



CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) The bell is rung before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Katrina: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of __ in the State of __. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We welcome our visitors and guests here in the Chapel and online through Zoom and Facebook. To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

Tonight we are celebrating Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Season of Lent. You may decide to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as you feel comfortable. We also assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

Kaiden: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for today are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Zoom, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. On our website find the large purple box labeled **ASH WEDNESDAY** WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.

(**Silent Prayer*)



Bell's 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

Lisa: Thank you for choosing to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)

Lisa: Glorify God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. **During COVID, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: Good Evening, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator living in us, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour living in us, and in the name of the Holy Spirit living in us. Amen

Pastor: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

1) Opening Song: Glory & Praise #340 Hosea

Text and Music Weston Priory and Gregory Norbet

Contributors: Gregory Norbet, Weston Priory

Tune: Text: Based on Hosea. Text and music, Gregory Norbet, OSB, © 1972, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Onlicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

2) 51. A prayer of contrition: fourth psalm of repentance

³ Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my of-fense.

⁴ O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

⁵ My of-fenses truly I know them;
my sin is always be-fore me.

⁶ Against you, you a-lone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence
and be without re-proach when you judge,

⁷ O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I con-ceived.

⁸ In-deed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

⁹ O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

¹⁰ Make me hear re-joicing and gladness
that the bones you have crushed may re-vive.

¹¹ From my sins turn a-way your face
and blot out all my guilt.

¹² A pure heart cre-ate for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit with-in me.

¹³ Do not cast me a-way from your presence,
nor de-prive me of your holy spirit.

¹⁴ Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor su-stain me,
¹⁵ that I may teach trans-gressors your ways
and sinners may re-turn to you.

¹⁶ O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.

¹⁷ O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall de-clare your praise.

¹⁸ For in sacrifice you take no de-light,
burnt offering from me you would re-fuse;

¹⁹ my sacrifice, a contrite spirit,
a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

²⁰ In your goodness, show favor to Zion;
re-build the walls of Jer-usalem.

²¹ Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice,
(burnt offerings wholly con-sumed),
then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

Give praise to the Living God.
To God's Son, Jesus the Christ, Our Lord.
To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.
Both now, and for-ever. A-men.

Psalm 51. A prayer of contrition: fourth psalm of repentance. (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 Psalm (50)51 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #04477 All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

3) **Veronica:** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Please pray silently the prayer I am about to say. O God, we bless and praise you for always being present and ready to forgive us. We pray for everyone in the World tonight who needs your mercy and

forgiveness. We pray that everyone will realize who You are and turn to you for love and mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

4) 32. The joy of being forgiven

¹ Happy those whose of-fense is for-given,
whose sin is re-mitted.

² O happy those to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile.

³ I kept it secret and my frame was wasted.

I groaned all day long,

⁴ for night and day your hand
was hea-vy up-on me.

In-deed my strength was dried up
as by the summer's heat.

⁵ But now I have ack-nowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: "I will con-fess
my of-fense to the LORD."

And you, Lord, have for-given
the guilt of my sin.

⁶ So let faithful people pray to you
in the time of need.

The floods of water may reach high
but they shall stand se-cure.

⁷ You are my hiding place, O Lord;
you save me from dis-tress.

(You sur-round me with cries of de-liverance.)

* * * * *

⁸ I will in-struct you and teach you
the way you should go;

I will give you counsel
with my eye up-on you.

⁹ Be not like horse and mule, unin-telligent,
needing bridle and bit,
else they will not ap-proach you.

¹⁰ Many sorrows have the wicked,
but those who trust in the LORD
are sur-rounded with loving mercy.

* * * * *

¹¹ Rejoice, rejoice in the LORD,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart.

Give praise to the Living God.
To God's Son, Jesus the Christ, Our Lord.
To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.
Both now, and for-ever. A-men.

Psalm 32: The joy of being forgiven. Psalm (31)32 (inclusive language - 1993)
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5) LISA : **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is
_____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The Scripture reading is in the Book of Genesis, chapter 3, verses 17b-24.
We are reading from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of
© 2021 (See the citation below the reading). The New Revised Standard
Version pew bibles have a similar reading on page 3. Here begins the
reading:

God was speaking to Adam and his wife Eve, saying because you have partaken of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil....

