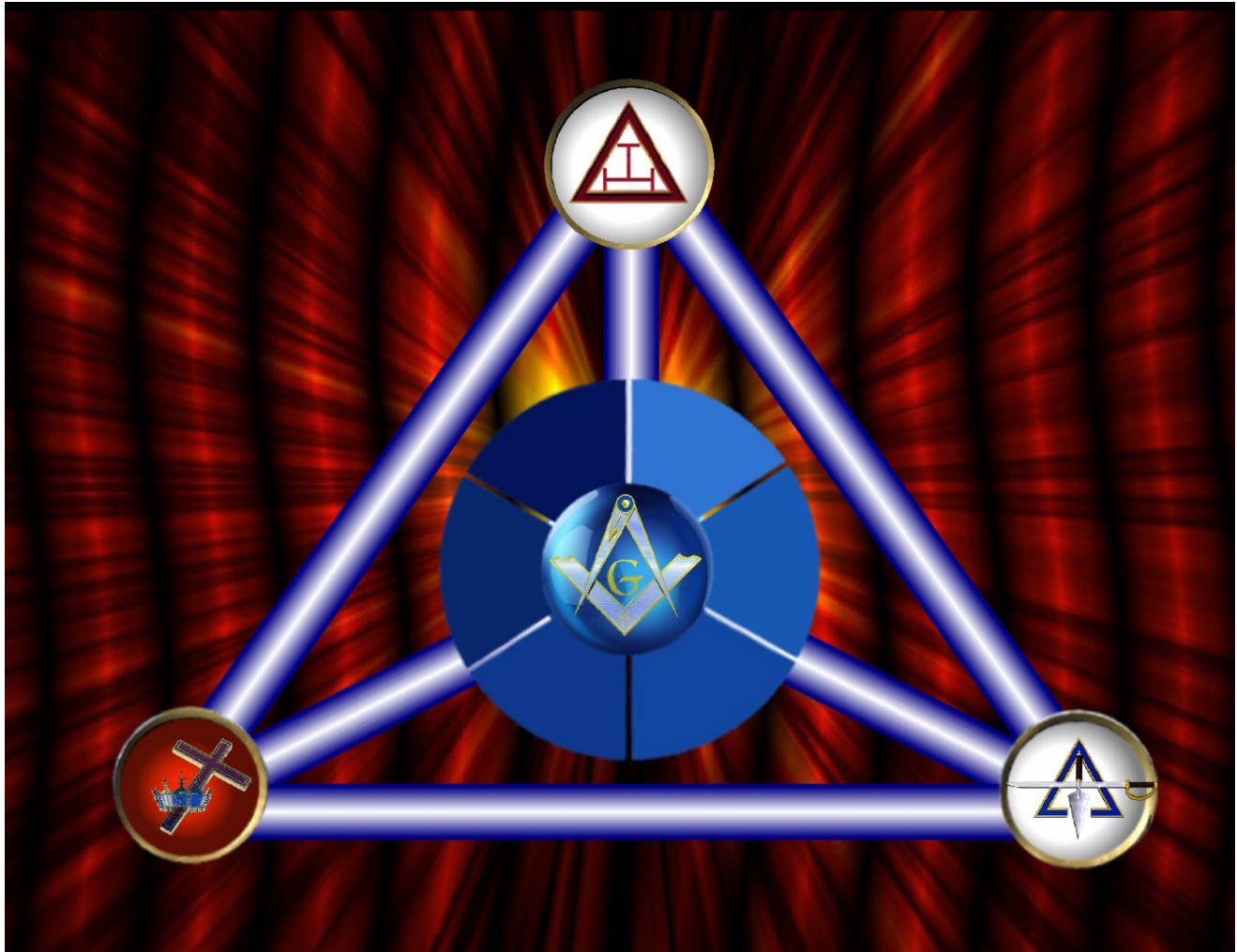

THE YORK RITE'R



A New Voice In Utah Masonry

The York Rite officially came to Utah in 1910 with the formation of the Grand Commandery of Utah. A year later the Grand Chapter of Utah was formed and in 1929 the Grand Council of Utah was formed completing the big three, what is today the Grand York Rite of Utah. But did you know that there are a number of other Honorary and Invitational groups that require a membership in one or more of the Big 3 active in Utah. The groups laboring in Utah include KYCH (Knights of the York Cross of Honor), AMD (Allied Masonic Degrees), YRSC (York Rite Sovereign College),

The above image is the
Four Quadrants that
make up the KYCH

HRAKTP (Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests), RCC (Red Cross of Constantine) and the Operatives. The York Rite'r is dedicated to all the bodies that make up the York Rite family here in Utah. Our goal is to provide educational articles and information that our readers will find interesting in the York Rite family of Utah. If you are a member or leader of a local or state body and would like to contribute an article or information about the going on's of your group please let us know at TheYorkRiter@gmail.com.

