

Ash Wednesday



The season of Lent in the Christian Church begins on Ash Wednesday.

The observance of Ash Wednesday became widespread throughout Christendom during the 7th Century and provides an opportunity for the worshipping community to engage in corporate penitence and confession...to prepare for the Season of Lent...and to look forward to the hope of Easter.

During the Ash Wednesday Service, it is traditional for ashes to be placed on the foreheads of the faithful as the worship leader intones the words from Genesis: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

In medieval times, it is recorded that a popular sign in public places read, "Remember you are dying." It was a reminder of the reality of death, but more than that, a reminder to live fully that day. So, too, is Ash Wednesday a reminder that from ashes we have come and to ashes we return. It provides an opportunity to examine the kind of life that we are leading ... what is the quality of our lives, what is the quality of our actions, our thoughts, our relationships.

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Opening Voluntary

David Weigle

Adagio in G minor — Tomaso Albioni

(The lighting of the Pascal candle honors the people of Ukraine.)

✠ Call to Worship

Congregation

God, we have to admit that we don't like Ash Wednesday
We would rather skip the penitence and soul-searching of Lent
and skip right to the joy of Easter morning.

**The world teaches us that mistakes are awful
and should be covered up at all cost.**

**We learn to blame others instead of owning up to what we do
and the pain we inflict.**

As we unclutter the spiritual junk in our lives,
we know our humility cannot be too great,
nor can your mercy be too much.

Help us now as we do that hard work of confession,

the quiet work of discipline,

and the necessary work of compassion.

Help us to remake this world with you.

Help us to remake this world with you.

We need your freedom, O God,

a freedom that finds us in the midst of the heaviness of this life.

✠ A Lenten Prayer

Congregation

Let us pray:

**Loving God, we know Jesus spent forty days in the desert preparing for
his ministry to the world. We ask that you use these forty days of Lent to
prepare us for our mission to the world in Jesus' name. Amen.**

✠ Hymn [see insert]

Congregation

Sunday's Palms are Wednesday's Ashes — BEACH SPRING

O God, when we pause to look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

**We have neglected to do good
when it was in our power to do so.**

We, like believers of old, have pulled down your altars and erected idols crafted in our own image.

**We have turned our backs on the poor,
choosing instead to criminalize poverty.**

We have ignored the cries of the motherless, the fatherless, the widow and the widower, choosing instead to turn children and the elderly into the new poor.

**We have bankrupted the country with our greed
and consumed more than our share of the world's riches.**

We have not dealt honorably with our enemies or our friends, yet we have taken a place in the company of the righteous.

**Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected to provide
our children and our world an authentic example of Christianity.**

As we begin the journey of these forty days,
wash us, O God, and we shall be clean.

**Cleanse us, O Lord,
and we shall be made whole. Amen.**

—based on Psalm 51

Promise for Healing and Renewal

Righteous God, in humility and repentance we bring our failures in caring, helping and loving, we bring the pain we have caused others, we bring the injustice in society of which we are a part, to the transforming power of your grace.

**Grant us the courage to accept the healing you offer and to turn again
toward the sunrise of your reign, that we may walk with you in the promise
of the peace that you have willed.**

Scripture Lesson

Nancy Ferrell

Joel 2, 1-2, 12-17 (Pew Bible page 787 of the New Testament)

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!**

I Take the Cross — Jay Rouse

I take the cross of Jesus Christ in ashes on my face.
 This ancient symbol made in dust reminds me of His grace.
 I beg for mercy from my Lord, to cleanse me deep within.
 I know myself, my faulty life, my tendency toward sin.
 O cross of ashes, speak again in ways I understand;
 speak forth repentance, let me know forgiveness from Your hand.
 Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray; look deep within and find
 our hearts made whole, our thoughts made pure, our eyes no longer blind.
 This cross of ashes on my brow reminds me life is brief.
 From dust I came, to dust I go through sorrow, pain and grief.
 These forty days are set aside for those who share the call
 to take the cross, deny themselves, and give to Christ their all.
 —text: R. G. Huff

Meditation

Steve Graham

“ An Exercise of the Heart ”*Silence Is Kept*

Ritual of Ashes

Laura Keller

These symbols of past triumph and celebration, burnt and ground, will now smudge
 our flesh and bind our imaginations to God’s power to restore. Come, all who seek a
 mark of liberation and focus for the Lenten journey ahead.

Prayer of Blessing

Congregation

Let us pray:

**We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our
 shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross, we
 also receive this ashen cross — another sign that in life and in death, we
 belong to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming
 again, we pray. Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

Congregation

Dust you are and to dust you shall return.

Have mercy, O Lord.

*Following the choir, please move by way of the center aisle.
 This evening you may receive the ashes on the back of your hand.*

(continued)

Dust I Am — Mark A. Miller
(please sing the refrain on direction)

Congregational Refrain

Dust I am, to dust I shall re - turn, have
mer - - - cy, O Lord. Dust I am, to
dust I shall re - turn, have mer - - cy, O Lord.

✠ Response to Receiving the Ashes

Harry Wooten & Congregation

An ending and a beginning:
the end of our old selves,
and a new beginning in faith.

