



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MARCH 16, 2025



WELCOME TO LENT

Welcome to this sacred season of Lent at Royal Lane Baptist Church. Whether you are a longtime member or joining us for the first time, we are grateful for your presence as we journey together through these forty days of reflection, growth, and transformation. Lent is a season of both challenge and grace, inviting us to turn our hearts toward God in preparation for the truth and celebration of Easter.

This year, our Lenten series, *Everything In Between*, is inspired by the Narrative Lectionary (Year 3) and guided by the Gospel of Luke. Throughout this season, we will explore the spaces between the polarities that so often define our lives—faith and works, rest and growth, grief and hope. These ideas are often seen as opposing forces, but scripture invites us into a deeper truth: these dichotomies are false. In the sacred in-between, we find nuance and complexity. And above all, we find God.

Lent is a time to open ourselves to transformation, to notice where God is meeting us beyond the categories we create. This season at Royal Lane is for anyone seeking a spiritual life that does not shy away from complexity but embraces it with faith and intention. May this journey draw us closer to God and to one another.

Welcome to Lent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Victoria Robb Powers'.

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor

MARCH 16, 2025

THE **WORSHIP OF GOD**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



The flowers today are given in memory of Pam Keith by the Keith family.

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

I can picture it—salty sweat, accumulating in her bangs. The scent of toasted seeds, crushed oregano, sumac, and cumin. Flour on her hands, painting streaks of white in her hair when she ties it back.

I can picture Martha in that kitchen, plating meals, eager to see their eyes close. Their heads nod. To hear the swell of approval that rises from their lips. And I can picture her sister. Brows scrunched. Fingers fidgeting, wishing for a pen, for paper, for a way to write it down. I can see her lean in, knees tucked, eyes bright. I can see her imagining the world he dreamed of.

And I can picture how, for generations, this story of two brazen women in scripture, a story of two women so close to Jesus, may have felt like an untamed wildfire. I can picture the way we put these women in boxes. I can imagine how people saw their full hearts, their untamed energy, and decided to label that as good and bad, better and worse. I can imagine how Martha's questions were interpreted as nagging, or the interruption interpreted as needy.

I can picture how it happened, but what if it was all more beautiful than that? What if these sisters discovered the faithfulness of learning, the kind of friendship that allows you to ask questions, or something in between?

I can imagine it. Can you?

Voluntary

David Weigle

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Arr. Joe Utterback

Call to Worship & Invocation

Rev. Harry Wooten & Congregation

Come as you are.

**If you have deep faith
or your faith has run dry.**

if you know every scripture
or none at all,

**if you have calloused hands
and live your faith through good works,**

or if you kneel at God's feet,
with a million hungry questions,

come as you are.

This is God's house.

None are turned away.

All are welcome here.

Let us pray:

Loving God,

When our anxiety hovers close,

when fear clings to our bones,

when our stress rises like the tide,

see us.

Speak to us.

Call us by name.

See us in our homes, in classrooms, in hospital waiting rooms.

Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the deep darkness of night.

Call us beloved.

Call us by name.

Call us your child.

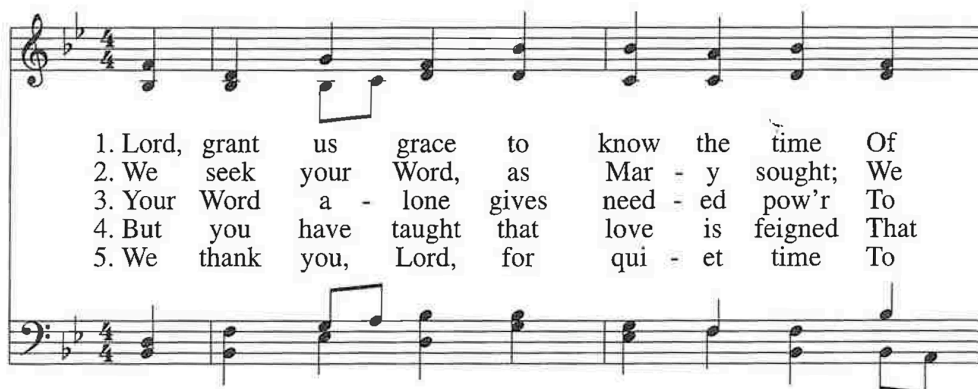
Whatever you do, speak to us,

for we cannot live on bread alone.

