



# *Celebration of Life*

for

**Rev. Mark Allan Savage-Rains**

October 30, 1953 - June 12, 2024

Saturday, July 13, 2024

2:00 pm

Lakeway Church Sanctuary

**“Praise God in His Sanctuary.**

**Praise God in His Mighty Heavens.**

**Let everything that has breath,**

**Praise the Lord!”**

- Psalm 150:1, 6

*The verse Mark wrote on the platform during the 2020  
construction of the new sanctuary of Lakeway Church*



**Celebration of Life for Rev. Mark Allan Savage-Rains**  
July 13, 2024 - 2:00 pm - Lakeway Church - Lakeway, Texas

*Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
They who sow in tears, shall reap in joy.  
Go forth and cry, bearing precious seed,  
and come with joy bearing their sheaves.*

English translation of Brahms Requiem, Movement 1  
Based on Matthew 5:4 and Psalm 126:5-6

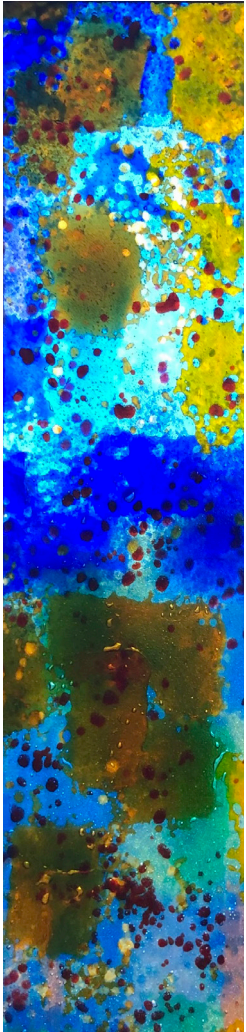
Conductors:  
David Beussman, Lakeway Church Interim Director of Traditional Worship  
Rev. Patty Highland, Lake Travis United Methodist Church Associate Pastor/Music  
Bill Hornbuckle, Retired Minister of Music and Mark’s Best Friend

Musicians:  
Michael Stuart, Director of Music/Organist, First United Methodist Church, Sarasota,  
Florida, and former organist who served with Mark in Temple, Texas  
Dr. SungEun Park, Traditional Worship Accompanist, Lakeway Church  
Lisa Walston, Worship Accompanist, First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas, and  
former Accompanist, Lakeway Church  
Combined Worship Choirs of Lakeway Church and Lake Travis United Methodist Church  
Helen Cooper, Violin 1      Isaac Fuentes, Viola      Anna Macias, Bass  
Javier Chaparro, Violin 2      Carrie Miller, Cello

*Mark’s family is extremely grateful for the musical gifts offered by each of these today.*

**Pre-Service Music** Michael Stuart  
*Michael was Mark’s former organist whom Mark loved like a son.*

**Prelude** “This Is My Father’s World” Arr. Mark Savage-Rains  
2019 Lakeway Church Choir accompanied by Mark’s son, Christopher Rains, on cello  
“Fairest Lord Jesus” Traditional  
Mark’s daughter, Angela Peugnet, on violin accompanied by Michael Stuart  
*This was one of the lullabies Mark sang to Angela and later, to his granddaughters.*



**Words of Grace and Assurance** Rev. Larry Coulter, Senior Pastor, Lakeway Church  
Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am the Life.  
Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live.  
Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.  
I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.  
I died, and behold I am alive forever more, and I hold the keys of hell and death.  
Because I live, you shall live also.  
(Based on John 11:24-26; Rev. 1:17-18; John 14:19)

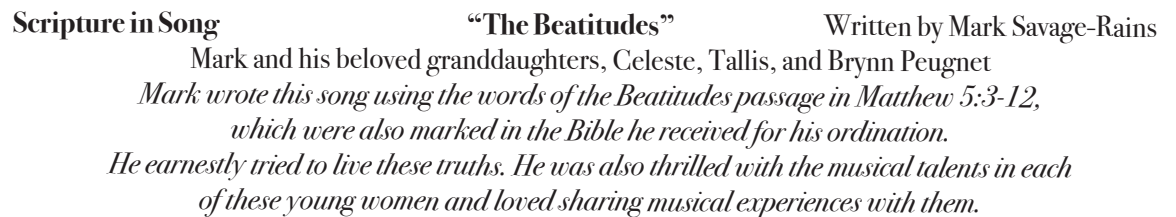
**Greeting and Invocation** Rev. Larry Coulter  
**We Worship a Faithful, Loving, and Gracious God**

