



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 November 19, 2023, Christ The King, Eschatology 2 of 6 Year A
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: Ezekiel 34:11-17 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 803

Psalm Canticle: Colossians 1:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 NRSV 2nd Test.
pg. 176

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 NRSV 2ND Testament page 29

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

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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 _____, and I am in the City of ___ in the State of ___. 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.

To be added to our email list, visitors in the Chapel can 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.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of

_____ in the State of _____. Good morning, and welcome ■ (** reader,

stop, look up at the people, and smile.**)

Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event.

Membership in this or any church is not required. We celebrate the

Lord's open table. Please bring the following items to your table at

this time to prepare: 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 the 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. Ed Askins will play a prelude, "Change My Heart Oh god" Words and Music by Eddie Espinosa, this morning. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and refrain from visiting. Thank you.

Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Change My Heart Oh God" Words and Music by Eddie Espinosa. © 1982 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI Song # 1565. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." **ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED** and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

(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 to 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: Jesus promised to be with the Church to the end of the age.

We joyfully give God thanks and praise.

ALL: Praise the Lord! Bless the Lord! Alleluia.

Pastor: We come here to pray. The definition of the word liturgy is the "prayer-work" of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving those present and God.



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

Today is November 19, 2023, the twenty-sixth and final week of Pentecost,
in our 41st year of ministry.

Today's theme is the Feast of Christ The King.

Today begins the final week of the Church Year.

We are following the Lectionary Readings today. ESCHATOLOGY 2 of 6 weeks.

Pastor: With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: NTBK # 7 Because He Lives. Words and Music by Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither. © 1971 Hanna Street Music (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management) CCLI Song # 16880 For use solely with the SongSelect®. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com Used with permission through

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+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now 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 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 Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Scroll to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 99.



NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 99

- Jim Johnson (1)
- Bob (2)
- Marco Lodovico (3)
- Tommy Bridges (4)
- Richard Newton (5)
- Scott Stanton (6)
- John Canady (7)
- Corey Shearer (8)

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

Leader -2: In silent prayer, remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related illness and other causes of death. Pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) We hope this candle's flame will

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

(NAMES Project 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 Text based on Psalm 16. Text and music © 1970, John B. Foley, S.J. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Third Edition. Onlicense Song # 81275. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.



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 _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The war between Hamas and Israel continues, the devastation of Gaza, the breakdown of the hospital facilities continues as tensions at the West Bank and surrounding Countries continue to rise. Hundreds and thousands of innocent people are suffering and being killed; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: The lives of children who might survive these wars are changed forever and result in physical and psychological long-term injuries; we pray Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The message of the Church is peace and respect between all people. Churches stay quiet out of fear; 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, and we pray.

Spoken:

**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.**

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: Eternal Word of God, as we listen to your Word, we desire to understand it and follow you, seeking your honor and glory in all that 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

+ First Reading:

Reader: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The first reading is Ezekiel, chapter 34, verses 11- 17, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 803 in the First Testament. Listen to an introduction, please. Christ Jesus identifies himself as "The Good Shepherd" in John 10:11, saying, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." In verse 14, Jesus continues, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father." The Jewish people who knew the Scriptures were very familiar with the image of "The Good Shepherd" as God. In the letter of First Peter, Chapter 2, verse 25, Jesus is called the shepherd, Guardian, and bishop of our souls. And, of course, he is the Shepherd of Psalm 23. There are many other examples. Jesus is the shepherd, the Guardian, and the leader of our lives now. In this prophecy in the book of Ezekiel, the House of Israel is given the eternal promise that they will be re-gathered into the Land of Israel, and God will shepherd them in person and peace. Even as Israel was re-established as the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, we clearly can see this is not the peaceful Kingdom that will extend to the entire world. So, when Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd, those who listened to him realized He was identifying himself as the Divine Shepherd that was to

establish His Kingdom, which thoroughly offended the religious leaders of the day. Listen closely to this unfulfilled prophecy and realize God will complete each of the promises stated here. Take a quiet moment to absorb the introduction; just read to you aloud. (** pause for reflection **) Here begins the reading.

God, the True Shepherd

¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep,^[a] so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ¹⁷ As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats:

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [34.12](#) Cn: Heb *their scattered sheep*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+34%3A11-17&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: ***** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

Today's Psalm is the Colossians Canticle, Colossians Chapter 1, verses 15-20. We will recite it together. We begin:

Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the first-born of all creation.
In Christ, everything in heaven and on earth
was created, things visible and invisible.

All were created through Him;
all were created for Him.
Jesus is before all else that is.
In Him, everything continues in being.

