



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-first year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,
and make disciples of every person

everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a special welcome to our visitors. You
are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed
you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We are building
a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in
our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is January 28, 2024, Epiphany Week IV Year B

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins,
a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal
and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-22 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 174

Psalm: Psalm 95 responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 170

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 NRSV 2nd Testament page 35

***We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament.
The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are found in the front portion of the
Bible and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this
confuses you just ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.**

This online presentation is covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. 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) We ring the bell 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

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning. 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. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning, and welcome ■ (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and

smile.)** Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



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

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.**) Thank you for spending time with us. 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)

Leader -1: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

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

Pastor:

Ray Of Hope Church officially began on 10/31/1983.

Today is January 28, 2024. We are assembled for worship as we continue the Season of Epiphany in our 41st year of ministry.

What is the epiphany in our personal lives that God calls us to respond to? What is the epiphany in the life of this Congregation that God is calling us to respond to?

FIRST SONG: Jesus, My Confidence G&P 624

© 1989, 1992, M. D. Ridge. Published by OCP.

All rights reserved. Contributors: Words and Music by M.D. Ridge. **OCP Octavo/Bonus Music.**

First Line: Jesus, My Confidence.

Onelicense Song #85140 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope

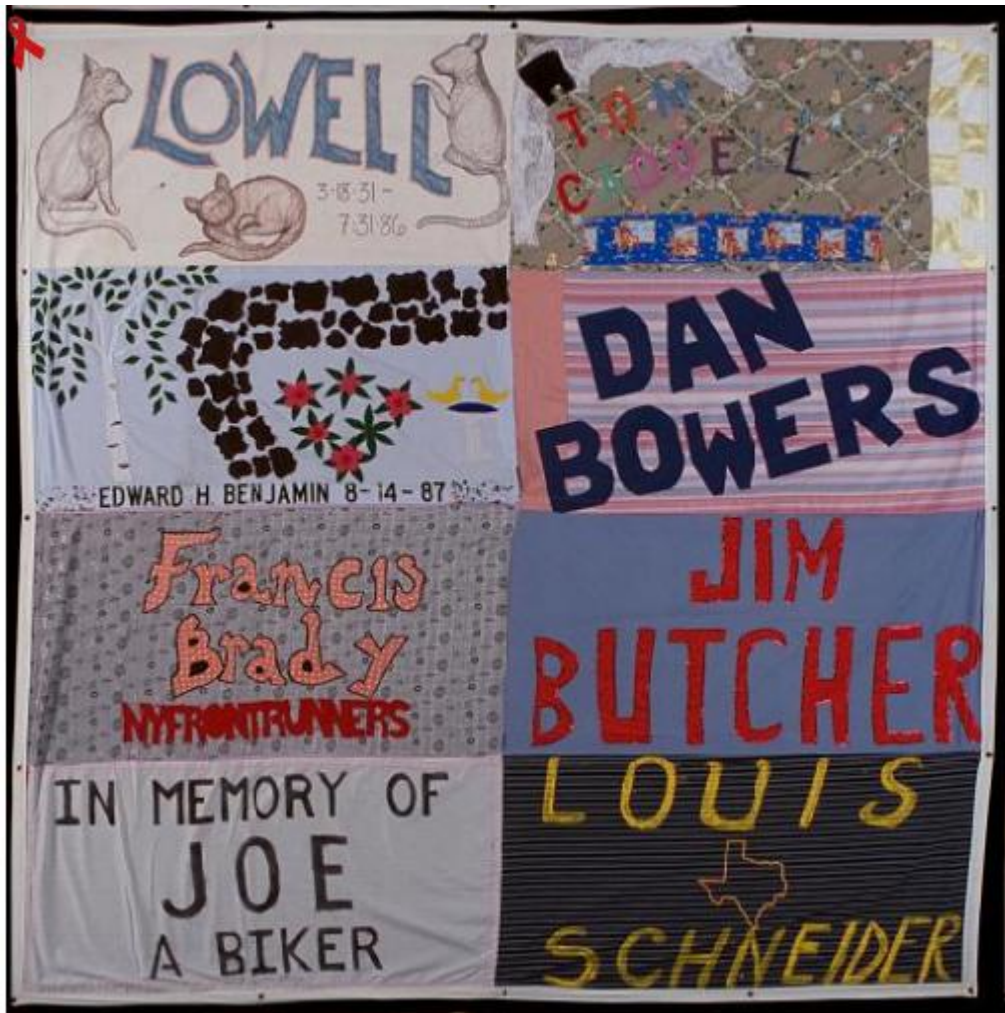
Leader -1: Please be seated. Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to

celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even countries still reject the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Scroll to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 101.



