

# VIRTUAL ASH WEDNESDAY

22 de febrero / February 22, 2023 | 7:00 a.m.

# CALVARY DC

Join us on Zoom  
[bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC](https://bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC)  
Or watch live at  
[facebook.com/calvarydc](https://facebook.com/calvarydc)



## La Bienvenida | Welcome

Rev. Mahogany

## Palabras de Alabanza | Centering Words

Pastor Sally + Pastor Maria

There's a heaviness in the air. I suspect you feel it too.

**In Lent, we are reminded we are free to say no.**

Free to grieve and free to lament.

**Free to inhale and free to exhale.**

We make space for the ashes.

**Come, let us journey together into holy blackness.**

\*Adapted from *Black Liturgies* by Cole Arthur Riley

## Música | Musical Meditation

**Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child**

sung by Rhea Naomi Williams

## Lectura | Sacred Scripture

**Joel 2:1, 12-17, 21-22**

Pastor Sally

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Cry the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land quake,  
for the day of the Holy God is coming it is near.

Yet even now, says the HOLY ONE,  
Return to me with all your hearts,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with lamenting.

Tear your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the HOLY ONE, your God,  
for God is gracious and loves as a mother,  
slow to anger, and abounds in faithful love,  
and reluctant to impose harm.

Who knows whether God will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind  
for a grain offering and a drink offering  
to the HOLY ONE, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly.  
gather the people: sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged; gather the children,  
even the breastfeeding babies.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the portico and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the HOLY ONE, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, HOLY ONE,  
and do not offer your heritage as mockery,  
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'  
Fear not, O land! Be glad and rejoice,  
for the HOLY ONE has done great things!  
Fear not, O animals of the field!  
For the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree lifts up its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their riches.

\*Translation from *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda C. Gafney

## Lectura | Sacred Reading

Rev. Mahogany

Womanist Reading: "temple" by Ashlee Haze

the pastor says  
we are *having church*  
and I begin to wonder what it means to  
possess a thing you cannot touch

I caught the holy ghost once  
after chasing him in the back pews  
held onto him long enough to convince my mother of salvation  
then went home and set him free in the wild

how pompous of man to  
think himself temple  
don't you know I have called out to God  
in emptier structures?

the doors of the church are open  
come, sit  
lay your burdens at the altar  
eat the body and its crumbs, sip the blood  
until you are satisfied

I am unlearning how to erect myself  
as a stained-glass home  
this pipe-organ heart is guilty of calling out to the godless  
especially men who peek during prayer

## Lectura | Sacred Scripture

**Mateo | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-17**

*Pastor Maria*

[Jesus said,] "Now beware of practicing your justness before other people in order to be seen by them; surely, lest you have no reward from your Creator in heaven.

"So when you give alms, do not trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, in order that they may be praised by other people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what the right hand is doing, in order that your alms may be secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrite; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order that they may be seen by other people. Truly I tell you, they have received their recompense. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Creator who is in secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you fast, do not be sullen like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces in order to show other people they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, in order that your fasting may be seen, not by others, but by your Creator who is in secret, and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.”

\*Translation from *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda C. Gafney

## Reflecciones | Words of Reflection

*Rev. Mahogany*

## Música | Musical Meditation

**Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior**  
*Desmond Thompson, soloist*

## Las Cenizas | Imposition of Ashes and Benediction

*Pastor Sally*

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Visit [calvarydc.org](http://calvarydc.org) and select “Sign up for Updates.”

Contact the **Deacon of the Week**, Brooke Young,  
[davis.brookec@gmail.com](mailto:davis.brookec@gmail.com) with your cares and concerns.



**Livestream available on all In-Person Sundays—**  
[facebook.com/CalvaryDC](https://facebook.com/CalvaryDC).

**Join us from home on Zoom for Holiday Virtual Sundays—**  
[bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC](https://bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC) or watch the livestream at link above.

Our next VIRTUAL Sunday is April 16 (a “church holiday” offering rest for the staff the Sunday after Easter.)

# COVER IMAGE

“i did not know i could be beautiful (number 1)”

by Ashon Crawley

*“i didn’t know i could be beautiful” is an attempt to think about where beauty hides itself, where delight and joy and pleasure are. a return to the posture of praise, surrender, the yes, the bloom. there are worlds there. more to come.”*

**Ashon T. Crawley** is an American scholar of religion and author. He is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and African American and African Studies at the University of Virginia and author of *Blackpentecostal Breath: The Aesthetics of Possibility* on aesthetics and performance as modes of social imagination, and *The Lonely Letters*, an epistolary, semi-autobiographical work on love, blackness, mysticism, and quantum theory.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Parents Connect Re-starting Thursday evenings**— If you are seeking community in the valuable and sacred work of parenting, join us Thursday evenings on Zoom where we will gather to share and support one another through listening. We will be making space for one another on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9 pm. For more info contact Shiwei: [schen@calvarydc.org](mailto:schen@calvarydc.org).

**Calling All Travelers**— Woman’s Mission Society (WMS) plans to prepare 60 Christmas Boxes for So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.). to be delivered close to the holiday. Included in these boxes in addition to the hand knit and crocheted scarves and hats for men, women and children are toiletries. We will also need this size for Welcome Kits for Sasha Bruce Youth that provides services for homeless youth. For Sasha Bruce we also need travel size tooth paste.