It is Jesus who is head of the body, the Church!
He who is the beginning,
the first-born of the dead,
so that primacy may be His in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute
fullness reside in Christ
and, by means of Him, to reconcile everything
in His person,
both on earth and in the heavens,
making peace through the blood of His Cross. Amen.

+ Second Reading

Reader: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The second reading is in First Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 20-28, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 176 in the Second Testament. This reading presents the Doctrine that death is an enemy of God and will be defeated by eternal life. Here begins the reading.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.^[a] ²¹ For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God^[b] has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Read full chapter

Footnotes

a. 15.20 Gk *fallen asleep*

b. 15.27 Gk *he*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15%3A20-28&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.

Opening 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!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Matthew, chapter 25:31-46 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 29 in the Second Testament.

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

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John.

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 Judgment of the Nations

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king

will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,'³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?'³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?'³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,'⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?'⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A31-46&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.)

Closing 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 - sds the
 5 Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!
 9 You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our
 13 joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!
 17 For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.
 The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th 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

I believe the preaching tradition and theological influence of every Pastor and teacher are firmly grounded in their particular adherence to one of the four schools of Eschatology. I have also observed that many preachers are unaware of the school of thought on Eschatology that is influencing their preaching. Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. does not require preachers and teachers to adhere to a particular school of thought in Eschatology. I am grounded in Premillennial and Dispensational schools when studying the Last Things.

Each year, during the last weeks of the Church year and the first weeks of Advent, the lectionary (schedule of readings) and the liturgical calendar (seasons and celebrations) focus on Eschatology, the study of the final events of the Bible. I attempt to bring new material for those familiar with the subject, and I remind everyone there are those who are hearing this for the first time and others who have listened to it less than five times before.

I am aiming to be brief today. The Feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI as a response to the growing secularism, as he understood it. Today, it is celebrated by most denominations of the Christian Church as the last Sunday of the Church Year, implying the last event will be a final judgment and a spiritual "heavenly"

kingdom. To learn more about the Feast of Christ The King [RIGHT CLICK HERE](#).

The question in theology is what this "kingdom" or "realm" we read about, and when it will happen, if it has it, or if it is happening.

Spiritual / Metaphorical / Symbolic / Myth and Allegorical - It is impossible to know anything about God, Jesus, the Church, or the Bible. The Bible should not be used to understand the past or to anticipate anything in the future. The Bible is an interesting collection of fragments of literature from a broad spectrum of time and place. It is useful as much as one can find some good ethical teachings. The concept of a "kingdom of Christ" in the past, present, or future is simply a misreading of allegorical texts and should be abandoned. Life goes on, so be nice to others, and they will be nice to you. Reach out in peace, and you will establish peace. Be forgiving, and everyone will follow your example. Forgiveness will be our policy, and goodness will be the result everywhere.

Amillennial - There will never be a literal, future kingdom of Christ for a "mille" thousand "annus" years. The "millennium" is interpreted to mean an indeterminate period of time from the life of Christ until the end of the world. This position is held by the Roman Church and most "mainline" Protestant Churches. This interpretation began in the middle of the 5th Century. The institutional church is the expression of the Kingdom of Christ. Still, it only influences those who want to be affected, and they are assured of a spiritual forever not fully understood but called Heaven. At times, churches have threatened those who do not want to comply with an after-death existence of Hell, but frankly, these churches have never proved or disproved that Heaven or Hell exists as far as non-believers critique their proof.

Postmillennial - The church age is the "millennium," though not measured as 1,000 years. While this school of interpretation has evolved, the current understanding can be traced back to European colonization of non-European countries and even continents "for Christ." Even more recently, beginning in the 1930s and energized by the second half of the 1970s, this group of churches and parachurch organizations is causing social upheaval and pulling back on Scientific and academic progress in the name of "conservatism." This school of Theology encourages the use of all levels of government as the instrument to force pagan, non-conservative-Christian, and all forms of socially liberal people into compliance with "Christian" laws. It is assumed most people need "Christian laws" and policies to form people into the mindset ordained by God, and so a theocracy can be formed. Currently, the "MAGA" movement is drawing organizational strength from Postmillennial, Theocratic, Autocratic, "Christian" White Nationalist thinkers, movers, and shakers. One crucial aspect of this form of "Christianity" is the idea that Christ cannot return to the Earth to end the world, the millennium until every human converts to the uniquely "USA," "evangelical," "conservative," and "Christian" religion under their leadership. Much of this comes from a few verses in Scripture, Acts 3:19-22

¹⁹ Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing

may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the Messiah¹⁸ appointed for you, that is, Jesus,²¹ who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.²² Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. (NRSVUE <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3%3A19-22&version=NRSVUE>)

This "times of refreshing" is interpreted as the resurrection from the dead. Therefore, laws must be enacted from Church councils, city councils, state houses, political party platforms, federal law, and international laws to usher it in as quickly as possible. All law must be brought into compliance with this particular form of "Christianity" so those who refuse to comply may be prosecuted, jailed, and or executed so Christ may return.