Names(panel number) on Block # 101

- Lowell (1)
 - Tom Caddell (2)
- Edward Benjamin (3)
 - Dan Bowers (4)
 - Francis Brady (5)
 - Jim Butcher (6)
 - Joe - A Biker (7)
 - Louis Schneider (8)

(source: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends

who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. Pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually:
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Second Song: For You Are My God G&P 612

Text based on Psalm 16. Text and music © 1970, John B. Foley, S.J. Published by OCP Octavo/Bonus Music. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song #81275 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) So far, we assembled, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Leader – 3: Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses eight and nine: "8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>
 Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See

notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, consider our relationships with God and others. Then, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who will forgive us immediately.

(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

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 anyone, and God, in any way. **Therefore**, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

Leader -4: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____.

The wars, the devastation, the tensions, the poverty, and the loss of life caused by human government continue to rise. Hundreds and thousands of innocent people are suffering and being killed as Nations look to overpower one another; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: Ethnic or racial discrimination, sexism, and numerous ideologies are often used to devalue the lives of others and create a false superiority. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The message of the Church should promote peace between all people as valued persons created by God. Churches must do more to help advance human civil rights and the fundamental rights to food, shelter, and safety; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.

Pastor: We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Leader -4: Through confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our hearts to accept the renewal God offers when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to sing "The Gloria."

Ray of Hope Church, Inc. *The Gloria* Winds and Music
10th Annual Meeting "Music for Worship" 7/25/17
Handwritten: *Winds and Music*
7/25/17
1/21/24

2. = 8 *Refrain*

GLO-ry to God in the high-est, AND
peace to all peo-ple on Earth
GLO-ry to God in the high-est
We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

Verse 1

You are the One God, Sov-ereign of the
Uni-verse, On-ly Ho-ly God, We wor-ship You, We
give you thanks, We praise You for Your great glo-ry! (Refrain)

7/25/17, 1/1/24 *Handwritten signature*

VERSE 2

The Gloria, Pg 2

LORD, Jes-us Christ-, The on-ly Be-got-ten Son of God, You are
 LORD God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the
 world: HAVE MER-cy on us; you are seated at the
 right hand of God: re-ceive our prayer. (TO Refrain)

Verse 3

For You a-lone are the hol-y one, You a-lone are the
 LORD of all, You a-lone are the MOST High,
 Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
 spir-it, in the glo-ry of God, in the
 Ho-ly spir-its, in the Ho-ly uni-ty of

God. (TO REFRAIN.)
 © 7/25/17 1/124 Gaude! Liturgical Arts Ben Bernier

Verse 4: Amen

The Gloria, Pg 3

ALL: A ————— men; we give you thanks and

We give you thanks and praise

LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you, we give you thank we give you praise

ALL: Praise!

A —————

We give you thank and praise

We give you thank and praise LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you

ALL: men

men al-le-lu-ia

mine
@ 7/25/17 - 1/1/24
Gaudete!
Pete Behr

+ Opening Prayer

Leader: Eternal Word of God, fill us with your eternal love, joy, and wisdom as we listen. We need to understand your Word to be witnesses by example of the love you give. We desire to give you honor and glory in all we do through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader 5: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

ALL: We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. The first reading is in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verses 15-22. The reading is on page 174 in the front of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

A New Prophet Like Moses

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.^[a] ¹⁶ This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'¹⁷ Then the LORD replied to me, 'They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,^[b] who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet^[c] shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'²¹ You may say to yourself, 'How can we recognize a word that the LORD has not spoken?' ²² If a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD but the thing does not take place or prove true, it is a word that the LORD has not

spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; do not be frightened by it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [18.15](#) Heb *him*
- b. [18.18](#) Heb *in his mouth*
- c. [18.19](#) Heb *he*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+18%3A15-22&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. The Psalm today is 95, selected verses. Today's response is; "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts."

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to the LORD.

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
For this is our God, and we are the people God shepherds,
the flock the LORD guides.

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice:
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your ancestors tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,
_(State)_____. The second reading is First Corinthians, chapter 7, verses
32-35. You will find this on page 170 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible.
I will read the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord, ³³ but the married man is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman and the virgin are anxious about the affairs of the Lord, so that they may be holy in body and spirit, but the married woman is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to put any restraint upon you but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Cor.+7%3A32-35&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright
© 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by
permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after

the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the
truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your
Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our
hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

Reader: The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 1, verses 21-28 on page 170 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. This reading is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel.