Grand York Rite Educational Series

2020 has been anything but normal. Covid 19 has not only changed the world around us, it has changed the way we practice Freemasonry, in ways no one would have thought possible. The Grand Master has prohibited the Masonic family from meeting in person due to the pandemic, making it difficult for us to participate in meaningful educational's and/or discussions. The Grand York Rite has arranged to have at least one zoom educational over each of the next seven months.

THE GRAND YORK RITE OF UTAH PRESENTS

A Special Educational by Guest Speaker Companion
Oscar Alleyne

4 Questions and the Word

September 22, 2020
7:00 PM MST
Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/2Y3WY2r>



Grand Visitation to
Follow

Oscar Alleyne is the Jr Grand Warden for the GL of NY for the term 2018-2021. He lectures internationally on historical, ritualistic, philosophical, leadership and other topics of Masonic interest and is a member of several Masonic research and invitational bodies. He holds a Doctorate from the New York Medical College and is the Chief Program Officer at the National Association of County and City Health Officials in Washington, DC where he provides executive leadership, innovation and management of a multimillion dollar public health portfolio serving the 3000 local health departments across the country.

THE GRAND YORK RITE OF UTAH PRESENTS

A Special Educational by Guest Speaker Companion
and Sir Knight Adam Goldman

Astrotheology of the York Rite

October 14, 2020
7:00 PM MST
Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/2Y3WY2r>



Adam Goldman is the Grand Orator for the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia FAAM and the Orator for DC's premier Esoteric Lodge, Benjamin B. French No. 15. He also serves as Captain of the Host for his Royal Arch Chapter and is a member of several Grand Lodges and Research Lodges in California, Europe and Central America. Goldman is active in several Occult bodies that focus on the Western Esoteric Tradition, such as the Masonic Rosicrucians in England and America. Brother Goldman has written numerous articles for Masonic journals & blogs and is currently researching a new book that promises to reveal many of the hidden meanings behind the symbols of our Craft—including the true identity of the Grand Master Hiram Abiff!

THE GRAND YORK RITE OF UTAH PRESENTS

A Special Educational by Guest Speaker Companion
and Sir Knight Ben Williams, KYGCH

Inspiration in Freemasonry: An introduction to
Rabbinical Kabbalah

October 5, 2020
7:00 PM MST
Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/2Y3WY2r>



Grand York Rite
visitation to follow
Presentation

Ben Williams is a Past Master of Norwood Lodge No. 111 and Telluride Lodge No. 56 in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. Now living outside Denver, he serves as Secretary for Research Lodge of Colorado. He served the Grand Lodge of Colorado Education committee for nearly a decade, serving five years as chair, and was appointed Grand Orator in 2018. In the Scottish Rite he is a Past Master of Kadosh at the Grand Junction Consistory and a Past Wise Master of the Denver Consistory. He was admitted a Knight Commander Court of Honor in 2015. In the York Rite, he is a past presiding officer of the three main bodies, and served as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Colorado in 2017. He currently serves the Grand Encampment as the North West Department Commander, as chair of the Education Committee, and as a member of the Jurisprudence Committee. He is a member of various other invitational Masonic orders.

York Rite Happenings

Grand York Rite Visitations

Utah No. 1 September 22, 2020

Ogden October 5, 2020.

General Grand Council Triennial

September 26, 2020.

Southwest York Rite Conference

October 31, 2020



Thomas Smith Webb is considered to be the Father of the York Rite or the American Rite. Born on October 30, 1771, in Boston, Massachusetts, Webb grew up as a printer's apprentice in Boston before continuing in New Hampshire. In New Hampshire, he completed the three Ancient Craft Masonry degrees at the Rising Sun Lodge in 1790. In 1793, Thomas Smith Webb moved to Albany, where he started a paper staining factory.

Thomas Smith Webb is the author of *Illustrations of Masonry*, also known as *Freemason's Monitor*. This book impacted the development of the York Rite orders and degrees and Masonic ritual in the United States. The book is followed by several Grand Lodges in America. Through the book, the charges of degrees came about. The book also helped with the formation of some Masonic emblems and symbolism. In October 1797, Thomas Smith Webb presided over the Boston convention that led to the formation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

This is the oldest national Masonic body in the United States. In January 1799, Thomas Smith Webb presented the Grand Encampment Constitution that became adopted. His works provided a foundation for the Grand Encampment of Knights of the United States of America that was established in New York in 1816.

Thomas Smith Webb was the first Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, and also the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island.

On July 6, 1819, Thomas Smith Webb died on a trip to the Midwest in Cleveland, Ohio. A Masonic burial service was held for him in Cleveland, and memorial services were conducted in many other cities. Later, his body was taken to Providence and buried in the West Burying Grounds. The cemetery was converted to a park, so his body had to be moved to the North Burial Ground.



Masonic Conundrum

“In an honorary body within Freemasonry dedicated to research and education, there is a degree that commemorates a man who was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. His veneration dates from the Fourth Century, and he was considered as one of the most famous martyrs of the city of Rome. With St. Sixtus, he is named in the canon of the Roman Mass.