Premillennial - This school of Theology has roots in the Apostles and the writers of books of the Bible from Moses to John the Beloved Apostle. As the title implies, a simple reading of Scripture at face value situates many prophecies as yet unfulfilled. Over one hundred prophecies were literally fulfilled in Christ's first coming to the Earth. It is reasonable to expect the remaining prophecies will also be fulfilled in due time, exactly as written. The church is not the Kingdom, and the world is not the Kingdom. The Kingdom will be the Kingdom when it is established "on Earth as it is in Heaven," as we have prayed all our lives. During this intermittent time, "all authority in heaven and earth" has been given to Jesus, who is building his Church. The Church on Earth is the Kingdom in the sense of bringing the Gospel to everyone and proclaiming the "Blessed Hope," the soon-coming return of Christ to end the Church Age by resurrecting and transforming millions and returning to Paradise with them "in the air." Seven years later, Jesus will return this time to the Earth, resurrect the House of Israel, and establish the physical Kingdom on Earth, with the central capital being Jerusalem on the Temple Mount.

During the current age, it is clearly understood that Humanity is aligned with fallen Lucifer as "the god of this World" and the "ruler of this Age" (John 12:31) (2 Cor. 4:4) Satan is leading the whole world astray. (Rev. 12:9). Satan is the prince of the powers of the air, the fallen spirit world. (Ephs. 2:1-2)

Every person has the free will to choose whom they will serve during this age.

(Matt. 28:18-20) ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ¹⁸

(Matt. 16:18b) I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What do we do???? First, be the church. Do not attend a church service; be the church with your service to everyone. Explain to people your hope and motivation to serve them in any way they need, that you are blessed with the assurance that Christ is coming and that he will establish his Kingdom. Explain the answer to their question: "What kind of god would allow all this sickness, death, crime, war, murders, all this sin?" The answer: the

god of this world system is behind all of this, and unfortunately, he is gathering many sheep. Jesus describes him as the thief who comes into the flock to capture, crush, kill, and destroy the sheep. (read John Chapter 10) People are seduced by what they think is power, security, treasure, satisfaction, and abundance. Then, they must fight to keep it and turn to the world system.

The God of Creation, Who sent His only begotten Son to redeem us from all this chaos, allows us to make our choices out of love so we are not bound unwillingly to God's will. We are free to choose; our choices will ultimately steer our eschaton, our final things and events.

Who is driving the car of my life? Only I can answer that question. Perhaps I have given the steering wheel and the keys to the god of this age, "Aion," this world system "kosmos." My aim is to choose to give the steering wheel and the keys to the Good Shepherd, the Bishop of Souls, the King of Hearts who that Him, the Guardian of my Soul, the Saviour of the World, daily. Christ has come, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Here is a quick Premillennial understanding of today's readings.

1) Ezek. 34:11-17 God shepherds those who listen for God's presence and make themselves available to God's instruction. God will establish the House of Israel in her land in peace and rule as the Good Shepherd King over all the earth.

2) Colossians Canticle 1:15-20 Christ is primary "before all else that is." Creation came through Christ; Christ was born in the flesh, died, buried, and raised by God. Christ even holds all things in the continuance of being, holds all things together in the Universe, even though the Universe is in constant motion. Christ is the head of the Church, so that primacy may be His in everything **QUAS PRIMAS**

3) Second Reading; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Jesus is the first fruits of those who have died. Jesus is the second Adam and has brought resurrection to all. In Christ all will be made alive 1 Cor. 15:22. Then the order of the timing is given: Christ first, those who are alive at his coming (rapture), then his kingdom and when it is ended, "He delivers the kingdom to God the Father" after ruling as king of all kingdoms and lord of all lords all governments will be under his final authority on Earth. When Christ delivers the Kingdom to God, the "last enemy will be destroyed, death." (1 cor 15:26) Then the Son will be subject to God and in the final renewal God will be "all in all." There is a chronology to this, a specific order given.