In the ashes of my old life, a new life is born.

An ending and a beginning:
the end of living in shadows,
and the beginning to living within the light.

In the ashes of my old life, a new life is born.

An ending and a beginning:
the end of a life that brings hurt,
and a beginning to a life that offers healing.

In the ashes of my old life, a new life is born.

An ending and a beginning:
the end of a journey of distraction,
and a beginning of our journey to the cross.

In the ashes of my old life, a new life is born.

An ending and a beginning:
the end of division and prejudice,
and a beginning to community and traveling together.

In the ashes of my old life, a new life is born.

†Hymn [see insert]

Congregation

Savior, When in Tears and Dust— SPANISH HYMN

†Benediction

Steve Graham & Congregation

Let us pray:

Thank you, O Savior, for the symbolic power of ashes to expose our mortality and renew our focus. Unite us with all who bear the mark of ash and all who bear the mark of mortality by their very lives. Send us forth with our symbols of new life so that we might become vessels of worship in the midst of brokenness. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

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Register Your Attendance

Royallane.org/register



Hymn Notes

Sunday's Palms are Wednesdays Ashes

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Dust I Am

Text: Lindy Thompson, Music: Mark A. Miller, Copyright © 2020, Hinshaw Music

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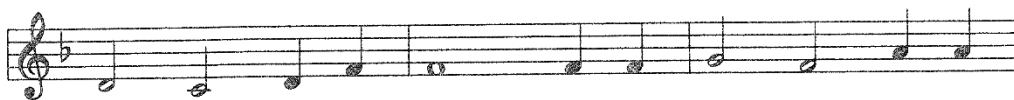
Savior, When in Tears and Dust

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Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes



1. *Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an -
2. We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of -
3. We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to



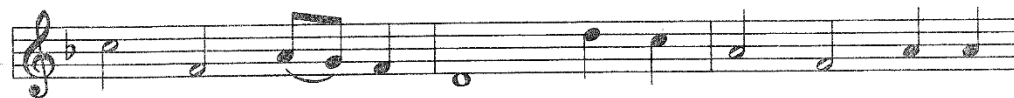
oth - er Lent be - gins; thus we kneel be - fore our
fenc - es to for - give, have not lis - tened to their
proof of hu - man need; and our lack of un - der -



Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our
trou - bles, nor have cared just how they
stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner



sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re -
live, we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing
greed; we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and



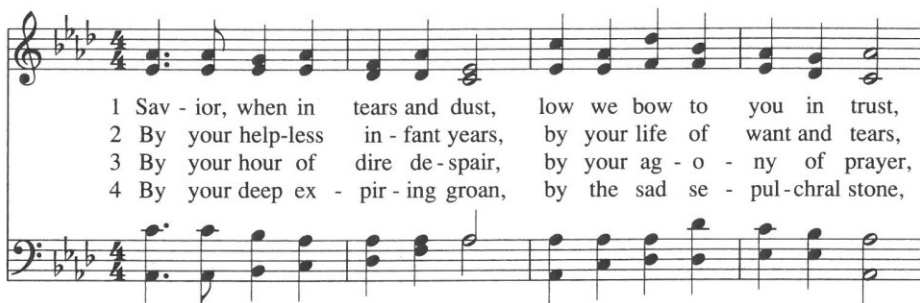
bel - lion gone a - stray; now, re - turn - ing, seek for -
o - ver - much our things; may the yield - ing of our
suf - fering we've ig - nored; come and cleanse us, then re -



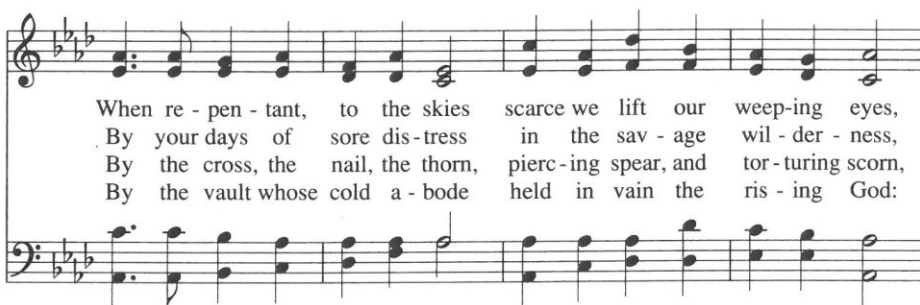
give - ness; grant us par - don, God, this day!
fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.
store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

Savior, When in Tears and Dust

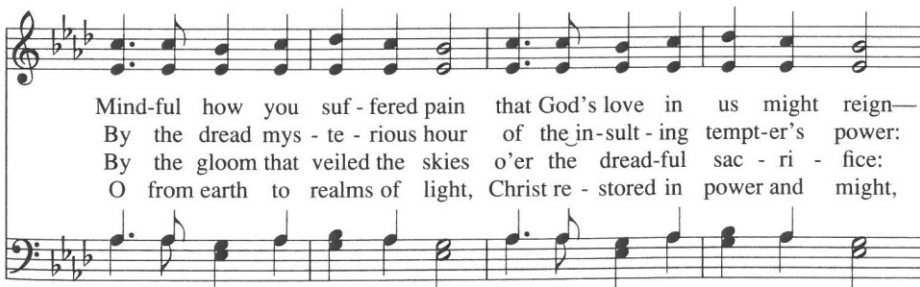
Robert Grant, 1815; alt.