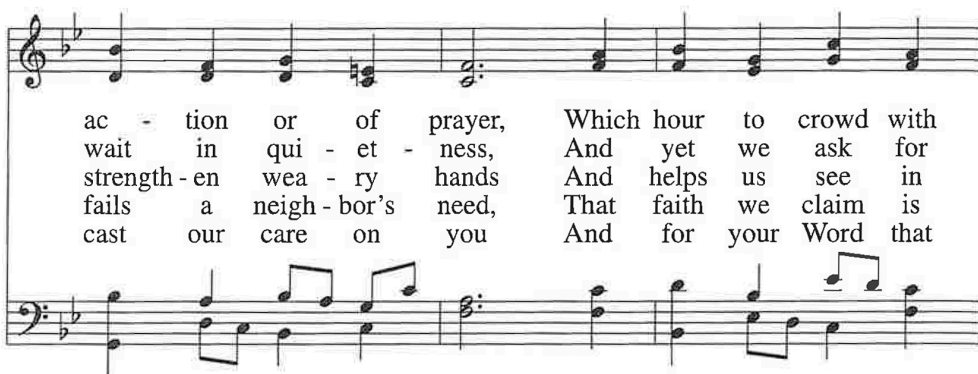
Amen.

Lord, Grant Us Grace to Know the Time

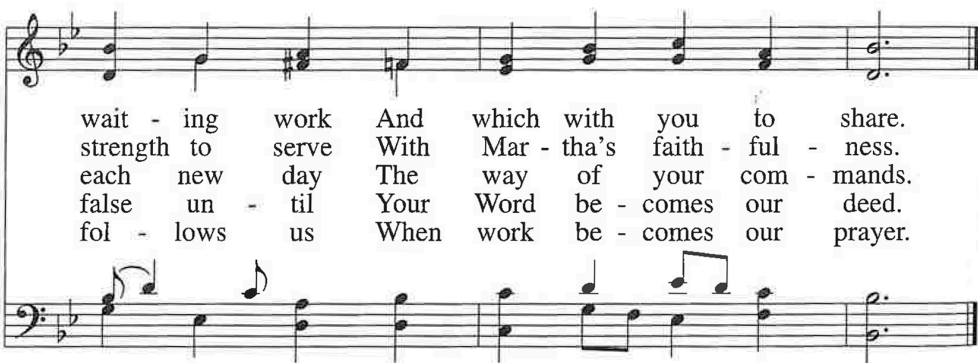
ST. ANNE



1. Lord, grant us grace to know the time Of
 2. We seek your Word, as Mar - y sought; We
 3. Your Word a - lone gives need - ed pow'r To
 4. But you have taught that love is feigned That
 5. We thank you, Lord, for qui - et time To



ac - tion or of prayer, Which hour to crowd with
 wait in qui - et - ness, And yet we ask for
 strength - en wea - ry hands And helps us see in
 fails a neigh - bor's need, That faith we claim is
 cast our care on you And for your Word that



wait - ing work And which with you to share.
 strength to serve With Mar - tha's faith - ful - ness.
 each new day The way of your com - mands.
 false un - til Your Word be - comes our deed.
 fol - lows us When work be - comes our prayer.

Words of Welcome

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

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

If you are a guest with us this morning, we invite you to register your attendance by filling out a "New Here" card which can be found in the pew racks. You may also register online at royallane.org/register or with the QR code.



Scripture Lesson

Garland Hamic

Luke 10:38-42

[Page 845 of the pew Bible]

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was so distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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

Rev. Beth Johnson

Children 3-years of age through 3rd grade are invited to Godly Play.

You may collect your children following the service in the Christian Education Building.