**Worship in Song** Rev. Patty Highland  
Patty and Mark were fellow ministers of music who collaborated often and shared the  
conductor’s podium on Good Friday and for the LTCM Benefit Concert each year.  
*Mark loved working with Patty and treasured the friendship that she and her  
husband, David, shared with him and Laura.*  
“Be Thou My Vision”  
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”  
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”  
*Mark always had the choir sing “Be Thou My Vision” on the first Sunday of  
each New Year. He loved the message and the call to commitment of  
“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” and “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”  
was his favorite hymn that he chose often for worship,  
and it was also sung at Mark and Laura’s wedding.*

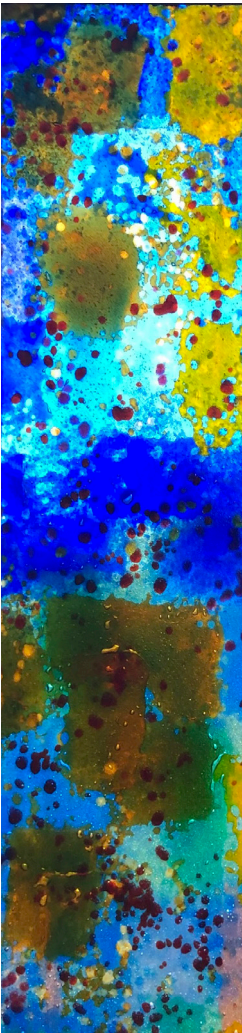
**Scripture Reading** David Beussman  
David was a trusted and beloved friend and musician whom Mark relied on in his absence.  
*Mark was always grateful for the insights and long-standing faithfulness of David.*

**Philippians 4:4-9, 13**  
*These verses were marked in the Bible Mark received for his ordination.*





Rev. Larry Coulter



Closing Hymn

“It Is Well with My Soul”

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Arr. Diane Bish

Michael Stuart

We Depart in the Hope and Promise of Eternal Life

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 (RSV)  
*Marked in the Bible Mark received for his ordination.*

*As we leave this place, we do so with a deep, secure joy that comes from knowing an Almighty God who loves us, has a purpose for each of us, and blesses us with Christ’s presence, comfort, and power for each moment.*

Please join the family in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy Mark’s favorite cookies

A Life Well Lived - The Reverend Mark Allan Savage-Rains

Mark Allan Savage-Rains was a man of faith-filled, wholehearted commitment—first to his Lord Jesus Christ and then to his family and to the creation of excellent, beautiful music that helped others worship and praise our God.  
Mark was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 30, 1953, to H. Lee Rains and Wanda Holmes Rains. His earthly journey ended peacefully in his sleep on June 12, 2024, in his home in Lakeway, Texas, after struggling with pneumonia. He is now in the presence of Jesus and singing in that perfect choir he always heard in his creative mind.

Mark’s Life

Mark’s life has always centered around church and his family. He grew up attending Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth with his parents and sisters, Ginger and LeAnn. His passion for choral worship began when he sang in preschool choir. He knew by the age of 10 he wanted to become a minister of music. His musical pursuits included singing as well as playing trombone and guitar, but his favorite was conducting choirs.  
He started dating his first wife, Susan, at age 15 in Fort Worth. After their fathers’ work transferred them to Houston, they graduated from Cy-Fair High School in 1972. They married after their sophomore year in college in 1974. Susan supported Mark as he graduated with honors from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1976 with a degree in composition, which Mark has used well to write and arrange award-winning choral and orchestral pieces. They later moved to Denton, Texas, for Mark to pursue graduate studies in music. He completed all his coursework except his thesis. It was while serving at Highland Baptist Church in Denton, Texas, that he became the father of Angela Elise and was ordained to full-time gospel ministry of music.  
Mark and Susan, who was a painter and art teacher, and Angela moved to South Austin in 1982 and soon welcomed a baby boy, Christopher Mark, to their family. After serving 10 years in two Austin churches, they moved to Temple, Texas, where Angela and Christopher excelled in their musical talents and graduated from Temple High School.