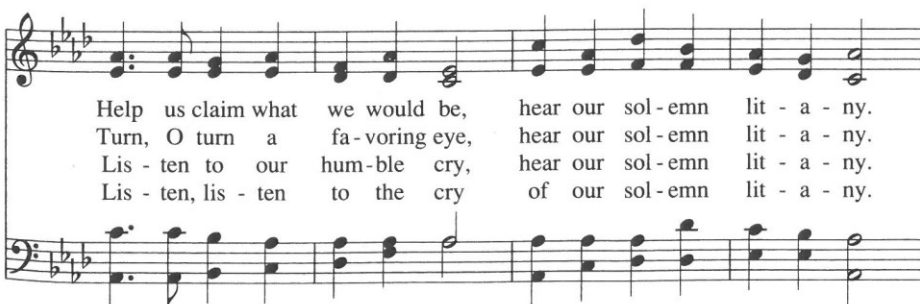
1 Sav - ior, when in tears and dust, low we bow to you in trust,
2 By your help-less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



When re - pen - tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
By your days of sore dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
By the vault whose cold a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God:



Mind - ful how you suf - fered pain that God's love in us might reign—
By the dread mys - te - rious hour of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's power:
By the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice:
O from earth to realms of light, Christ re - stored in power and might,



Help us claim what we would be, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
Turn, O turn a fa - voring eye, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
Lis - ten to our hum - ble cry, hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny.
Lis - ten, lis - ten to the cry of our sol - emn lit - a - ny.

The Scripture this evening is Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, which may be found on page 740 of the Old Testament of the pew Bible.

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near— ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

NRSV

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!**

Guest Musicians, Sunday, March 6

Arnold Rawls



A native of West Monroe, Louisiana, Arnold Rawls has served as Artist/Professor at the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago and at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas. Currently he is Artist in Residence at White's Chapel Methodist Church of Southlake. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University (Music Ed and Church Music), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Master of Arts) and the University of Oklahoma (Doctorate of Musical Arts in Voice). He and his wife Julie have two children Graham (26) and Madison (21).

Dr. Rawls is a professional opera singer and has travelled to perform in opera houses around the world. He is a regular member on the roster of the Metropolitan Opera where he has performed Manrico in Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and Calaf in Puccini's *Turandot*. He has been a frequent guest at the Sydney Opera House, Seattle Opera, Bregenz Festival (Austria) and the Royal Opera Liège in Belgium.

Dr. Rawls' professional career started out as a Minister of Music serving First Baptist Church of Ada, Oklahoma and Spring Creek Baptist Church of Oklahoma City where he served with Pastor Steve Graham.

Michael T. Smith



Born in Nashville, Tennessee, and finding God's call in his life at age 17, Michael T. Smith has served as Minister of Music in churches across the country, presenting over 170 major productions and concerts, and over 125 music tours—domestic and abroad—for youth, adults, and senior adults. In addition to being a worship leader, Michael is an accomplished pianist, composer, and arranger.

With over 40 years of experience working with choirs around the United States, Michael feels strongly about the role of the church choir in local church ministry and outreach beyond the four walls of the church and continues to share, encourage, and inspire church musicians in Biblical worship.

Michael and his high school sweetheart, Sharon, have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, Shelley Thames and her husband Knox of Falls Church, Virginia and Kelley Higgs and her husband Lynn of San Antonio, Texas. They enjoy five wonderful grandchildren!

My Lenten Resolves

The pattern of “giving up” something for Lent has long been a symbol of penitence and personal piety during the season. This year, in concert with the Racial Justice Team initiatives we are suggesting you ADD something to your Lenten experiences that furthers your personal and corporate understanding of and response to racism.

As a prompt the Racial Justice Team will be providing thought provoking questions for you to consider, along with educational and inspirational resources; books, podcasts, articles, videos, etc. These will be listed on the Lenten Resolves page each week in the order of worship. This will be an organic “growing” list of resources which will be available on our website.

Additionally, the Racial Justice Team has been interviewing members of our congregation who were involved in early Royal Lane efforts for social and racial justice. Transcripts of these interviews will also be available each week.

Please consider these matters of the heart and soul as you journey thru this season of Lent.

2022 Lenten Devotionals

“Drawn to the Cross” – Inspiration from Henri J. M. Nouwen

Print Copies available for your personal use. (Start date – March 2, Ash Wednesday)

or

“Making the Road - Walking through Lent” – by Teri McDowell Ott

Lenten Devotionals – posted online and distributed via email.

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(Start Date – March 6 – First Sunday in Lent)

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

Mike Keith & Garey Wisdom

December 2021 Financials

	YTD Actual
Revenues*	\$ 688,942
Expenses	\$ 680,285
Surplus (Deficit)*	\$ 8,657

*Includes annual pledges paid up front in full.

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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