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CALL TO WORSHIP

Bell's 1st ring. As the tubular bells are ringing please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

Lisa Frost: Before we proceed with this night's festivities, we will take a few moments to share a Holy Greeting and Holy Welcome. Please introduce yourself to those you do not know by your first name, and welcome everyone! We are observing COVID safety protocols so, we may wave to each other.



THE BELL IS TOLLED 39 TIMES

Ed Askins: The bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, is dedicated to the memory of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. The bell is a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY. Michael gave us this bell and had it installed in September 2005. TONIGHT WE TOLL THE BELL TO HONOR the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our Salvation. The 39 lashes Jesus endured were not in vain but were a fulfillment of the prophecy in the Book of Isaiah Chapter 53, verse 5; "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



Liturgy Of Gathering And Call To Worship

Welcome: Veronica Floyd: Everyone is welcome to the continuation of our celebration of Holy Week, "the week that changed the world." Ephesians 5:16 calls us to redeem the time, and tonight we will do just that together. This evening we celebrate the Sacrifice Of The Cross, the Passion itself.

Lisa Frost: Please rise as you are able for our First Hymn in the Notebook #71:

On a hill far away. The Old Rugged Cross. Please look around you and be sure everyone has found the page in our notebooks. This is also in the Music Supplement online.

FIRST SONG: The Old Rugged Cross. Music and Words by George Bennard, 1913 in the Public Domain. The Hymnal Project © 1990 MCC San Francisco used by permission. Onelicense song#95144. All rights reserved. Onelicense song #80668 Used with permission by our Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

SECOND SONG: Glory & Praise #444: Lift High The Cross

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18; George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912, and Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt., © 1974, Hope Publishing Co. Onelicense Song # 01923 Lead Me, Guide Me 2nd Edition 726 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

Two Legends for tonight:

The robin's breast is said to be red because when a Robin felt Christ's pain during his Crucifixion, it pulled a thorn from his brow and some blood fell in the breast of the Robin, thus turning the breast red in honor of Christ. (source: <https://www.birdspot.co.uk/culture/the-legend-of-robin-redbreast>)

See the legend of the Dogwood here: <https://vintonmessenger.com/vinton-history-museum-what-is-the-legend-of-the-dogwood-tree/>

UPCOMING EVENTS **OUR CALENDAR**

Vigil of the Resurrection tomorrow, Saturday, April 4, 7:45 p.m.

No service on Sunday, April 5.

Visit: www.rayofhopechurch.com

Visit and like: <https://www.facebook.com/lgbtqsia2ssByYou/>



Legend of the Dogwood

There is a legend, that at the time of the Crucifixion, the dogwood had been the size of the oak and other forest trees. So firm and strong was the tree that it was chosen as the timber of the cross.

That it was used for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree. Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed this, and in His gentle pity for all sorrow and suffering said to it:

"Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross.

Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted, and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross... two long and short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember."

