

# ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

---

*Diverse People United in Christ*



*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower." — John 15:1*

# *The Worship of God*

## *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

May 7, 2023

10:55 A.M.

*Worship begins with the Chiming of the Hour and the Voluntary.  
To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.  
✠ – Please rise in body or in spirit.*

### Chiming of the Hour

*The seasons dictate the growth of the vine. In our lives we must learn that we cannot always live in the springtime of the rising new sap, or the summer of growth and formation; we cannot always live in the autumn of rich fruit-bearing, or in the winter of rest and seeming deadness. Each of these seasons has its place, and all are interdependent and necessary. May we learn from the pruning experiences of our lives, and discern the value of the changing seasons, so that when the renewing sap flows through the branches of the vine, we may rejoice and bear fruit for the joy of the world.*

—Brother Ramon, *The Way of Love* (London: Marshall Pickering, 1994)

### Voluntary

Scott Green

*Choral, Opus 37* — Joseph Jongen

### ✠ Call to Worship & Invocation

Blake Miller & Congregation

In the wilderness, water brings life.

**Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

In the bread and wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

**Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

**Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.**

Let us pray:

**Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* — HYMN TO JOY

Words of Welcome

Harry Wooten

Christ be with you ... **and also with you!**

*Please record your attendance in the blue booklet at the end of the pew and pass it to others.  
You may also register online at [royallane.org/register](http://royallane.org/register) or see QR code following Organ Dismissal.  
If you would like to profess your faith or identify with this fellowship,  
please refer to pew rack card – “How to Become a Member.”*

Scripture Lesson

Addison

John 15:1-8 [ Pew Bible page 878 of the New Testament]

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us, **Thanks be to God!**

Time for Young Disciples

Sarah Plunk

*Children 3-year through 5th grade are invited to Godly Play.  
You may collect your children following the service in the Godly Play Room located in the Education wing.*

Hymn [ see insert ]

Congregation

*The Branch that Bends with Clustered Fruit* — WINCHESTER OLD

Offertory Prayer

Cheryl Robinson

God, when we accept the gift of your amazing love in our lives, we become instruments of your abundant love. Accept these offerings for what they are: an outpouring of love for you and for all your creation. Amen.

Offertory

Choir

*The Tree of Life* — K. Lee Scott

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,  
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:  
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!"  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;  
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage;  
our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!"  
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."

All heav'n is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose Passion offers mercy healing, strength and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"  
Amen, amen! My Master!

*We invite you to use this time to give to Royal Lane's Ministry.  
See back cover for ways to give.*

Sermon

Rev. Danielle Shroyer

**" God the Gardener "**

✠Hymn 461

Congregation

*Let Us Break Bread Together* — BREAK BREAD

Communion

All Believers

Call to Confession

Nate Green

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

Confession of Sin

Congregation

Let us pray:

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Silence is Kept*

Promise of Forgiveness

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed for the life of the world, he took bread in his holy, pure, and blameless hands, and when he gave thanks and sanctified and broke it, he gave it to his disciples and apostles saying: "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you for the remission of sins."

**Amen.**

In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup saying: "Drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins."

**Amen.**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ was broken for us. We break this bread for those who love God, for those in many faith traditions, so that one day we may be as one.

**Amen.**

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

*(continued)*

We break this bread for our green earth, destroyed forests, fields and flowers, contaminated waters and air, that one day God's creation will be restored.

**Amen.**

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

We break this bread for those who have no bread, the starving, the homeless and the refugees, that one day this planet may be a home for everyone.

**Amen.**

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

We raise this cup for the persecuted, prisoners of conscience and faith, and for all marginalized minorities, so that one day the persecuted may find comfort and God will melt the hearts of stone.

**Amen.**

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

We raise this cup for those who suffer from war and bloodshed, and gun violence, that one day God's reign of peace and justice will come on earth.

**Amen.**

Choir: *Kyrie Eleison*

With reverence to God, with faith and with love of neighbor, draw near and receive this bread and wine. Come, whoever you are, wonderer, worshipper, the lover of leaving. It doesn't matter. Come, even if you have broken your vow a thousand times. Come, yet again, come to the Lord.

### The Receiving of Communion

*Following the choir, please move by way of the center aisle to partake  
of communion and return via the outside aisles.  
The Communion elements are gluten free.*

### ✠Passing of the Peace

**The peace of Christ be with you . . . And also with you.**

### ✠Sung Response [ see insert ]

Worshippers

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* — OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above ye heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠Benediction

Rev. Danielle Shroyer

Organ Dismissal

Scott Green

*Festive Finale* — Phil Lehenbauer

§ § § § § § §

Register Your Attendance

[Royallane.org/register](http://Royallane.org/register)



### Hymn Notes

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

*Text: William C. Dix*

*Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, harm. Edward Hodges, 1864*