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.

The Man with an Unclean Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us,

Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [1.4](#) Other ancient authorities read *John was baptizing*
- b. [1.8](#) Or *in*
- c. [1.8](#) Or *in*
- d. [1.11](#) Or *my beloved Son*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+1%3A4-11&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church
for the 1996 New Year,
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the
Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!
You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our
joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!
For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121



Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.



The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me
has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

+ Sermon

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as ***"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."***

We are still in the season of Epiphany if one looks at an older version of the liturgical calendar. Unfortunately, during the second half of the twentieth century, many Christian theologies de-emphasized the Divinity of Jesus. Instead, the so-called "new school" theologies placed more emphasis on the humanity of Jesus, even going so far as to suggest the historical Jesus did not have any awareness of being divine, or at best, Jesus may have grown into an understanding of this throughout his life. I believe the fruits of this 20th-century human Jesus, who was deified long after his death, are apparent: a lukewarm and irrelevant church of the 21st century. One unfortunate development of this de-emphasis on Christ's divinity is the use of "Ordinary Time" for these Sundays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent on February 14. Suppose one reads the lectionary during these Sundays. In that case, the selected readings emphasize the showing, unveiling, or revelation of Jesus as the Divine Only Begotten Son of God by one

epiphany after another. Also, each week, we are asked how we will respond to the described epiphany.

On January 8, we had the visitation of the faithful from the far east. Indeed, they had studied the prophecies and were confident enough to make what seemed to have been a very long and difficult journey to see the child born of God. It is from this event that the season takes the name Epiphany. We face many questions, such as: are we studying the Scriptures so that our study will affect many generations after us? Daniel, the prophet, single-handedly brought the Word of God, previously known as the religion of the Jews, to a Gentile region of the world and showed God is real and available to all people. These visitors from the East who come to "pay homage" to the Christ Child of God are the descendants of the people who listened to Daniel and then converted to the religion Daniel knew. What kind of religion are we leaving behind us? What is our response to the prophecies of the Scripture?

Then, on January 14, we read the baptism of the adult Jesus, where the sky opened, and God's voice said, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." - indeed, this event is an epiphany. Do we acknowledge Jesus as the Beloved and Only Begotten Son of God? Do we know where to find this explained on the Ray Of Hope Church website so we have it if we are put on the spot and need the information? How do we figure out what it will take to put Christ into the center of our lives and move out the fake centerpiece, be it anything or anyone who may have displaced Christ's rightful place?

On January 21, the Gospel indicates John is arrested for proclaiming that Christ the Messiah and His Kingdom are near and among us. Additionally, we hear of the calling of the first Apostles and how they recognize Jesus is not an ordinary person. This is an epiphany. How do we respond to God's call on our lives? God has a purpose that is awaiting our participation, wherein God will use us to guide other people into the full knowledge of the Mystery "not known in other ages" and "that Mystery is Christ." (see [Ephesians 3:1-13](#)) Last Sunday, we said: We are all called by God to serve God and the people through Christ. The question is, what will each person do with that call? On January 21, we celebrated the people who have come through these doors over the last 40 years and who stayed and took the call of Christ very seriously, as it has been made known through Ray Of Hope Church, Inc.

Today, January 29, Jesus is teaching in his home synagogue. The people recognized he wasn't teaching like the other religious leaders. The people recognized in Jesus a teaching authority that far exceeded the limits of their established religious ways. God in Christ continues to bring gifted teachers who shock us with their authority, insight, and profound wisdom on subjects that have seemed impossible to solve. Last weekend, I mentioned some new materials I found that provide you with some of that "extra" and "out-of-bounds" teaching that has proven to be deeply inspired of God. God may have inspired them, but these people had to be disciplined to respond to that call and produce the hard work to

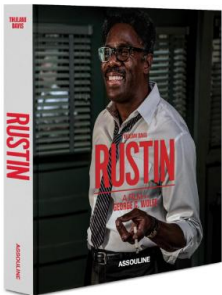
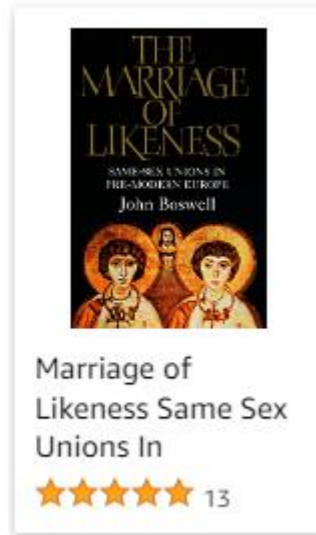
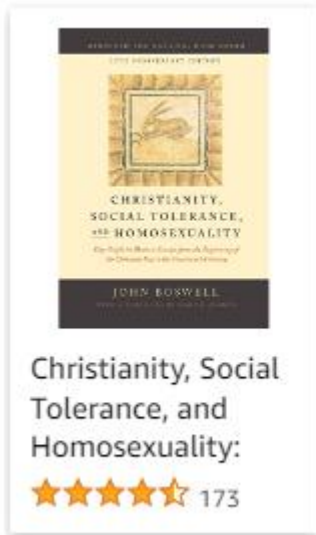
create the platform where God's Wisdom would be free to blossom in time, space, or place.
Resources:



[Not A Tame Lion \(2023\) | Full Movie](#)

John Eastburn Boswell (March 20, 1947 – December 24, 1994)

Boswell read and translated fourteen ancient and modern languages, became a Yale Professor by age thirty and was granted full access to the highly classified and restricted Vatican archives from which he researched four award-winning books, making him a world renowned expert in Medieval History and Linguistics. John Boswell was also openly Gay without apology in an era that was neither tolerant nor accepting. NOT A TAME LION offers the first-hand accounts of Boswell's closest friends, students, colleagues and family members as they recount his life, his works and his final days during which he feverishly worked to complete SAME SEX UNIONS IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE a book that changed the trajectory of the Marriage Equality debate, all while privately battling the debilitating effects of AIDS which led to his death on December 24th 1994 at the age of forty-seven.



[Rustin: A film by George C. Wolfe Paperback – November 24, 2023](#)

by [Text by Thulani Davis](#) (Author)

[See all formats and editions](#)

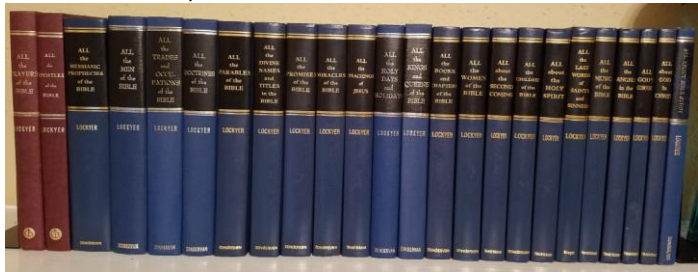
Rustin: A Film by George C. Wolfe sheds light on Bayard Rustin, the unsung hero behind the 1963 March on Washington, directed by George C. Wolfe and featuring Colman Domingo. Rustin, a fearless activist, challenged authority without apology and made history, only to be forgotten. The film, produced by Bruce Cohen and supported by a star-studded cast including Chris Rock and Audra McDonald, captures Rustin's journey alongside civil rights giants. The book, guided by Thulani Davis, provides an in-depth behind-the-scenes glimpse, delving into the real-life heroes who inspired the civil rights movement. Accompanied by visuals and contributions from George C. Wolfe, Michelle Obama, and Walter Naegle, Rustin's partner, the title pays homage to a remarkable filmmaker, a committed cast and crew, and a man who bravely stood for what is right.

[RUSTIN | Official Trailer | Netflix](#)

Herbert Lockyer was a minister and best-selling author of over 50 books, including the 21-volume "All" series. He was educated at Glasgow Bible Institute, and afterwards, he received honorary degrees at Northwestern Evangelical Seminary and the International Academy in London. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 1886, London, United Kingdom

Died: 1984, United States



(Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0d/Herbert_Lockyer_All_Series.jpg)

"All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible" pages 194 – 210.

<https://www.bethanyipcmm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/All-The-Messianic-Prophecies-Of-The-Bible-Herbert-Lockyer.pdf>

Do we recognize the extraordinary gifts and skills of these teachers, the people whose work fills this library, for example, and do we avail ourselves of the riches that await us here? Or, will we die and never have explored what is here and found out why it is here? These people represented in this library were spirit-filled great teachers (many of them), just as Jesus was. In today's Gospel, Sunday, January 29, even the demonic world recognized Jesus, saying, "We know who you are, the Holy One of God. Have you come to destroy us?"

Mark 1:24b-28 NRSVUE

I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They

were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Notice the people identified Jesus as establishing the "NEW TEACHING." Jesus is the dean of the new school of Theology. To look to any other is to abandon the Theology Jesus was sent here to establish. There is nothing else to look for; He is the Image of the Invisible God....(Colossians 1:15 + canticle)

These are all epiphanies. All of them require a response from us.

Next Sunday, February 4, 2024, Jesus heals many, Jesus preaches, and people throng to him to hear him. This is an epiphany.