Martha Labored in the Kitchen

NETTLETON



1. Mar-tha la-bored in the kit-chen; there was much yet to be done!
 2. Ma-ry sat and hum-bly lis-tened to their guest—her Friend and Lord.
 3. God, we see in her dis-trac-tion—Mar-tha lost sight of her goal;
 4. Were there days when Ma-ry la-bored, help-ing oth-ers, serv-ing well?

There was cook-ing, clean-ing, bak-ing—too much work for a-ny-one.
 She just thought of Je-sus' teach-ing—not the need for bread and board.
 In her grumb-ling and com-plain-ing, she for-got food for the soul.
 Were there times when Mar-tha sa-vored sto-ries Je-sus loved to tell?

For the Lord had come to vi-sit; Je-sus sat there as her guest.
 So when Mar-tha came com-plain-ing, seek-ing Ma-ry's help that day,
 For there's al-ways some-thing press-ing—some-thing ur-gent we must do,
 May we wor-ship, pray, and stu-dy; may we serve you well to-day!

So much work! She longed to share it, so the meal would be its best.
 Je-sus turned to her ex-plain-ing, "Ma-ry chose the bet-ter way."
 Yet for us there's al-so bless-ing in the time we spend with you.
 All are need-ed for the jour-ney as we tra-vel Je-sus' way.

Call to Confession

Paul Williams & Congregation

The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong. We know that life is often more complicated than that. We know that faith is embodied through being present and taking action—and everything in between. Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace.

The Confession of Sin

Let us pray:

God of Grace,

We long to do the “right” thing.

We long to make the “right” choice.

We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.

Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.

For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you.

Show us the way. Amen.

We now silently confess our sins together.

Promise of Forgiveness

Faithful friends, God knows your heart. When you mean well and lose your way, God knows. When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows. When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows. You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve. This is the good news of the gospel! Nothing can separate you from God’s love.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Congregation

Ministry and Presence EIN FESTE BURG



When Je - sus passed near Mar - tha's home she had no
Her sis - ter Ma - ry took a seat to spend time
He said, "You are both gifts to me with diff - erent

3



hes - i - ta - tion "Please treat my house like it's your own,"
with the tea - cher In - tent - ly listen - ing at his feet,
ways of be - ing. I won't take that from Ma - ry



she gave the in - vi - ta - tion She wan - ted all the best
his words drew her in dee - per But Mar - tha took of - fense
whose place is right here with me. You have no - thing to prove

9



To serve her hon - ored guest Her check - list grew and grew
At Ma - ry so con - tent With all there was to do
So let your heart be moved. Just one thing do I need:



Her time was all con - sumed With min - i - stry a - bound - ing
She need - ed Ma - ry too And asked for Je - sus' back - ing
To feel your love in deeds Of min - i - stry and pre - sence."

Prayers of the People

Karen Simmons, Racial Justice Team

In peace let us pray to the Lord saying,
Christ have mercy.

For the nations of the world,
that all may live without fear of oppression, poverty, or war,
let us pray to the Lord.

Christ have mercy.

For the earth,
that we may wisely use its resources
for the benefit of humankind
and offer help wherever natural disaster has fractured human trust
in the goodness of creation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Christ hear our mercy.

For our communities and neighborhoods,
that all may dwell in harmony,
let us pray to the Lord.

Christ have mercy.

For our enemies,
that we may find reconciliation with them
for the sake of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Christ have mercy.

For all who are sick and in trouble,
that they may find healing and peace.

Today we pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

We now share silence together.

Let us pray:

**Merciful God,
Hear the prayers of your people,
offered in steadfast faith and hope in your care for us.
For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Anthem

Choir

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated

Arr. Ovid Young

Take my life, and let it be
consecrated Lord, to Thee;
take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee;
take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my will and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is Thine own,
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for Thee.