*Public Domain*

### **The Branch that Bends with Clustered Fruit**

*Text: Thomas H. Troeger, Copyright © 1994, Oxford University Press*

*OneLicense: Annual License w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998*

*Music: Public Domain*

### **Let Us Break Bread Together**

*Music: Carlton R. Young, Copyright © 1965 Abingdon Press*

*OneLicense: Annual License w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998*

### **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

*Text: Thomas Ken, Music: Louis Bourgeois*

*Public Domain*

## Scott Green – Guest Organist

Scott is a member of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, and holds degrees from Baylor University, Southern Seminary, and Texas Christian University. He is a former member of the Dallas Symphony Chorus and has served as Organist/Choir Director and substitute organist in Texas, Kentucky, Washington, DC and throughout the metroplex. Scott is currently pianist at Celebration Community Church in Fort Worth and a newly appointed board member for AWAB (the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists). and a member of the Board of Visitors for Brite Divinity School (TCU) in Fort Worth.



## Cover Art

*True Vine* – Photograph, Fairfield, Moteueka, New Zealand

From Art in the Christian Tradition

A project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Used by permission.

This is a photograph of a kiwi vine stretching upward toward the sky. The branches are able to grow because they are connected to the main vine. The main vine is rooted in the ground that gives it nutrients and vitamins. The branches are also stretching toward the sun, which also gives nutrients and vitamins.

It would seem that this photograph would be the perfect metaphor for our text. God, the creator, is the sky. God is also the natural vine grower. From the sky come sunshine and rain; these give nutrients to the ground which makes the vine strong. The main vine is our connection to the nourishment from the ground, and in turn the sunshine and rain. Jesus the “true vine” is connection to the creator. Without this connection, it is difficult to thrive let alone survive. A constant connection to the vine provides nourishment to be productive in building God’s kingdom. God give sunshine, rain, and prunes the plant; the ground gives nourishment to the vine, the vine causes the branches to bear fruit, and this glorifies God.

Questions to reflect on pertain to whether or not we are the branches still attached to Christ bearing fruit. Or are we branches that have lost connection and bear no fruit? How can we regain connection? How do we stretch toward God and remain deeply rooted in Christ? --  
Olusola Tribble



## Rev. Danielle Shroyer Today's Guest Preacher



**Danielle** is an author, speaker, spiritual director, and former pastor. She currently serves as Spiritual Director in Residence at Preston Holly Presbyterian Church, where she creates formation resources rooted in wisdom spirituality. A founding member in the emerging church movement, Danielle served as the pastor of one of the nation's first independent emerging communities of faith for nearly a decade. Her primary goal as a pastor was to help people going through a season of spiritual deconstruction find healthy, sustainable, and meaningful ways to reconstruct their faith.

Danielle has a particular heart for the spiritual-but-not-religious and has long advocated for fresh approaches to spiritual community. Over the years, she has offered guidance to struggling and transitioning congregations searching for new ways to embody their purpose. She continued this work through her involvement in Faith Forward, a conference highlighting diverse voices and holistic perspectives of spiritual formation for children and youth. Danielle also participated in a number of leadership positions in Emergent Village before serving as National Co-Director for two years.

Danielle's first position after seminary was as a chaplain in a retirement community, serving primarily in the memory-care unit, which continues to inform her work today. She also spent a year as the assistant chaplain at Southern Methodist University, supporting the spiritual life of the student body as well as the many religious student groups on campus. In recent years, Danielle has been mentored by Buddhist practitioners, an experience that has deepened her own Christian faith while expanding her appreciation for the ancient wisdom in other traditions.

Danielle has received spiritual direction since 2012 and is mentored by her own spiritual director in the Episcopal tradition and lineage. She is also a graduate of the Haden Institute spiritual direction program and dreamwork program, where she now serves as a Mentor. Danielle is a member of Spiritual Directors International and regularly seeks opportunities to gather and learn from fellow directors. In addition to offering individual spiritual direction sessions, Danielle leads prayer retreats, teaches meditation, and offers workshops. She also enjoys guest preaching.

# The Branch that Bends with Clustered Fruit

1. The branch that bends with clus - tered fruit Still  
 2. The spin - dly, twist - ed, tan - gled coil Of  
 3. The prun - er's hook will gen - tly play Where  
 4. O God, who fills with rain and sun The

needs the prun - er's blade To keep it close to  
 branch - es o - ver - grown Pro - duc - es noth - ing  
 fruit - ful growth is seen But like an axe will  
 grapes we press for wine, Cut off the growth our

vine and root Or else its strength will fade.  
 from its toil But feeds it - self a - lone.  
 slash a - way The emp - ty net of green.  
 fears have spun And prune us to your vine.

# Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

The first system of the hymn is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords: G2-B2 (half), A2-C3 (half), B2-D3 (half), A2-G2 (half), F#2-A2 (half), and G2-B2 (half).

God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody continues with a half note E4, a half note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, a half note A3, a half note G3, a quarter note F#3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, a half note B2, and a half note A2. The bass staff accompaniment continues with chords: G2-B2 (half), A2-C3 (half), B2-D3 (half), A2-G2 (half), F#2-A2 (half), G2-B2 (half), A2-C3 (half), B2-D3 (half), A2-G2 (half), F#2-A2 (half), G2-B2 (half), and A2-C3 (half).

heaven - ly hosts: Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The third system concludes the hymn. The treble staff melody continues with a half note G3, a half note F#3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a half note C3, a half note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, a half note F#2, and a half note E2. The bass staff accompaniment continues with chords: G2-B2 (half), A2-C3 (half), B2-D3 (half), A2-G2 (half), F#2-A2 (half), G2-B2 (half), A2-C3 (half), B2-D3 (half), A2-G2 (half), F#2-A2 (half), G2-B2 (half), and A2-C3 (half). The system ends with a double bar line.

## Wednesday Evening May 10

Due to Window Replacement in Vickrey Hall and the Education Wing, and Roof Construction over the Box Gallery, there will be no Midweek Meal or Midweek program this coming Wednesday, May 10.

Non-Vickrey Hall or Education Wing activities are free to meet as desired.

### Scriptures for Next Sunday **Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20** **1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21**

#### For the Children!

Children's bulletins are included in activity packets for ages 3+ and 7+. Don't miss the Secret Code to allow your child to unlock on-line games, in a safe environment, that supplement today's scripture at [games.childrensbulletins.com/games/playcode.aspx](http://games.childrensbulletins.com/games/playcode.aspx)



Please recycle your order of worship in a marked bin.

#### To Families with Graduates!

Graduates will be recognized on May 21, 2023. 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 Saturday, May 1e, for publication in the bulletin on Graduation Recognition Sunday, and an issue of the Mosaic.



*“From tolerance, to respect, to loving one another”*

## Women of the Church

*hosting*

## Daughters of Abraham

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Vickrey Hall

Guest speaker, Janice Harris Ford, Founder in 2001 after 9/11

### Topic: “Daughters of Abraham 101”

Daughters of Abraham is an interfaith group of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim women. No one denies the differences in the faiths, but the focus is on similarities. The women share a love of God and a desire for peace in the community and in the world.

Please join us. As hosts you are invited to bring refreshments. This is not our regular meal, but desserts and finger foods are welcome. Some women are vegetarian.



Make your appointment early!



**Blood Drive**  
**Royal Lane Baptist Church**

Vickrey Hall  
6707 Royal Lane  
Dallas, TX 75230

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



American  
Red Cross

## *Schedule for the Week*

### **Sunday May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

12:15 pm First Sunday Youth Lunch

12:15 pm First Sunday Lunch for Families of Children — Gazebo Burger

7:30 pm Education Division — Zoom

### **Wednesday May 10**

3:30 pm Holy Rollers — Youth Portable

### **Wednesday, May 10**

**No Midweek Dinner of Midweek Gathering & Study  
due to window replacement in Vickrey Hall and  
Roof Repair and Construction above Box Gallery.**

7:00 pm Youth Gathering — Youth Portable

7:15 pm Choir — Sanctuary

### **Thursday May 11, Mosaic: Volume 34, Issue No. 9**

6:30 pm Publicity/Outreach — Zoom

### **Saturday May 13**

9:00 am Second Saturday Work Day (9:00 am – noon)

2:00 pm Questers Class — Zoom

### **Sunday May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

8:30 am Deacons Meeting — Vickrey Hall

9:45 am Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building

9:45 am Children's SS Classes — Christian Education Building

10:00 am Youth SS Class — Youth Portable

10:10 am Non-Traditional Class — Christian Education Building, Room 212

10:55 am Morning Worship— Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel

11:05 am Godly Play (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room  
Children 3-year through Fifth Grade

12:15 pm Racial Justice Committee — Vickrey Hall

*The deadline for the Weekly Mosaic and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.*

## **How to Connect**

See the Weekly Mosaic or Web Calendar for Links and details for  
In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events — [royallane.org/resources/events](http://royallane.org/resources/events)

## Prayer Requests

We invite you to use the Prayer Cards, available in the “pockets” on the back of each pew, to submit prayer requests or the Prayer Request Form, available on the website at [royallane.org/prayer](http://royallane.org/prayer)  
Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.



**Deacons on Call** – Nate Green & Cheryl Robinson

**Safety Shepherd** – Scott Martin

---

When WE Give: we can engage in ministries of peace, mercy, comfort, and truth!

### March 2023 Financials

|                    | YTD Actual |
|--------------------|------------|
| Revenues*          | \$ 241,756 |
| Expenses           | \$ 205,283 |
| Surplus (Deficit)* | \$ 36,473  |

\*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/](http://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

---

Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician  
Brandon Green, Audio Technician  
Barbara Merry, Administrative Assistant  
Ellen Miers, Housekeeping  
Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor

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