“The actual figure is a shadowy figure of the early Roman Church. It has been said of the traditional stories about this man that they portray the ‘typical figure of a martyr’. It is known that he was one of the Seven Deacons of Rome, and that he was martyred there four days after Pope Sixtus II (also canonized) in 258 AD. He was allegedly buried in the cemetery on the road to Tivoli.”

Conundrum: Who is this venerated figure and in which Masonic body is his story told?

When you have the answer email it to theyorkriter@gmail.com those who get the correct answer will be listed in the next issue.

Royal Arch Re-Affirmation Day By Donald W. Owens, PGHP

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” (Psalm 100 – A Psalm of Praise)

Reverend Alvin G. Myrice, who was the Grand Chaplain of Ohio several years during the seventies, developed a new program that he named “Religious Affirmation Day”. Each district was asked to have a district-wide religious service under the direction of the District Deputies Grand High Priest and in cooperation with the District Associations.

This was not to be a service held in conjunction with a regular order of worship in the church, but rather a separate service in either a church or Masonic hall, where all Masonic bodies could be invited to assist in the service, including Eastern Star and the youth organizations.

Why Affirmation Day? “Because,” as Rev. Myrice put it, “we seek to thank God for bringing together all the Grand Chapters of the world into an International General Grand Chapter on October 24, 1816. Therefore we join our hearts together throughout the world as Royal Arch Masons on the nearest Sunday in October to that date in the spirit of reaffirmation of our solemn vows to Almighty God for his revelation of Divine Truth given us through Masonry.”

The Grand Chapter of Ohio is no longer affiliated with the General Grand Chapter. However, each Grand High Priest from that time has made a proclamation requesting that each chapter hold a Religious Affirmation service, either in conjunction with a district service, an observance of their own, or jointly with other chapters, reaffirming our faith in God and to Royal Arch Masonry.

The three degrees of the Symbolic Lodge refer to the building of King Solomon’s Temple, which was the dwelling place of God Almighty. We use this physical structure to represent the building of our spiritual temples within, a temple more glorious than that of Solomon, a temple of honor, virtue, purity and justice. Thus, as the Bible has the Physical Law of the Old Testament and the Spiritual Law of the

New, likewise Masonry demonstrates this duality through its allegorical system.

The Master Mason degree under its present organization is incomplete, because it needs a compliment that is only to be found in a higher one. Hence its symbolism is necessarily restricted to the first temple and the present physical, mortal life, although it gives the assurance of a future one.

Capitular Masonry amplifies the teachings of the Symbolic Lodge degrees in connection with the building of the first temple of Solomon, but then expands to its destruction and the building of the second temple of Zerubbabel.

The theme of the allegory of Ancient Craft Masonry is the constant search for that which was lost. That which was lost is Divine Truth, or spiritual knowledge. By mankind's rejection of God in the Garden of Eden, man was sentenced to die. Further, he was cut off from God's eternal gift, but God's plan allowed the faithful to regain that gift when raised from the ruins of this mortal life into an everlasting life.

The substitute we are given in the Master Mason degree is symbolic of the present life, while the Royal Arch Mason degree symbolizes the fulfillment of God's covenant and the restoration of that which was lost – spiritual knowledge, Divine Truth and everlasting, eternal life.

It is not to be assumed however, that in receiving the Royal Arch Mason degree, our labors are finished, our search over. The degree merely symbolizes the fulfillment of the promise. As long as we are in this earthly temple, we must be in constant search, reaching for that state of perfection, which seems always to be just out of

our grasp. Not until our spiritual Ark of the Covenant has been raised from out the ruins of the grave – until this mortal shall have put on immortality – will our search finally be over.

It is for this reason that we find it necessary today to come together to renew our commitments to Capitular Masonry and to express our faith in God and His plan; and to pray that we may be faithful unto death, to be found worthy to receive the Word – those most welcome words–“Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

If the plan of God and man’s destiny could be stated briefly, then the closing two verses of the book of Ecclesiastes says it best: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Let us today pledge ourselves to live our daily lives according to the magnificent precepts of Ancient Craft Masonry. Let us renew our dedication and tenacity to the Craft to see that it continues to flourish and prosper. By our words and actions, may we stand apart from the multitude and become an influence upon those with which we come in contact. Let us practice our craft with zeal in the vineyards, where the fruits of our labors may be best realized. Where, by our works, we can leave a legacy of dedication upon the next generation of the Craft.

Finally, and most importantly, love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Let us be, as David throughout the Book of Psalms repeats:

“O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust.” “I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will shew forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.” “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.” “O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”
My trust is in God!

Royal Arch Re-Affirmation Day will be observed on October 25, 2020 here in Utah. We encourage each local Chapter to organize a visit to the church of your choice to celebrate the day. Don't forget to wear your red blazer or your red tie if that is your Chapter choice.