“about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰ The man named his wife Eve^[c] because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man^[d] and for his wife and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, “See, the humans have become like one of us, knowing good and evil, and now they might reach out their hands and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever”— ²³ therefore the LORD God sent them forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which they were taken. ²⁴ He drove out the humans, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Footnotes

- a. 3.5 Or *gods*
- b. 3.17 Or *to Adam*
- c. 3.20 In Heb *Eve* resembles the word for *living*
- d. 3.21 Or *for Adam*

(Source:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+3&version=NRSVUE>)

6) Homily – “short summary.”

The Human Race was not supposed to partake of the knowledge of good and evil. However, God has always given us free will. We chose “to be like the gods” and listened to Lucifer, who knew the difference between spiritual and physical death. According to the Scriptures, we chose the knowledge of good and evil over the wisdom of God. Yay! Look at the mess now that we “know better” or so the temptation promised. Now we live with the knowledge of good and evil; we live with our ability to handle this extraordinary knowledge and the consequences of human choices made every second of life on Earth. In short, we have not begun to live yet; we have been stuck in our self-will and choices.

Through sin, death entered our humanity. (Romans 5:12 ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned..)

So, God insisted to fix this out of Love. (Romans 5:18: ¹⁸ Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.)

We were made to be eternal and not die. Wisdom 2:23, 24: “God created us for incorruption and made us in the image of his own eternity,^[a]
²⁴ but through an adversary’s^[b] envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.” (NRSVUE)^{(Footnotes}

a. 2.23 Other ancient authorities read *nature*

b. 2.24 Or a devil’s)

The reception of Ashes is a practice, not a Teaching, not a Dogma, not a Doctrine. There is nothing magical about it. It is an action that transforms our remembering into something we do – place dust on our bodies. Customary: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” I have two issues with this custom, first the word “you” rather than “we.” The second issue is our return to dust is not the end

of our existence. Every human shall rise from the dead, and it does not matter what religion they practiced or if they did or did not believe. Religious practice and faith (or lack of either) do not change the fact that God said we shall all be raised from the dead. Similarly, we have no impact on the presence of the Universe with its billions of galaxies before or after our short life on this planet.

Therefore, I like to practice the distribution of Ashes with the words "We remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return; but in Christ Jesus, we shall rise to new life."

You may receive ashes on the forehead or the back of your hand. If you wish to apply the ashes to your partner, family member, or friend who may be with you, you may come forward and do so. Here is how it is done....

7) Opportunity to receive ashes.

8) Psalm 1. The two ways

¹ Happy in-deed are those
who follow not the counsel of the wicked,
nor linger in the way of sinners
nor sit in the company of scorners,
² but whose delight is the law of the LORD
and who ponder God's law day and night.

³ They are like a tree that is planted
be-side the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that they do shall prosper.

⁴ Not so are the wicked, not so!

For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven a-way by the wind.

⁵ When the wicked are judged they shall not stand,
nor find room among those who are just;

⁶ for the LORD guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Give praise to the Living God.
To God's Son, Jesus the Christ, Our Lord.
To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.
Both now, and for-ever. A-men.

Text of Psalm 1: 1-6 Happy indeed are those (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #31020 All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

9) Reception of Holy Communion

10) SONG: G&P #340 Ashes

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11) Closing Prayer: Lisa Frost. O God, we thank you and bless you for this prayer and meditation time together. We bless you for bringing us to the beginning of our journey through the Season of Lent. We pray through Christ, Our Lord.

ALL – Amen

12) Final blessing: **Veronica Floyd:** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Veronica Floyd: May Almighty God bless us: In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

13) Sending Forth: In honor of April Struhm **Colby:** We go forth in peace

and love to serve all the people, and the Lord ...

ALL: Thanks be to God.

14) Final Song: I Surrender All Text: Judson W. VanDeVenter, 1896, alt. Music: Winfield S. Weeden, 1896 © Words: Public Domain, Music Public Domain. CCLI Song# 23189 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Lyrics only:

I Surrender All

Verse 1

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 2

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 3

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine

Chorus

I surrender all

I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 4

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 5

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation
Glory glory to His name

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

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