Finally, on Sunday, February 11, we end this season with the Transfiguration, and now we hear the voice of God saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; LISTEN TO HIM."

These Gospel readings demand a season of epiphanies if one emphasizes the divinity of Christ. The sex week of Epiphany is why we are keeping the Gold color out and not going to Green; this is not "Ordinary Time." Though the name is from the use of ordinal numbers for this season, it has been practiced as a less important time. At Ray Of Hope Church, we take these six weeks to focus on the readings showing us God proving who the Beloved Son is, not for Jesus but for us, you and me. This is all done so we can hear and respond.

Revelation and Response; R&R.

If time permits, go back to the readings.

Matthew 11:2-6 Messengers from John the Baptist

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his^[b] disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

NRSVUE

A word about **Valentine's Day** and Ash Wednesday

=====
*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****
=====



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 4: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others, prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart. Please keep the prayers brief so that as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and in truth. So, we begin with _____

(The person leading will invite prayers from the various rooms in the service.)

Leader – 4: (when all prayers have been heard) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen.

Leader - 5: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. Anyone



may use the QRCode  or press control + click or tap on this

link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

Offertory Song: Lift Every Voice And Sing. Words: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938. Music J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954 Onelicense song# 85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition #561. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made.

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John

6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28,
Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and just....

May our voices be one with all the fabulous Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join their unending praise hymns.

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Leader: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We 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 physical and spiritual well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

Leader: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

WORDS OF INSTITUTION SONG: Remember Me. Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



The Reception of Holy Communion

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD BEHOLD HIM WHO TAKES BEHOLD THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP

Lord, you make me worthy to receive you and by your Word, I am healed.

Pastor: Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

Pastor: I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion based upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and 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.

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Leader -4: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to ____ You. Al - migh - ty

5
God ____ world with - out end. ____ A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11
A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! ____

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All rights reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd, Moderator: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Veronica Floyd: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Veronica Floyd: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

This online presentation is covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ. Copyright Information

"Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

New Revised Standard Version – 1989

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Up to 500 verses of the RSV or NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission...

Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

General Offering for the week of January 7 \$1,343.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of January 14 \$168.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 10

General Offering for the week of January 21 \$1,488.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

****Additional Gifts****

Kaiden donated \$25.00 for the gift card to Mr. Martin. Lisa donated \$100.00 toward copyright licenses. Lisa donated \$100.00 toward the sewer tax. Br. Benedict donated \$800.00 to the Building Fund.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Recent Special Gifts:

We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

** See the Q.R. Code on the last page.**

January 30, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #1** The Statement of Faith and the Statement of Purpose of Ray Of Hope COOLJC during Bible Enrichment
<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Gov3.htm>

January 31, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

February 4, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Week 5

February 6, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #2** The Statement of Faith and the Statement of Purpose of Ray Of Hope COOLJC during Bible Enrichment

February 7, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

February 11, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Week 6

February 13, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #3** Worship and Common Threads

February 14, Wednesday Ash Wednesday Noon (only service of the day)

February 18, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Lent Week 1 of 5

February 20, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #4** Worship and Common Threads

February 21, Wednesday Lent Week 1 of 5

February 23, 2024, Friday, at 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting.

February 25, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Lent Week 2 of 5

Sunday, March 3, 2024 Worship at 10:30 a.m. Lent Week 3 of 5

Sunday, March 10, 2024 **Laetare Rejoice** Sunday in Lent Week 4 of 5

Sunday, March 17, 2024 St. Patrick's Day Worship at 10:30 a.m. Lent Week 5 of 5

HOLY WEEK, 2024 Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:00 p.m. 8:15 p.m. silent prayer 8:30 p.m. Benediction
Good Friday, March 29, 2024 The Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024 7:45 p.m.- 9:15 p.m. The Vigil Of The Resurrection Of
Christ

No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor Benedict: Kaiden Benedict wrote today's final blessing.

Kaiden Rae Benedict: **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Kaiden Rae Benedict: We bless you and praise you God for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (*+*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Kaiden Rae Benedict: We pray Romans chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together saying:

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)

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

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

CLOSING SONG: **Shine Jesus, Shine** Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 30426 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.

We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.

We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.

We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

WE ARE YOU!

THIS is the Church where YOU belong.

Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 a.m.
Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign
on by 6:15 p.m. [Click Here](#).

**** to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374***

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our website;
http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered Love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own Love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the World,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the World around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#). Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

—————Scripture verses to share with others:—————

Romans 15:13 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.

Titus 2:11, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing Salvation **to everyone**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my Word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

