



2 CORINTHIANS *6:1-10*



ashes to ashes dust to dust "In this brief transit where the dreams cross the dream-crossed twilight between birth and dying, Ash Wednesday." - T.S. Eliot

a liturgy for ash wednesday

6:1 As we work together with God, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For God says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!



We are God's co-workers, not the Most High's minions nor the Almighty's underlings. We participate in God's salvific liberation with a posture of "power with" rather than "power over."

Look, now



How might you, as a Divine co-laborer, reflect this participatory power this lent?





"New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die."

— RICHARD ROHR

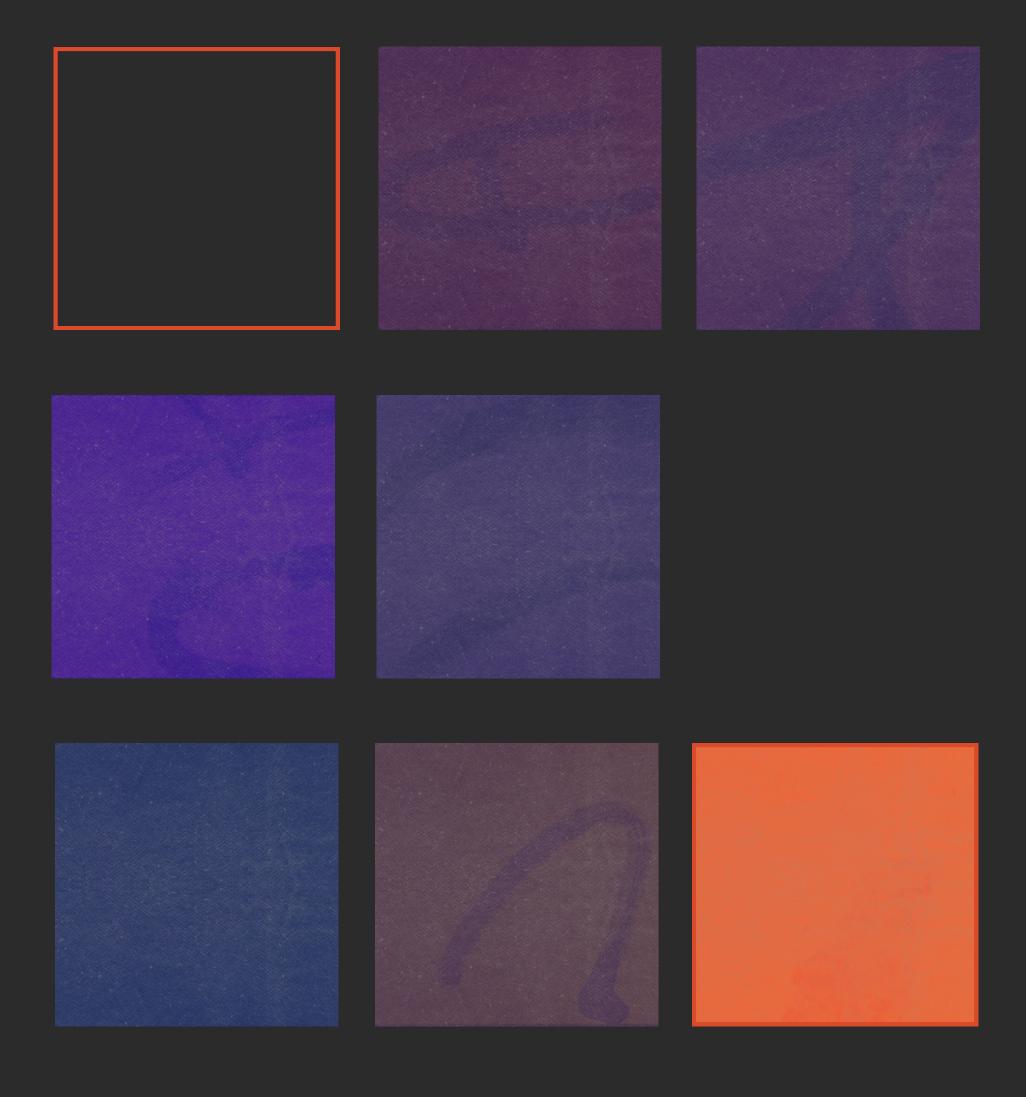






Ashes to Ashes

3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;



What might this Divine co-laborer relationship be asking of us?

What might it cost us in this season?