You can help by bringing to the church the hotel/sample size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash and small soaps that you pick up while traveling. A collection box will be placed on the Sunday morning sign-in table. Drop any unopened bottles there. If you don't travel much, you might be able to find a similar size in bins at pharmacies and grocery stores. We can only use these small sizes.

**Coffee Hour Convos**— The spiritual texts guiding us through the Lenten season are a series of conversations Jesus had with specific individuals. As we delve deeper into these personal encounters, we have imagined opening similar spaces among us to encounter one another in a deeper way. At Calvary, we are honored to be a home for your spiritual community. Our hope is that we can strengthen this community this Lent so we can know, honor, and uphold one another.

With that, we are introducing Coffee Hour Convos for three weeks in March. During Coffee Hour, we will give you all an opportunity to pair up with a fellow Calvary goer and engage in conversation that will draw us deeper into connection. We will provide you with prompts to get the ball rolling, and space for you to gather.

We will be holding these Coffee Hour Convos on March 5, 12, and 19th. We will begin at about 11:45am, giving everyone a chance to grab a coffee and touch base with others. Childcare will be provided until 12:30 each Sunday. The hope is that after these 3 weeks, you will have had the chance to connect with 3 other members of our community. Of course, this is a completely optional activity, but our invitation to each of you is to see the light of the Divine in one another as you courageously let others see you.

More details will follow, but for now, make note.

**February and Black History Month at Calvary**— Rev. Mahogany Thomas has curated a beautiful experience for us this coming month where we will celebrate Blackness in an array of ways! All are invited to celebrate Black bodies as we "*return to a posture of praise, surrender, the yes, the bloom.*"

## OUR LABOR TOGETHER | A Mission Statement

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We are a multi-racial, multi-ethnic community of Christ followers committed to the sacred work of anti-racism, social justice, and radical inclusion.

## OUR BELOVEDNESS | A Values Statement

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We affirm that God celebrates the creative diversity of God's kin-dom, loving people of every color, faith, nationality, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. It matters that people who have been historically marginalized by the Christian church in America see themselves listed here as God's beloved. In other words, **YOU** are our values statement.

- We believe Black Lives Matter. Further still, Black Lives are precious and beloved by God. We are a church shaped by this profound theological statement. Until this is fully understood and expressed in the policies and practices of this nation's political and social life, it is essential for people of faith to keep saying, and living, this truth.
- We believe no human being is "illegal," and as a Sanctuary Church, we fully welcome and support people of all immigration statuses.
- We believe LGBTQ+ lives are sacred, beautiful, and ought to be fully included and affirmed in all aspects of congregational life and leadership.
- We celebrate that our worshipping life is multi-lingual and multi-dimensional, especially shaped by Latin American, particularly Salvadoran, traditions, and the Historic Black Church tradition.
- We value interfaith inclusion and welcome people of any and all faith traditions to find a home here.
- We value people for who they are and not for their role in an economy where wealth accumulates and people struggle to live.
- We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the Piscataway, Anacostan, and Nacotchtank Peoples past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We believe that the earth is sacred and that we must continue to learn how to be better caretakers of the land we inhabit.
- We value diverse theological voices which have long stood on the margins within the Christian tradition in America.

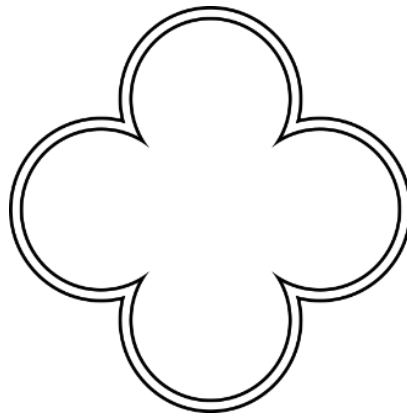
## OUR HOLY IMAGINATION | A Vision Statement

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We believe that Jesus identifies particularly with oppressed and marginalized people and invites us into radically inclusive community. As a historically white church with the sacred gift of now being a multiracial Christian community, we hear the clarion call to engage in the active and disruptive work of anti-racism and decolonization, both within ourselves and in the world. Ultimately, we commit to this labor as a *joyful* act of discipleship that leads us ever deeper into the Gospel of liberation and life.

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carrie Dale, mother of Amy Dale; For peace to prevail in Ukraine, Palestine, Afghanistan, and Yemen; Bradley Sims, friend of Carter Vaughn; Brian Cook, friend of the Kosmidis family; Shalom scholar, Karla Giron, and members of the Baptist Association of El Salvador; Javier Dario Galindo, Nathalie Galindo-Lee's brother; Paul Lansing; Joe Taylor, Jessica Taylor's father; Marlene Shambaugh, Courtney Miller's aunt; Each and every one of us, particularly the most vulnerable among us as we face the effects of COVID-19 together; Luis Campos; Daniel Alcazar-Roman's uncle; Rena Jirack; Brian Scott, Yolanda Appiah-Kubi's brother and Salima Appiah-Duffell's uncle; Ruby Shepherd; Olive Tiller; Desmond Tio, friend of Karla Fahey; Harold Walker, Jackie Wright's stepfather; Peace in El Salvador, refugees, asylum seekers, and immigration reform; Victims of gun violence, racial reconciliation and justice everywhere; people targeted with hate crimes; Peace in our world, especially those impacted by war, violence, and government turmoil; Our collective response to resisting white supremacy. Victims of terror everywhere.



## CHURCH STAFF

**Sally Sarratt** (she/her)

**Maria Swearingen** (she/her)

**Mahogany Thomas** (she/her)

**Shiwei Chen** (she/her)

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