4) In Gospel Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus describes his coming in glory to the Earth in detail. this event happens after the details explained in Matthew 24:1 through 25:30 that describe the current and Tribulation ages. AFTER these events, Jesus comes in his glory to the

Earth. He sets up his throne. All persons living at the time will come before Jesus for separation, either into the physical kingdom on Earth or into the Lake of Fire. Notice how the specifics of this are entirely different than last Sunday, where we read and discussed the Lord's coming "in the air" to "catch up" rapiemur 1 Thess. 4:17.

=====STUDY TEXT =====

The Holy Quran's Message To Jews & Christians. Sixth Edition 2001
Compiled and Edited by: Dr. Arafat El-Ashi COPYRIGHT © 1996 By Arafat El-Ashi First published Dec. 1995 5,000 copies Second reprint February 1996 10,000 = Third Edition May 1996 10,000 = Fourth Edition June 1997 10,000 = Fifth Edition 1999 10,000 = Sixth Edition 2001 10,000 = Printed in Canada All Rights Reserved. For permission to reprint contact the author at Muslim World League
191 The West Mall, Suite# 1018
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 5K8, Canada

EL-Ashi, Arafat. The Holy Quran's Message to Jews & Christians . UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

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Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition STIC
<https://sticinterfaith.org/>

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*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

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+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 3: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: We pray that people will turn away from violence in all its forms of destruction; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: The war in Ukraine continues past the 603rd day. Today

marks the seventh Sunday of the War between Hamas and Israel. There are roughly thirty-three Countries at war this morning. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end all wars and find diplomatic solutions to conflict; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

See this website for more information: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>

Leader – 2: We thank you, Lord, for the praise reports of those who have experienced healing. We continue to pray for the people we know who are facing treatments, surgeries, hospice, and recovery. We also pray for the family of Christopher Brockway; he passed away after 8:00 last night. May his family find the deep and lasting peace only Christ can provide. We add to this list those we hold secretly in our prayers and all who have asked for our prayers; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/>)

Leader – 2: We pray that leaders of world Governments will recognize and respond to the environmental emergency of Climate change with compassion and plans for change that are short and long-term in scope; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, prayers of thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with _____

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen




(Visit our moving prayers page [Right Click Here.](#))

+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.

Leader: 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. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance, taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

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.

Finally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

At this time, we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Internet viewers, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow under leader two.

We still use individual communion kits in the Chapel as part of our COVID

safety protocol.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*))

OFFERTORY SONG **Change My Heart Oh God** Words and Music by Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI Song # 1565. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Leader -2: (* **Improvise a prayer for the offerings received, giving thanks and praise.***) (When your prayer is complete, please say:) " Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology."

(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

Leader: Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water

to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

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.

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+ 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 wellbeing. 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

(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: Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together...

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.

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, but in which 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! ____

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+ 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.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion: Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the Salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).

COMMUNION SONG: **NTBK# 51 Majesty** Words and Music by Jack Hayford © 1981 New Spring For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI Song #1527 CCLI License #706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

General Offering for the week of October 22 \$78.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of October 29 \$1743.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 12

General Offering for the week of November 5 \$108.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 10

General Offering for the week of November 12 \$207.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 12

****Special Gifts****

New Gifts This Week:

Ed Askins donated time and labor this week, caulking, sanding, and painting exterior siding and window trim. Ed also oversaw the repair of the broken storm window from the second floor on the front of the building. Ed donated \$168.00 for the liability insurance. Thank you Ed.

There is a new door installed at the exit from the Carley Room. An anonymous donation of \$675.57 was made for the purchase and installation of a new secure exit door after the previous door was vandalized. We are very grateful to the donor and thankful for the skills of Jerry and Travis who installed the new door.

Lisa Frost donated a new coffee maker that has a thermal 12 cup stainless steel coffee carafe. We will enjoy the coffee staying hot during our social hour. Thank you Lisa.

April Struhm donated the docking station for the Toughbook computer that will be used for new music compositions. Thank you April.

Kaiden has been donating many extra hours of help this week, especially with our new project of Wednesday Noon Mass, Kaiden has to set up the building on Wednesday as she sets up for Sunday. Kaiden has helped in the background with many extra tasks this week and we are grateful.

Recent Gifts:

Ed Askins donated time and labor last week, refinishing the Frasier Room floor, and working on the windows. Ed also painted over the vandalization of the exterior of our building where someone painted "666" in red numbers and defaced the white Cross that is on the back door with red paint. Ed is managing a project to replace the damaged back exit out of the Carley Room. Ed has identified the contractor, and managing the entire project. Thank you, Ed for all of your donated time and labor.

