

Introduction: A word from our Library. The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology Vol. 1 page 291 Church, Synagogue are interchangeable. ekklesia, called out assembly, meeting, congregation, church; synag gather, synagogue assembly, synagogue.

This set of readings has not been read publically at Ray Of Hope for the last three times they came up. The reason is we have always been at a special World Communion Sunday event with special readings. At first sight, these readings may seem very difficult for some of us, but as you will see today, the Word of God is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) and will bless us right where we are. Ray Of Hope Church celebrates persons of every sexual orientation, and this includes heterosexuality. God's plan is unique for each sexual orientation, and yet all of them come together to give God the praise and the glory. So, yes, we celebrate the gift of male and female coming together in God's glory to share in the creative act of bringing new life into the world today.

PRO-creation. We all are procreative when we take care of the planet when we plant and harvest when we share in the beauty of the planet.

We will also discuss divorce today. Over the centuries, religious teachings and dogmatics have created situations where divorce was illegal in civil law. We now know there are definite situations where people must separate and start over for everyone's best benefit. Holding people in marriages where the sexual orientations are not matched has frequently led to impossible situations for everyone involved.

Interestingly enough, we have had women marching all over the United States of America yesterday, October 2, for women's reproductive rights. So we will talk about reproductive rights too today.

Yesterday, October 2, was also the International Day of Non-Violence. It is observed annually on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and stresses the need to "usher in a new era of peace and tolerance" according to UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres.

Happy and Blessed Birthday to Ian McLaughlin also on October 2. Ian begins his 41<sup>st</sup> year of life experience to the table.

Happy Birthday to Whitney Tipton on this past September 22.

Happy Birthday to Cheryl on this past Thursday, September 24.

It is World Communion Sunday. We are not gathering as we have in the last ten years with the other seven downtown churches today due to uncertainties around COVID-19. Today, however, we are all but certain that most churches worldwide will celebrate Holy Communion together. Yet, we know there are severe divisions around what Holy Communion is. We will address this briefly today too.

Today is the closest Sunday to the Feast of St. Francis. If we glean the absolute minimum from this feast it is the love of our pets. AND, I have always said, the animals deserve their day of protest too. They should march around the building holding signs saying, "We were the first companions for Adam! We were here first." Seriously, I always remind us that our pets show us how love someone unconditionally without ever having to say one word. Francis also welcomed everyone to worship. More about this later. Francis loved the Blessed Sacrament.

October 11 is National Coming Out Day, an annual awareness day to celebrate coming out of the closet. First celebrated in 1988 to maintain positivity and celebrating coming out. October 11 is the anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Finally, last Tuesday in Bible Enrichment we had an impromptu discussion of Abraham and his offspring Ishmael and Isaac, and Isaac's offspring Esau and Jacob. Well, Abraham had "many sons" and we really became a little confused in our discussion. So, this Tuesday, Michael Quinnell accepted my invitation to walk us through the Bible, where we will see Esau was a teenager before Isaac was born and so much more.

**ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of God:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord of all,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the  
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup> So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 128:1-6** Our response is May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

**R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.**

O blessed are you who respect and love the LORD  
and love to walk in God's ways!  
By the labor of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

**R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

**R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed

all who honor the Lord.

May the LORD bless you from Zion

all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children

in a happy Jerusalem!

On Israel, peace!

**R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.**

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 2:5-11 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 219

<sup>5</sup> Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. <sup>6</sup> But someone has testified somewhere, (Psalm 8:4-8)

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?

<sup>7</sup> You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honor,

<sup>8</sup> subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, <sup>9</sup> but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel Reading is Mark 10:2-16. It is on page 46 in the back of your NRSV Bible. Rise if you are comfortable and let's sing the Gospel Acclamation.

**Reader:** Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Reader:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be  
in our (+) minds that we will understand it,  
on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and  
in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup> He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup> They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” <sup>5</sup> But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. <sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup> ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

<sup>10</sup> Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; <sup>12</sup> and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

### **Jesus Blesses Little Children**

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**Reader:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon:

**Women's March in Seneca Falls October 2, 2021 10:00 AM Protest and Rally to Defend U.S. Reproductive Rights at Women's Rights Nationalal Historic Park**

136 Fall St, Seneca Falls, NY 13148-1517, United States

<https://www.facebook.com/WomenMarchSenecaFalls/>

<http://www.womenmarchsenecafalls.org/>

This set of readings

every sexual orientation, and this includes heterosexuality

So, yes, we celebrate the gift of male and female coming together in God's glory to share in the creative act of bringing new life into the world today.

First Reading: Helper, partnership. The animals were here first! St. Francis day. But, seriously, partnership, companionship, teamwork on the journey. The gift of bringing new life.

We all are procreative : seeds

Second Reading: What is man that you keep us in mind? Given all things over to us. Jesus shared in our humanity and even suffered death, "so that by the grace of God Jesus might taste death for everyone." Jesus is the "pioneer of our salvation" made perfect through suffering. We all have one God, Parent, "For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters."

divorce Gospel: It is all about the children. Have children when you are ready and believe God is calling you to have them. Have children when you have the correct helpmate to raise them and to provide for them. Have children when you are able to make the commitment to see them through to adulthood.

Adultery potentially brings children into the world without the family structure they need to thrive.

Sexual orientation must be correct. No laws of society or church will make a person live out a sexual orientation that is not their own. It is not fair to subject children or spouse to this mismatch.

Love the gift of life and the ability to give and receive it.

women's reproductive rights

International Day of Non-Violence.

World Communion Sunday

Feast of St. Francis

National Coming Out Day

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**+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit**

**Pastor:** Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine, or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

**ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for our**



**Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

**+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist**

**Pastor:** Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

**ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted,**

**He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread,**

**gave it to his disciples, and said:**

**Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.**

**(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)**

**Pastor:** Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

**ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:**

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

**(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)**

**Pastor:** Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

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**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

**Pastor:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** (a prayer is said) .... In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**(Romans 15:13)**

**Pastor:** We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.**

**SONG:**

Announcements:

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**General Offering** for the week of September 26 \$1,768.00. Attendance 4. Special gifts this week: Veronica Floyd and Lisa Frost each gave \$500.00 toward the payment of the Syracuse loan. **We give God thanks and praise for all the gifts given.**

Bible Enrichment will be on track Tuesday October 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Michael will lead the study on Abraham, part 1?

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31 Reformation Sunday we celebrate the 38th Anniversary and the start of our 39th year of ministry.

November 21 Feast Of The Kingship of Christ

November 28 Advent WK I

Hanukkah Starts at sundown Day 1

November 29 Hanukkah Day 2

November 30 Hanukkah Day 3

December 1 Hanukkah Day 4

December 2 Hanukkah Day 5

December 3 Hanukkah Day 6

December 4 Hanukkah Day 7

December 5 Advent WK II

December 5 Hanukkah Day 8

December 6 Hanukkah ends at sundown.

December 12 Advent WK III Gaudete Sunday Pride in the Winter

December 19 Advent WK IV

December 26 NATIVITY

December 27 Kwanzaa day 1&2 8:45 PM service on line

December 28 Kwanzaa day 3 8:45 PM service on line

December 29 Kwanzaa day 4 8:45 PM service on line

December 30 Kwanzaa day 5&6 8:45 PM service on line

December 31 no service

January 1 Kwanzaa day 7 8:45 PM service on line

January 2 Holy Name

January 9 Epiphany— Visitation of the Magi

January 16 The Baptism Of The Lord—30 yrs. old

January 23 new Memorial of Saint Marianne Cope of Syracuse, NY