Sermon

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

“Faith and Works”

Moment of Contemplation

Choral Response

Choir

Breathe, Listen, and Notice

Words and Music by Paul Vasile

*Help us speak less, slow judgement,
breathe, listen, and notice
what is present in the dissonance, discomfort, and in the questions.*

*Help us love well, walk humbly,
breathe, listen, and notice
God is calling us to faithfulness, compassion, and to courage.*

☩ Offertory Prayer

Jeff Hill

Most loving God, most welcoming God,
we bring these gifts to you,
knowing that you will use them
according to your purposes.
We dedicate ourselves to your way,
to challenge the worldly values
that are so prevalent in your world today. Amen.

Offertory

Robyn Watson, Maren Tonini

Larghetto Sostenuto from Duet No. 1

L.V. Beethoven

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



Benediction

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.

God is with us in the mountains,

God is with you in the valleys,

God is everywhere in between.

Believe the good news, and go in peace.

Organ Dismissal

David Weigle

No Shade So Rare

G.F. Handel

At the close of the service, if you would like to receive prayer, several of our deacons will remain at the front of the sanctuary and would be glad to pray with you.



RLBC WOMEN'S RETREAT

THROUGH EVERY AGE AND STAGE

Come enjoy time for personal reflection and connection with one another, God and nature at Sister Grove Farm, as we encounter an empowering framing story for our lives as women. Together we'll travel the spiritual path of transformation to understand the archetypes of Maiden, Mother, Queen and Crone and how they offer us insight into who we are and who we're meant to be.

APRIL 25-26, 2025
SISTER GROVE FARM
VAN ALSTYNE, TX

Registration
\$70



SPEAKER: KIM VERRIERE
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR
& RETREAT LEADER

**FOLLOW QR CODE
TO REGISTER**

If you would enjoy staying overnight on the farm for a night (or two or three), comfortable lodging can be guaranteed by booking with Sarah Macias before March 15. (Inquiries can be made after that date but not guaranteed) - Contact Sarah at 903-312-0717 or sarah@sistergrovefarm with your needs and the name(s) of your roommate so that billing can be made directly from the farm.





TRUE NORTH

Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

**VBS &
MUSIC/ARTS
CAMP
2025**

AGE 3
THROUGH
COMPLETED
GRADE 5

JUNE 23-27

9AM-12PM VBS

1PM-4PM MUSIC/ARTS CAMP

\$40 FOR VBS / \$70 FOR BOTH



Scholarships Available
contact bjohnson@royallane.org

ROYAL LANE *HAPPENINGS*



WEDNESDAY
LUNCH+LEARN SERIES

Stephen Cady

The Church's Role in Seminary
Education

Lunch + Learn

*Wednesday, March 19, 12:00pm, Vickrey Hall
(Lunch Line opens at 11:30am)*

On Wednesday, we are honored to host the President of Brite Divinity School, Dr. Stephen Cady, to discuss *The Church's Role in Seminary Education*. Join us for this important conversation!



Mission Event

Saturday, March 22, 1:00pm, Vickrey Hall

This Saturday, we will gather to assemble baby hygiene kits for Hope Supply. Come participate in the final step of this ministry effort, which will benefit many families in the DFW area.



Lenten Bible Study

Wednesday, March 26, 6:00pm, Library

Mark your calendars for our Lenten Bible Study led by ordination candidate, Mara Bim. This group will gather on Wednesday evenings in the Church Library for four weeks. Dates are March 26, April 2, 9, and 16.



Women's Night Out

Thursday, March 27, Pastor Victoria's Home

Come have dinner and fellowship with other women in the community at Pastor Victoria's. Get to know new members of the community and reconnect with those you already know!

See Coming Events on our website for more information.

ROYALLANE.ORG

WEEKLY *SCHEDULE*



Wednesday, March 19

10:00 am: Communion & Contemplation — Church Library **note day/time change*

12:00 pm: Lunch + Learn — Vickrey Hall & Zoom (Lunch line opens at 11:30 am)

Menu:

Program:

1:30 pm: Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building, Room 212 (1:30 - 3:30 pm)

