

JUST *Love* MINISTRY PRESENTS



Voices of Justice

FAITH & RESILIENCE IN FLORIDA'S BLACK HISTORY



Rosewood

THE ROSEWOOD MASSACRE: REMEMBERING INJUSTICE (1923)

Rosewood was a thriving Black community destroyed in 1923 due to racial violence. Many residents were killed or displaced, and the incident was largely ignored until survivors spoke out in the late 20th century.

“For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing.”

ISAIAH 61:8

In 1923, a violent racist attack destroyed Rosewood, a predominantly Black community in Florida. Many residents were killed or forced to flee, and the truth of this tragedy was suppressed for decades. Remembering Rosewood reminds us that silence can be as harmful as acts of violence themselves. When we ignore past injustices or fail to acknowledge their continued effects, we allow pain and mistrust to fester. Our faith challenges us to be truth-tellers who shine light on every form of injustice. By honoring the memory of Rosewood, we join with those who seek healing, restitution, and reconciliation. We remember that God, who loves justice, also calls us to confront the roots of hatred. Let us not only lament the tragedies of the past but commit ourselves to dismantle the systems and attitudes that perpetuate violence against any community.

Devotional Reflection: Reflect on the importance of truth-telling and reconciliation in addressing past injustices. How does God call us to be witnesses to history and advocates for justice?

Call to Action: Encourage churches to engage in local racial justice initiatives and support community healing efforts.

Musical Selections

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (TFF#154) – A lament and prayer for comfort and hope, reflecting the grief and resilience of the Rosewood survivors.

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” (TFF#161) – A hymn of healing and hope, speaking to the need for reconciliation and restoration.

“There is a Fountain” (TFF #336) – This hymn speaks to the possibility of collective lament and healing. In the context of the Rosewood Massacre, its emphasis on Christ’s redemptive power becomes a prayerful reminder that God’s grace can address even the deepest wounds of injustice and open a path toward reconciliation.

Weekly Prayer: God of justice and consolation, we mourn the destruction and loss of life that befell Rosewood. We lament the pain and trauma carried by survivors and their descendants. Give us courage to confront the injustices of our history and to seek pathways of reconciliation. May we be agents of your healing love, ensuring that such violence and silence do not persist. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer: Merciful God, our offerings today represent not only our material gifts but our commitment to building just communities. Use these gifts to shine light into the darkest places, to tell the stories that need telling, and to bring healing and hope to the wounded. May our generosity serve as an act of remembrance and of faith in your restoring power. **Amen.**

Blessing: May the God who loves justice bless you with boldness to speak truth and to serve as agents of healing. May Christ’s compassion move you to care for the wounded and marginalized, and may the Spirit’s presence guide you to live in unity and peace. Go in the power of God’s grace. **Amen.**



Additional Resources

ROSEWOOD MASSACRE

ARTICLES

- [Rosewood, Florida, marks 100 years since race massacre](#)
- [Rosewood Massacre Decimates Black Florida Community](#)

BOOKS

- [Black America Series: Alachua County, Florida](#) by Lizzie PRB Jenkins
- [Lizzie's Rosewood Race](#) by Lizzie Robinson Jenkins

WEBSITE

- The Real Rosewood Foundation - www.RosewoodFlorida.com

VIDEO/FILM

- [The Rosewood Massacre of 1923 and its Enduring Legacy](#)
- [The 1997 film "Rosewood"](#) by John Singleton with actors Ving Rhames and Jon Voight

Musical selections from [This Far by Faith \(TFF\): An African American Resource for Worship](#) hymnbook