April Struhm donated \$150.00 toward the liability insurance due in December. Thank you, April.

Veronica Floyd donated \$50.00 toward the liability insurance due in December. Thank you, Veronica.

April Struhm donated another Chromebook to help people see the Order of Worship and Music Edition for Sunday worship.

Phillipa Askins donated \$230.00 to the new annual Internet Hosting costs. Phillipa also donated \$130.00 to be used at the discretion of the Treasurer. Thank you, Phillipa.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

Sunday, November 19 at 3:30 pm. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

Service, presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition. First Congregational United Church Of Christ. 171 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY 14830. See the flyer

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment Topic Forgiveness, the Sacrament of Forgiveness.

Wednesday, November 22, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

November 26, Advent, week 1 Eschatology - 3 of 6 (backed up one week) - World Peace Sunday

NOVEMBER 26, MONDAY Gaudete Party exchange NAMES DUE.

Tuesday, November 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 29, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

November 30, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Council Meeting

December 3, Advent, week 2 – Hope, World AIDS DAY Celebration

Eschatology - 4 of 6

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 6, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Thursday, December 7 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 1

Friday, December 8 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 2

Saturday, Decmber 9 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 3

December 10, GAUDETE SUNDAY – GAUDETE PARTY – Joy, Pride Sunday in the Winter Eschatology - 5 of 6

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 4

Monday, December 11, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 5

Tuesday, December 12, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 6

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 13, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Wednesday, December 13, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 7

Thursday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 8

Sunday, December 17, Advent, week 4 – Love, Holy Women and Mother's Day in the Winter Eschatology - 6 of 6

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 20, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

December 24, Sunday, 10:30 A.M. NATIVITY – Celebration of

the Birth of Jesus.

December 29, Friday, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

As for the Gaudete Party exchange we agreed to the following: Our practice this year for the Gaudete gift party exchange will be as follows so we can incorporate both on-line and in person participants.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the \$10 limit gift exchange needs to submit their name to the Moderator/Clerk - Veronica Floyd either via email (veeflo@aol.com) or just let her know at an upcoming Worship service or Bible Enrichment. If you are an on line participant, Veronica will need your mailing address to pass onto the person who receives your name.

Participant names must be received no later than Sunday November 26th. Veronica will take all names and put in a bowl and match the names of participants with the names she draws out of the bowl. Veronica will contact each participant and let them know whose name they have no later than Monday November 27th. If you receive the name of a person who is participating on-line, you will need to send them their gift via mail or delivery service so it reaches them by Saturday December 9th. (An option may be to find a small gift item on Amazon and have it sent directly to the person). The gift exchange will take place on Gaudete Sunday December 10th.

Thank you
Veronica

June 1, 2023, was the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.



<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> In celebration, we launched the new mobile-friendly version of our website.

***** INTERESTING WEB INFORMATION TO KNOW:

<https://www.loreal.com/en/articles/commitments/our-partners/>

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NOTE: Whitney Tipton recommended the 2016 Documentary "13th" which may be found on

Netflix. The caption reads; "In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U. S. prison boom. I have watched it and found it to be very informative and I recommend it as well. Thank you, Whitney.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: **SAINTS** 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)

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: To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King Text: Martin B. Hellrigel, 1891-1981, alt., © 1941, Irene C. Mueller Catholic Community Hymnal #287 Onelicense Song# 92401 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

POSTLUDE: Organ How Great Thou Art.

BROTHER: All of our freedom of Scientific inquiry, social studies, psychological research, Biblical research, and laws came to us by voting. All of it can be overturned by vote; that is how a democracy works.

Religion is invoked in the presentations of the rationale for reversing rights gained in social, educational, healthcare, and even religious settings. The only way to protect what we have is to stay informed and involved in the process.

(Br. Benedict 8-5-23)

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

We have to EDUCATE and ACTIVATE the young adult LGBTQSINAE2ss+ Electorate! This is an Electorate Emergency. This is not a drill! (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqsia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

*** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord

<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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."

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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

=====Who can receive the Holy Spirit=====

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.

Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)



WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it, or right after so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in, through, with us, and made known in breaking the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole World.

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told "no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here](#).

See this in a PDF format from our website, share it with others, or download it to your computer/device. [Right Click Here](#)

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)





Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC)

Is Pleased To Announce the Hosting of The

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19th, 2023 @ 3:30 PM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

171 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY 14830

A reception with dessert and fellowship will follow the service.

This service is free for all who wish to attend.

A free will offering will be collected and donated to Doctors Without Borders.

All are Welcome!

