a witness to those driving by on Royal and Hillcrest
 - walk the circuit path in the parking lot until you are done meditating
- A Walking Path is available for those who cannot negotiate steps down - *Guide identified*
- Participation available for not able to walk - *Guide identified*
- Keep your mask on and maintain social distancing
- Rehearse Responsive phrase
- Listen for a single phrase to focus your meditation
- Plan for the reverent ending (*see below*)
- Practice Responsive phrase one more time

Responsive Reading and Candlelight Prayer Walk - (keep your mask on)

LIPS

Participate in the Responsive Reading - listen for your phrase

HEART

Meditate on your phrase - reflect within your heart

FEET (Sites A & B only)

Walk the circuit together - pray in the glow of your candle.

(repeat the circuit until you're done praying)

Reverent Ending:

- Return your candle to the table provided in the parking lot when you're done walking
- Move quietly away from the parking lot where participants are still walking and meditating
- If desired, have conversations near your car, maintaining social distancing and wearing your mask.

Deacons of the Week

November 22

Alan Greider
Christin Lavery

November 29

Charlotte Sewell
Amy Ward-Meier

All In-Person Midweek Services & Fellowship Meals Temporarily Suspended

6:30 p.m. Wednesday

November 30

Advent Hymn Sing
Introducing Advent Hymn
"Be Not Afraid"

6:30 p.m. Wednesday

December 2

Bible Study with Mike Gregg
Luke 24:28-53,
Walk to Emmaus and
Resurrection



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.

Scriptures of the Week

November 22

Ezekiel 34:11-16 Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

November 29

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

October 2020 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues	\$624,102
Expenses	\$624,736
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$634)

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
Staff Love Gift
Columbarium
The Lowe Scholarship Fund
Poinsettias Order
Other

Happy Birthday!

November

Hector Mederos	18
Jayda Parrish.....	23
Shirley Bohanan	24
Joey Belgard	26
Sheryl Gambill	26
Anna Mays	27
Dennis Vickrey.....	27
Nate Wilkerson.....	27
Richard Lavery	29
Vickie Daniel.....	29
Annaleigh Gregg	30

December

Rosa Belgard	1
Sarah Fuller Phillips	1



Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane

Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

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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Rosa Barrientos, Housekeeping

Michael Gregg, Pastor

Laura Keller, Minister to Children

Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant

Janet Schultz, Administrative Assistant

Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician

David Weigle, Organist

Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship