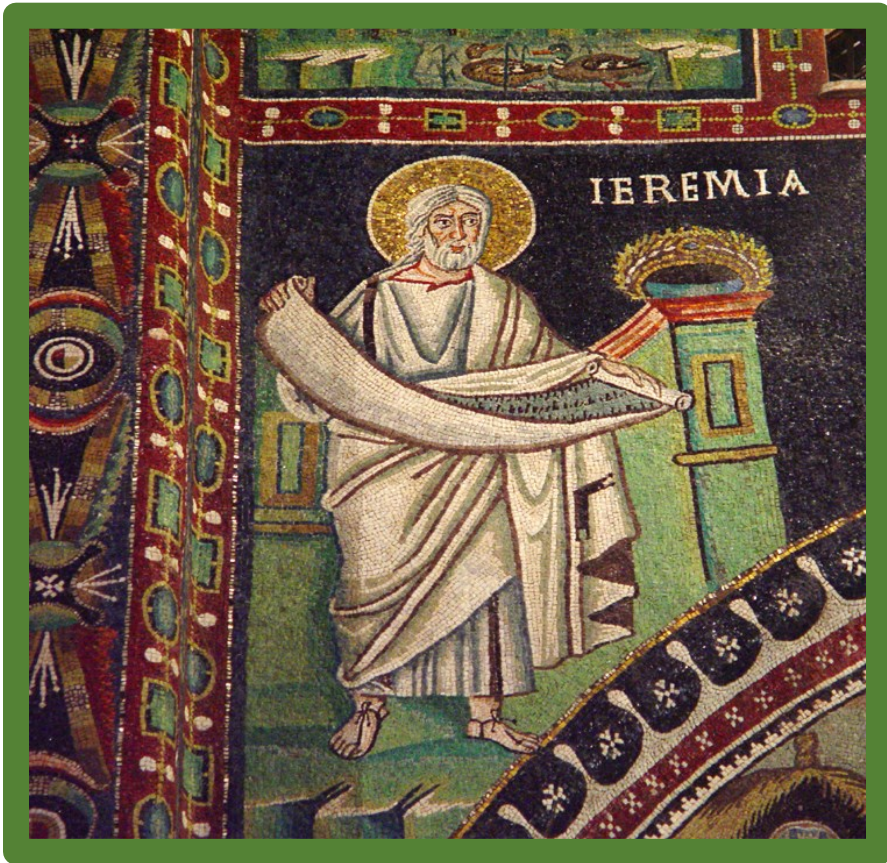


ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ





The Rev. Dr. George A. Mason

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Dr. George A. Mason is the Founder and President of Faith Commons and Senior Pastor Emeritus of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. He is a nationally recognized religious leader whose legacy includes innovations in clergy apprenticeship, interfaith initiatives, and community service. For many years, George has served as an op-ed contributor to the *Dallas Morning News* and has written for publications nationwide. He is a co-founder of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and teaches at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

Wilshire Baptist Church is Christian by conviction, Baptist by tradition and ecumenical in spirit—an inclusive Christian community that welcomes everybody. Faith Commons is an interfaith nonprofit organization that amplifies diverse faith voices for the common good. Its programs include George’s podcast *Good God*, featuring conversations about faith and public life.

George was born in New York City and has lived in Texas for many years. He and his wife Kim enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. More information and additional multimedia resources are at GeorgeAMason.com.

Kevin Dougherty

Co-Director, Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice Project

Dr. Kevin Dougherty is a professor of sociology at Baylor University. He studies religious congregations in the United States. He has written about congregational participation, congregational growth and decline, and race in congregations. His research appears in leading academic journals and major news outlets such as CNN, National Public Radio, and *USA Today*.

Dr. Dougherty is a co-director of the Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice Project. The THRIVE Project is a partnership with the Alliance of Baptists. It seeks to examine and empower congregations in the work of racial justice. Royal Lane Baptist Church is one of 26 Alliance congregations participating in the project.



The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 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

If, like Jeremiah, we were to name the “burning fire shut up in your bones” — the calling we have been given— how would we name it? When you express your “burning fire,” what does it sound like? What are the words to describe it? Is it a color? or a dance? How many ways does it take shape in your life?

On this day, at this hour, may these words by Stan Mitchell resound within and around us. “If you claim to be someone’s ally, but aren’t getting hit by stones thrown at them, you aren’t standing close enough.”

Voluntary

David Weigle

Prelude from “Celebrate Life!” — Buryl Red

✠ Call to Worship & Invocation

Sharon Vickrey & Congregation

Incline your ear, O God.

Hear the praises of your people.

**Gladden the hearts of your servants,
as we lift up our souls to you.**

For you, O God, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love.

**In the day of trouble we call on you,
knowing you will answer.**

Your people everywhere glorify your name.

**For you are slow to anger,
and abound in steadfast love.**

O God, turn to us and be gracious.

—Psalm 86, adapted

Let us pray:

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the sounds, to toil and not seek for rest, to labor and not ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

†Hymn [see insert]

Congregation

O Christ, Unsheathe Your Sword — FESTAL SONG

Words of Welcome

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

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 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 – “New Member Card” – and leave it in the Offering plate.*

Scripture Lesson – New Testament Reading

Cookie Stokes

Matthew 10:24-39 [Pew Bible page 791 of the New Testament]

²⁴“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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!**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams — ST. THOMAS

Call to Confession

Bettie Meachum & Congregation

Confident that we are promised newness of life through repentance and forgiveness,
let us turn to God and to one another, confessing our sin.

The Confession of Sin

Let us pray:

Here our cries to you, O Lord:

for our lack of compassion toward the poor,

have mercy on us;

for our failure to end the destruction of air, water,
soil, and creatures of Earth,

have mercy on us;

for our disbelief in your power to make us whole,

have mercy on us;

for making war,

have mercy on us;

for mistrusting your Word,

have mercy on us;

for all that we have done and have not done
out of hardened hearts,

have mercy on us.

Forgive us and renew us.

Guide us into ways that do not deny you but lead to peace. Amen.

We now share silence together.

Promise of Forgiveness

Do not be afraid. The One who was and is and is to come knows you through and through and has overcome death and sin to forgive you, so that you might be delivered into joy that has no end. Your sins are forgiven. You are alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

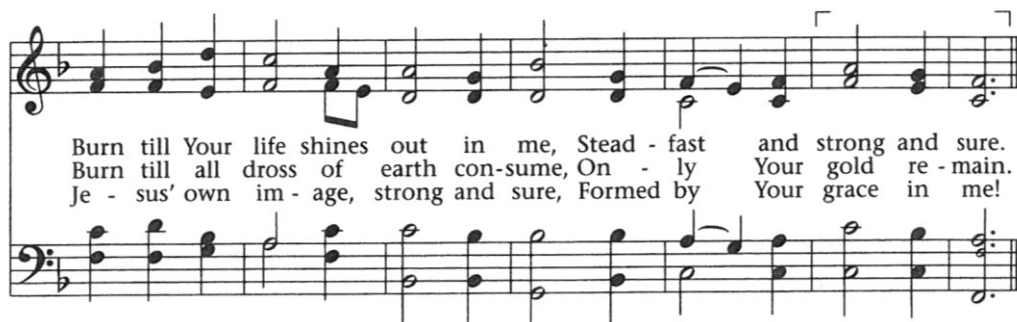
—from *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*

Burn in Me, Fire of God — TRENTHAM

(sing stanza one)



1. Burn in me, Fire of God, Burn till my heart is pure;
2. Burn in me, Fire of God, Spare not for price nor pain;
3. Burn in me, Fire of God, Burn till Your eyes can see



Burn till Your life shines out in me, Stead - fast and strong and sure.
Burn till all dross of earth con - sume, On - ly Your gold re - main.
Je - sus' own im - age, strong and sure, Formed by Your grace in me!

God of all people, Hear our prayers for mercy.

We cry to You for help in such a time of trouble.

We have fallen short of Your hopes and dreams for us.

We can see so many in our communities treading water;

We can see so many starting to struggle in the depths of despair and debt;

We can see so many affected by issues in society

that we could play our part in mending;

Yet we don't do enough.

We come to You, Merciful God, seeking forgiveness.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayers.

Burn in Me, Fire of God — (sing stanza two)

God of all people,
Hear our prayers of mercy.
We come to You, Lord,
You who are sovereign over all,
And we ask that You would draw the whole world together,
Casting out the evils of prejudice and arrogance that cause hatred and oppression.
We long for Your justice and peace in our nation and world.
We come to You, Merciful God, seeking justice.

God of justice,

Hear our prayer.

Burn in Me, Fire of God — (sing stanza three)

God of all people.
Hear our prayers of hope.
We come to You, Lord,
You whose love is without limit and without end,
And we ask that You help us to open our hearts, minds and wills to You,
As we hope for the day
When we can live as members of one family at home in the world.
We come to You, Merciful God, in hope.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of justice,

Answer our prayers.

God of hope,

Inspire us anew. Amen.

Solo

Cailan Jordan

Lord of the Dance — arranged Mark Hayes

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George A. Mason

“ Like a Burning Fire ”

Jeremiah 20:7-13 [Pew Bible page 630 of the Old Testament]

Let Truth and Mercy Live Here — AURELIA

Invitation to Generosity & Offertory Prayer

Margaret Darden

Because we need not fear tomorrow, we offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions to the work of the church. Do not be afraid for your well-being. Give generously in the name of the One who gave everything for us.

Hear now this prayer.

Holy God, who gives life, nourishment, and strength to all creation, we thank you for the community of faith you have built and for your servants who have held fast to you. Bless these gifts that all may be nurtured in truth. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Choir

And the Father Will Dance — arranged by Mark Hayes

And the Father will dance over you in joy!

He will take delight in whom He loves.

Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?

No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!

And he will joy over you in song; And He will joy over you in song!

My soul will make us boast in God, For He has answered all my cries.

His faithfulness to me is as sure as the dawn of a new day.

Awake my soul, Awake, my soul, and sing!

Let my spirit rejoice, Let my spirit rejoice in God!

Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart!

Cast away fear for you have been restored!

Put on the garment of praise, as on a festival day.

Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song.

We invite you to use this time to give to Royal Lane's Ministry.

See back cover for ways to give.

✠A Franciscan Benediction

Rev. Dr. George A. Mason

May God bless you with discomfort

At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships,
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger

At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears

To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
And turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness

To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Amen

Amen

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

Postlude from “Celebrate Life!” — Buryl Red

A newly orchestrated version of *Celebrate Life!* was performed last evening, June 24,
at Carnegie Hall in New York City
in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the publication of *Celebrate Life!*

§ § § § § § §

Register Your Attendance

Royallane.org/register



Cover Art

St. Vitale - Jeremiah – Mosaic panel, San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy
Depicting Jeremiah opening a scroll.
From Art in the Christian Tradition
A Project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN
Used by permission.

Hymn Notes

O Christ, Unsheathe Your Sword

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Copyright © 1997, GIA Publications, Inc.
OneLicense: Annual License w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

Text: Jane Parker Huber, Copyright © 1984, Westminster John Knox Press
OneLicense: Annual License w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998

Burn in Me, Fire of God

Text: Margaret Clarkson, Copyright © 1962, Renewal 1990, Hope Publishing Company
OneLicense: Annual License w/Reprint/Podcast/Streaming, A-722998

Let Truth and Mercy Find Here

Text: Ken Medema Copyright © 2003, Ken Medema Music/Brier Patch Music
All rights reserved. Used by permission,

Scriptures for Next Sunday

Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13

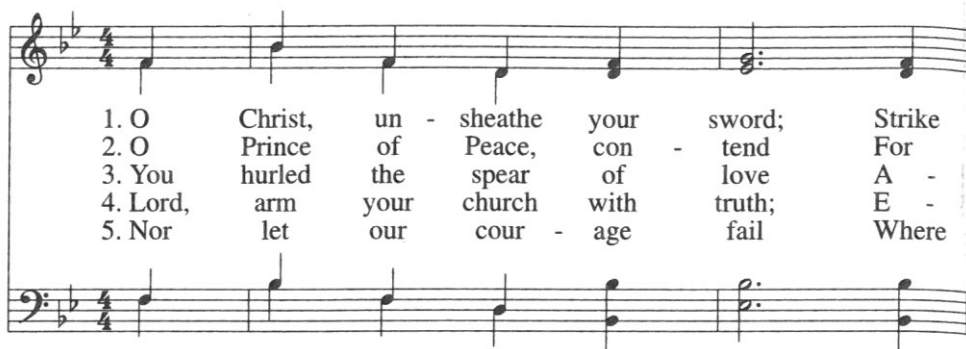
Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

For the Children!

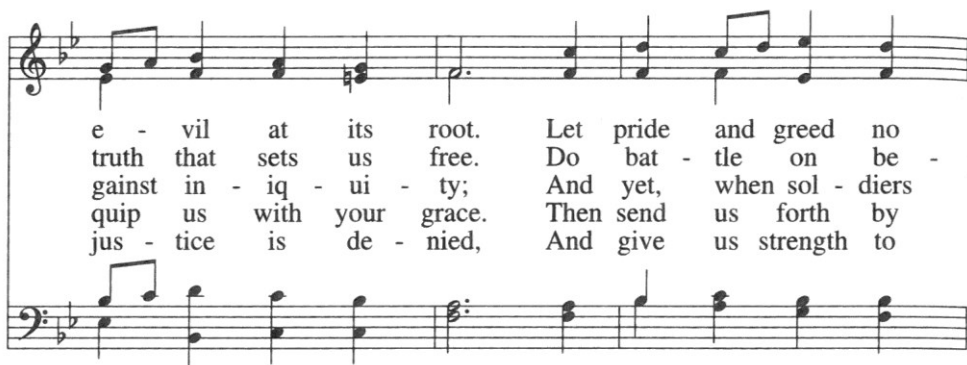
Children's bulletins are included in activity packets for ages 3+ and 7+.
Don't miss the Secret Code to allow your child to unlock on-line games, in a safe
environment, that supplement today's scripture at
games.childrensbulletins.com/games/playcode.aspx



O Christ, Unsheathe Your Sword



1. O Christ, un - sheathe your sword; Strike
 2. O Prince of Peace, con - tend For
 3. You hurled the spear of love A -
 4. Lord, arm your church with truth; E -
 5. Nor let our cour - age fail Where



e - vil at its root. Let pride and greed no
 truth that sets us free. Do bat - tle on be -
 gainst in - iq - ui - ty; And yet, when sol - diers
 quip us with your grace. Then send us forth by
 jus - tice is de - nied, And give us strength to



long - er yield Op - pres - sion's bit - ter fruit.
 half of all En - slaved by tyr - an - ny.
 rained their blows, You bore them pa - tient - ly.
 your com - mand To heal our wound - ed race.
 bear the cross Where life is cru - ci - fied.



Holy Land Trip Information Session

Today, 12:00 pm — Library

October 9-18, Faith Commons is hosting a unique experience in the Holy Land rooted in curiosity and discovery. Arguably there is nowhere on earth people argue about more than the Holy Land. *Why is it important? Who does it belong to? Who gets to decide who lives there? And what makes the land holy?*

The tour is centered on these questions and will be led by Rev. Dr. George Mason and Rabbi Nancy Kasten. The hope is that a diverse group of travelers, attuned to the diversity and complexity of the people connected to the land, will gain insights and wisdom to sustain them and to share with their communities when they return.

Pastor Victoria would love to lead a strong cohort from Royal Lane on this trip. If you're interested, please join us for an information session with Rev. Dr. George Mason on June 25 immediately following the Sunday service in the church library.

Child Protection Policy Training

Today, 12:45 pm — Vickrey Hall

Royal Lane is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our children and youth. We believe that it is vitally important to take decisive steps to ensure that the Church is a safe and happy place for children when they are attending any Church-sponsored program or activity.

In person training is Mandatory for volunteers who have not had the face-to-face training since COVID and for those who are new to volunteering in the Children and Youth Ministry.

**We are offering the in-person Child Protection Policy Training:
Sunday June 25th, 12:45 after the Service, in Vickery Hall.**

A Light lunch will be provided.

This training is open to all. Adult members, Deacons, Church Leaders, and facilitators, volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Wednesday Evening
RLBC Independence Day Fellowship

Wednesday, June 28, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Celebrate Independence Day with your Royal Lane Family.
Food, waterslide, snow cones, and fun for all ages!

And our famous potato salad and coleslaw contest!

Bring your best recipe to share and vote for your favorite in each category.
The winners will be crowned and immortalized in RLBC lore for at least the next year!



Please recycle your order of worship in a marked bin.



Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

ReNew - The Green VBS!

Join us for the start of our VBS experience in a non-traditional format. We kick off VBS for PreK 4's through 5th grade this Sunday, June 25th during Sunday School and Godly Play. Then on Friday and Saturday, June 30 - July 1st, children and their families will be invited to join an overnight stay at Sister Grove Farm to learn more about God's creation and how we can care for it, learn about others in our community and world that are serving as great stewards of our resources, and connect spiritual truths of God's love growing inside of each of us. Concluding activities will be on Sunday, July 2nd during Sunday School and Godly Play.

Overview of Dates:

Sunday, June 25th during Sunday School and Godly Play

Friday night, June 30th through Saturday, July 1st at lunch at Sister Grove Farm

Sunday, July 2nd during Sunday School and Godly Play

We welcome all children (PreK 4's through completed 5th graders) to join in **one or all** of the VBS days this year. We will be focusing on the Parable of the Sower throughout the 4 days of activities, so it will be easy for kids to follow along if they cannot attend all sessions.

Whether your child plans to attend Sundays only or the retreat, **PLEASE REGISTER** to give us an idea of how many children to expect. **If you are planning to do the retreat at Sister Grove Farm, please let us know ASAP by registering or contacting Sarah King with questions.**

Royal Lane Children's Ministry will be taking care of basic costs of staying at Sister Grove Farm, but families who stay overnight will also be welcome to leave a love offering that will go directly to Sister Grove Farm.

As part of the curriculum and the focus on stewardship of our creation, we are asking that all kiddos and volunteers bring their own reusable water bottles to help us avoid using plastic bottles or juice boxes.

Point to QR Code to Register today!



Schedule for the Week

Sunday	June 25 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
12:00 pm	Holy Land Trip Information Session — Library
12:45 pm	Child Protection Policy Training — Vickrey Hall, Light lunch provided.
Wednesday	June 28
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building – Room 201 (3:30 - 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	All-Church Independence Day Fellowship (5:30 – 7:00 pm) Church Grounds & Vickrey Hall Food, waterslide, snow cones, and more!
7:15 pm	Choir — Sanctuary
Friday	June 30
	ReNEW – The Green VBS — Sister Grove Farm
Saturday	July 1
	ReNEW – The Green VBS — Sister Grove Farm
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
Sunday	July 2 – Sunday
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	ReNEW – The Green VBS — Christian Education Building Youth to help with — ReNEW – The Green VBS
10:10 am	Non-Traditional Class — Christian Education Building, Room 212
10:55 am	Morning Worship – Holy Communion Offered Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel
12:00 pm	First Sunday Youth Lunch
12:00 pm	First Sunday Lunch for Families
12:15 pm	Missions Division — Room 212
7:30 pm	Education Division — Zoom

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

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
Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.



Deacons on Call – Margaret Darden & Sharon Vickrey **Safety Shepherd** – Cheryl Robinson

When WE Give: we support Churches that THRIVE for Racial Justice Project.

April 2023 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 300,219
Expenses	\$ 277,783
Surplus (Deficit)*	\$ 22,436

*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/



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