After more than nine years in Temple, Mark was called to Sugar Land in 2001. Mark and Susan joyfully watched Angela graduate with her music degree and then marry Forrest Peugnet in 2003. Then, after 30 years of marriage, Mark tragically lost Susan when she died in January 2005 unexpectedly after a routine medical procedure. In 2006, after coming to Lakeway, he opened his heart again to the possibility of God providing him with another companion.  
Mark Rains and Laura Savage met on eHarmony.com in March 2007 while Laura, who had always been single, was serving as associate pastor of a church in Beaumont, Texas. They quickly discovered that God had called them to marry and serve the Lord together. They were engaged on July 13 and married on October 13. It was Mark’s suggestion that they hyphenate their names to represent their belief in full equality. They soon welcomed their first grandchild, Celeste, followed by her twin sisters, Tallis and Brynn. Laura and Mark enjoyed countless, glorious musical events and wonderful travel adventures including Mark’s first trip to Europe, the church’s trip to the Holy Land, and due to a generous gift of a sabbatical in 2018, London and Canada. Mark and Laura loved opening their home to friends and their Home Group, which Mark started in 2006. Lakeway Church holds the distinction for both Mark and Laura of being the church and location where each of them has served/lived the longest.  
Mark also loved spending time with extended family—his sisters and brother-in-law, and nephews and niece, and grand nieces. It was a special honor to perform the wedding ceremony of his niece, Bridgette.

Mark’s Leadership

Mark lived for Wednesday night choir rehearsals. He loved nothing more than bringing out the best in others. Here are the places he served over the course of his 50-year ministry career:

- Director of Traditional Worship, The Lakeway Church, 2006-2024, where he more than doubled the size of the choir, led annual children’s musical camps, conducted handbell choirs, and a variety of choral ensembles, while planning weekly worship with hymns and anthems which reinforced the gospel truths of the sermon’s message.
- Director of Worship and Music, Sugar Land Methodist Church in Sugar Land, TX, 2001-2006, where he increased the choir by 50%
- Minister of Music, First United Methodist Church in Temple, TX, 1992-2001, where he doubled the choir’s attendance
- Minister of Music & Administration, University Baptist Church in Austin, TX, 1989-1992, where he doubled the size of the choir
- Associate Pastor/Music, Manchaca Baptist Church in Manchaca, TX, (South Austin) 1982-1989, where he grew the choir from 15-45
- Minister of Music, Highland Baptist Church, Denton, TX, 1979-1982 (part-time)
- Minister of Music, Cooper Creek Baptist Church, Denton, TX, 1977-1979 (part-time)
- Minister of Youth, University Baptist Church, Shawnee, OK, 1974-1976 (part-time)

Mark’s Legacy

Mark’s passion was to love and care for his family, especially encouraging and supporting their creative endeavors—his first wife’s painting gifts, his daughter’s musical talents, his son’s art and music, and his second wife’s writing and speaking pursuits. His devotion and attentiveness brought out their best creations, which, by extension, were greatly due to his loving contributions.  
Mark wrote several choir anthems which will live in the hearts and memories of all those who sang under his leadership. Mark’s unique gift to Lakeway Church was to grow an excellent traditional music program, which is deeply appreciated and respected. While he led multiple contemporary worship bands over his years of ministry, he lived out a deep-seeded belief that choirs are uniquely able to provide *more* people, especially less confident singers, opportunities to lead worship and to grow in their commitment to Christ and his church.  
Mark was an introvert who needed only a few very close friends. An invitation to lunch for Mark by a close friend meant a 3-4 hour deep dive into life, music, philosophy, or theology. He treasured those encounters as gifts of the Spirit to his heart and mind. The loss of his friendship in person will live on in the tender memories of those times shared by those who loved him. *(continued)*



Mark’s most important legacy was encouraging Angela, Christopher, Forrest, Celeste, Tallis, and Brynn to learn to love and serve Jesus. Knowing that Angela’s family is faithfully involved in a church home and that Christopher’s heart is focused on helping others in Jesus’ name filled his heart with joy. His greatest delights were watching each of them pursue excellence in music. He was especially proud of the recognition Angela received as an outstanding music educator in the Houston area. Mark’s faith and musical influence will live on for generations to come through them.

There are too many things to list here that Laura will carry in her heart as a result of being married to Mark. One insufficient way to summarize it is to say that he gave her a deep, secure joy grounded in his love for Jesus, demonstrating God’s unconditional love to Laura every single day.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents, Lee and Wanda Rains; his first wife, Susan; and his sister, LeAnn. He is survived by his second wife, Laura; his children, Angela (husband, Forrest Peugnet), and Christopher; and his grandchildren, Celeste, Tallis, and Brynn. He is also survived by his sister Ginger (husband, Leon Matula), and their children, Trey, Kevin, and Bridgette (husband, Josh Mettlach), and their children, Whitney and Blakely.

While our hearts are broken by Mark’s sudden passing, we live in the joy and assurance of being together in eternity with Jesus.

**You will forever be in our hearts, Mark. We love you and miss you more than words can say!**

**Now to him who by the power at work within us is able  
to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,  
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
to all generations, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NRSV)



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