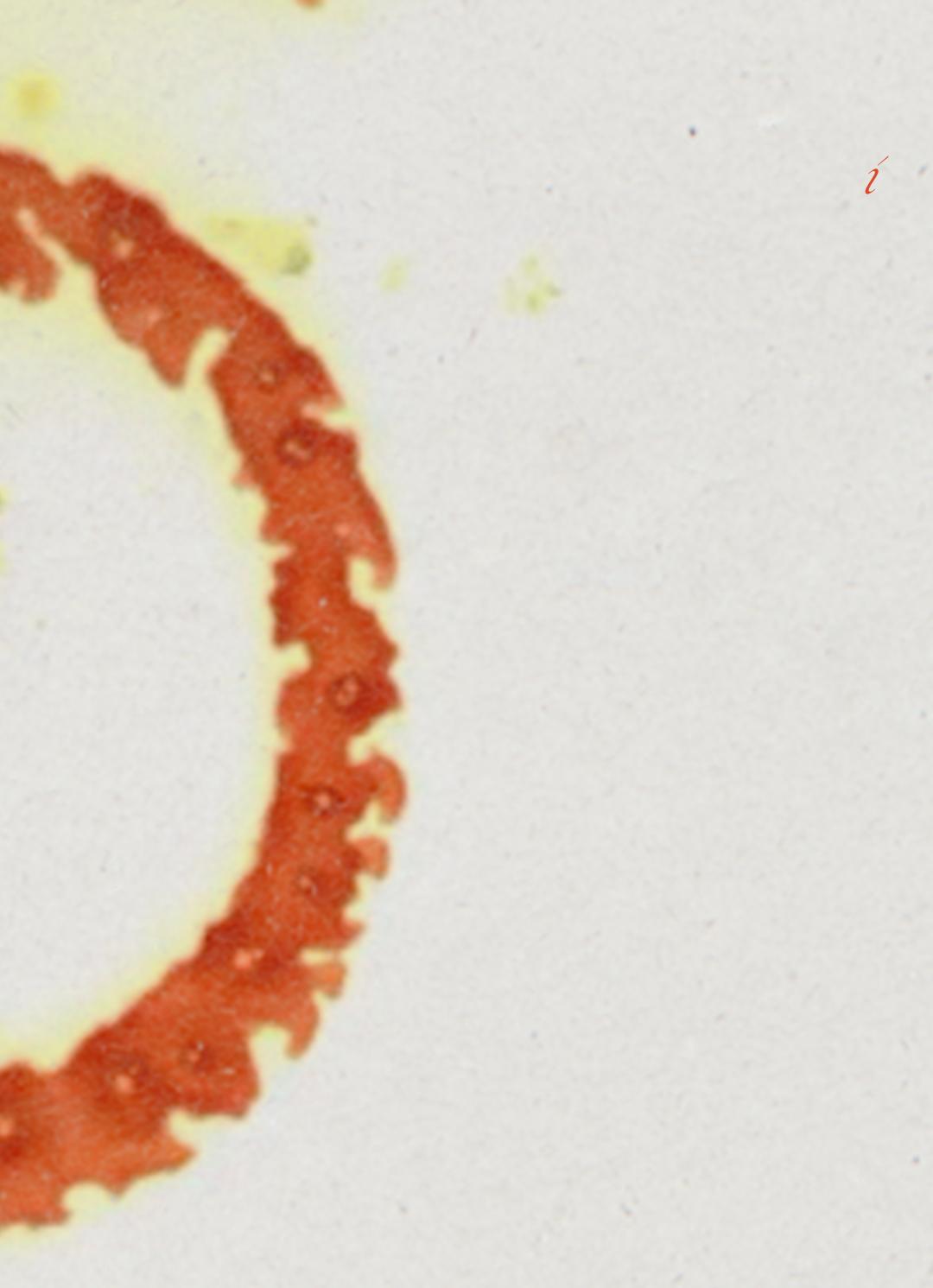
inhale



6 IN PURITY, KNOWLEDGE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, HOLINESS OF SPIRIT, GENUINE LOVE, 7 TRUTHFUL SPEECH, AND THE POWER OF GOD; WITH THE WEAPONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE RIGHT HAND AND FOR THE LEFT; 8 IN HONOR AND DISHONOR, IN ILL REPUTE AND GOOD REPUTE.

001

We are invited here to participate in work in all states of being alongside our divine partner. This work can be joyful and strenuous.



When you close your eyes, how do you envision this work? What pictures or images come to mind? What is your body doing right now in response?

inhale



Dust to Dust

We are treated as impostors and yet are true, 9 as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.





Where are the glimpses of hope that we are noticing that are emerging alongside the seasons of loss and grief?

How are we invited to hold both of those simultaneously in tension with each other?

inhale



2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

6:1 As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For God says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation!

3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, 9 as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.