6:15 pm: Children's Choir — Christian Education Building, Room 202

6:15 pm: Youth Gathering — Harris Youth Cottage

7:15 pm: Choir — Sanctuary

Saturday, March 22

1:00pm: Hope Supply Kit Assembly Event — Vickrey Hall

2:00 pm: Questers Class — Zoom

Sunday, March 23

9:45 am: Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building & Library

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

9:45 am: Youth Christian Education — Harris Youth Cottage

11:00 am: Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel

Godly Play (following Time for Young Disciples) — Godly Play Room

Children 3-year through Third Grade

WORSHIP *NOTES*

Cover Art

Mary and Martha by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Inspired by Luke 10:38-42

Digital painting

Growing up, I felt I had to decide whether I was a Mary or a Martha. I never identified with Martha because the culturally-prescribed roles of a woman were my weakness, and I didn't identify with Mary either because she seemed more earnest than I felt.

Diving into the Greek of this text helped me work through my very well-worn opinions to find some nuance. Martha's work was not limited to cooking and cleaning; the Greek word used for her many tasks is διακονία which also means "service, ministering, and promoting religion."³ With this layered meaning in mind, it is clear to me that Jesus' response is not about Martha's ministry, but her preoccupation with Mary.

I think the most pivotal shift in translation is found in v. 42 where it is often translated, "Mary has chosen the better part." When you look at the Greek, however, it can also be translated as, "a good portion" or "a useful share."⁴ In light of this, I believe Jesus is not offering a value judgment between them, but assuaging Martha's worry by affirming that Mary is doing a good portion of the work too.

Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, a place that was reserved for men. I wonder if Martha was concerned about what might happen to Mary for being out of "her place." Jesus' response is radical because he affirms she has chosen a good portion of the work, and even though she is not where she is expected to be, no one can take that away from her. Jesus protects her right to assume the position of a disciple.

In this image, Mary eagerly reaches toward Jesus. Her clothing is patterned with mustard seeds and flowers because her faith may seem small, but her boundary-breaking faithfulness will nurture her faith to grow beyond what seems possible. Martha reaches toward Mary to pull her into more "appropriate" work. Martha's dress is patterned with open hands to image her vital ministry of welcome, service, and cultivating space for Jesus' message to take root. I imaged Jesus equally affirming both Mary and Martha's lived-out faiths. He is green, the combination of Mary and Martha's colors (yellow + blue), showing that he embodies the integration of both faith and works. —Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Liturgy Notes

Poetry and Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Hymn Notes

Lord, Grant Us Grace to Know the Time

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, b. 1923, © 1997, GIA Publications, Inc

Tune: ST. ANNE, CM; attractive. to William Croft, 1678-1727; harm. composite from 18th c. versions

Martha Labored in the Kitchen

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2016. John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813.

© 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

Ministry and Presence

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024. Music by Martin Luther, 1529.

© Anna Strickland, 2024. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Breathe, Listen, and Notice

Words and Music by Paul Vasile.

Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

LovedIntoBeing Music, Copyright © 2025

HOW TO *CONNECT*

Event Details

See the Weekly News & Journal or Web Calendar for Links and details for In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events.

royallane.org/resources/event

Prayer Requests

We invite you to use the green prayer cards, available in the “pockets” on the back of each pew, to submit prayer requests. You can also submit requests by filling out the prayer request form on the website at royallane.org/prayer. Prayer cards may be placed in the offering plate.

*REQUEST
PRAYER*



Deacons on Call

Jeff Hill and Garland Hamic

GIVING AT ROYAL LANE

We encourage you to support the missions and ministries of our church. Text “GIVE” to 214-609-1200 or scan the QR code. Follow the prompts to complete the process. Standard text message rates may apply. You can also donate online at royallane.org/give.

*ONLINE
GIVING*



ROYAL LANE STAFF

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor
Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship
Rev. Beth Johnson, Minister to Children, Youth, & Families
Tori Jones, Communications & Ministry Coordinator
Kenna Curry, Pastoral Intern
David Doom, Ministries Assistant
David Weigle, Organist

Mike Hurder, Maintenance Director
Eloisa Rodriguez, Housekeeping
Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician
Brandon Green, Audio Technician
Brian Stinecipher, Audio Technician
Blake Vickrey, Audio Technician



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