



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 December 17, 2023, Advent 4 Reverend Mother's Day Sunday, Eschatology 6 of 6
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: Micah 5:2-4 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 865

Psalm: The Canticle of Mary Luke 1:46-55

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 224

Gospel: Luke 1:26-46 NRSV 2ND Testament pg. 56

***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, 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.**) 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.



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](#))



Yule Log with the four candles of Advent.



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: Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor:

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

Today is December 17, 2023, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, year B in the church calendar in our 41st year of ministry.

Today's theme: Love, Holy Reverend Mothers Day in the Winter

Gospel Message: The Annunciation

Announcing: The Year of Women in the Bible Advent IV, 2023 to Advent IV, 2024

Today is also week 6 of 6 weeks on the theme of Eschatology.

FIRST SONG: Praise To The Lord, the Almighty. G&P#686. Tune: Lobe Den Herren, Composer: Joachim Neander 1658 - 1680. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127. Performed by Rev. Clyde McLennan. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted.

+ The Advent Wreath Week 4, 2023 – The Candle of Love.



Leader -2: Please be seated. Today we celebrate Love Sunday. We begin by praying together.

ALL: We honor you, O God, who is "nearer to us than we are to ourselves." We celebrate your eternal love for us made known especially in the announcement, "the virgin shall be with child, and his name shall be Emmanuel, God with us." (**Attributed to St. Augustine: "nearer to us...." and Isaiah 7:14**)

Leader -3: We marvel at the faith, the trust, of Elizabeth and Mary, who, like Sarah and Hannah before them, placed all their wellbeing into your hands. We desire to follow the example of these reverend mothers whose song of "yes" continues to ring out in our humanity.

Leader -4: As you light your four Advent candles, we invite you to show

your Advent wreath or Advent log in your camera so we may all enjoy it. (*wait to see candles in the camera*) Thank you. You may return your camera to the normal position.

Leader -1: With the lighting of this last purple candle, the candle of Love, we begin the fourth and final week of our Advent journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential. Together we say the following prayer out loud.

ALL: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. In this place, at this very moment, we dare to say "yes" to the flow of your love through us, God of all. Send forth your Holy Spirit to renew us and the face of the Earth with holy love. We hear again the voices of holy women everywhere, especially Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Mary. We can relive their quiet and expectant "yes" and follow their example through the power of the Holy Spirit. To the wondrous love of all women everywhere, we raise an Alleluia in the name of (*+*) God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Leader -2: Notice the Hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emanuel," is a promise to the House of Israel. We are the Church of Jesus, we do rejoice, but we celebrate the future fulfillment of these promises to Israel. This understanding is the "futurist" or Premillennial interpretation. Together we sing the final verses, seven and eight. Please rise as you are able.

**O come, Desire of nations bind in one the hearts of human-kind.
Make all our sad divisions cease, and be for us our King of Peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, Emanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in
lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Amen, Alleluia.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent; verses: 1, 3-6, para. In *Psalterolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7, tr. fr. *Hymnal*, 1940, alt. Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL, *Processionale*, 15th cent. French: adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I. Public Domain. Glory & Praise Second Edition #293 Onelicense Song #84028. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

Leader -3: Together, we continue forward with expectant faith.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Leader - 3: Please be seated now.



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 dignity of the Human person is lost in the use of war. Our governments seek power through war instead of turning to you; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: The joy of the message of Christ returning is difficult to communicate when people are so concerned with work, status, and competition; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The message of Christ and His Church is peace and respect between all people, but religion us often used to divide us; 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, grant us peace, may all people seek the true peace of Christ.

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, fill us with your eternal love as we listen to your Word. 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

+ 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 the Book of Micah, Chapter 5, verses 2-5, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 691 in the First Testament. In this reading we see even the City of Bethlehem was chosen in prophecy for the birth of the Messiah. Here begins the reading.

The Ruler from Bethlehem

² ^[a] But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Footnotes

- a. [5.2](#) 5.1 in Heb
- b. [5.5](#) Gk: Heb *in our palaces*

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah+5%3A2-5&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: Pastor:

The psalm today is the Canticle of Mary at Luke chapter 1, verses 46-55. We will pray the canticle together in unison. We begin.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
for God has looked with favor on this lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
The Almighty has done great things for me,
and Holy is God's Name.
God has mercy on those who respect and love God
in every generation.
God's arm has shown the strength,
and scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things,
the rich have been sent away empty.
God has come to the help of Israel, God's servant,
and has remembered the promise of mercy
made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his descendents forever.

Glory to God, The Christ, and The Holy Spirit. As it was in the

beginning, is now, and will be for ever, world without end. 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 the Book of Hebrews chapter 10, verses 5-10 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 224 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

Brothers and sisters: when Christ^[a] came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book^[b] it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will^[c] that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!
ALL: Thanks be to God!

Read full chapter

Footnotes

- a. 10.5 Gk *he*
- b. 10.7 Meaning of Gk uncertain
- c. 10.10 Gk *by that will*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+10%3A5-10&version=NRSVUE>
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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 Luke, chapter 1:26-46, in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 91 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 Luke.

**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 Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^[a] ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[b] ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be ^[d] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

Mary’s Song of Praise

⁴⁶ And Mary^[e] said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Read full chapter

Footnotes

- a. 1.28 Other ancient authorities add *Blessed are you among women*
- b. 1.34 Gk *I do not know a man*
- c. 1.35 Other ancient authorities add *of you*
- d. 1.45 Or *believed, for there will be*
- e. 1.46 Other ancient authorities read *Elizabeth*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1%3A26-46&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!

Special Music sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin

"Mary, Did You Know?" Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene.
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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 GLBTQISA2ss+ 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**

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

This is the final sermon in the six part series on Eschatology. As stated in previous weeks, we know Scriptures are holy and inspired when they are eternal in scope, as shown with Scripture that has been historically fulfilled, spiritually fulfilled during our life journey now, and prophecies yet to be fulfilled literally in the future.

Holy Scripture is at least three-tiered and this is where the strict definitions of the four schools of eschatology become blurred. God is in the eternal existence where the past, the

present, and the future are always happening. The expression God will be and is "all in all" is an excellent example.

1 Corinthians 15:28 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. (NRSVUE)

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. (NRSVUE)

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 ⁴ There are ^[a] diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works ^[b] all in all. (NKJV)

Ephes 3:20-21 NRSVUE ²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and ^[a] in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Micah, written and revered since the 8th Century B.C.: The City of Bethlehem is foretold to be the birthplace of the Messiah, the Christ.

Canticle of Mary: The song Mary sings at the Visitation when she goes to see her "kinswoman" (cousin, maternal aunt). Sung and recited every night all over the world at Vespers. What does it say to us in our spiritual journey.

Hebrews: yes born of a woman, but born to be a sacrifice.

Isaiah 9:6,7

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority, ^[d]

and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The second reading is in the Book of Hebrews chapter 10, verses 5-10 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 224 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

Brothers and sisters: when Christ^[a] came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book^[b] it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will^[c] that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel: The Annunciation and Mary’s perfect yes.

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

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Song: Hail Mary: Gentle Woman by Carey Landry, G&P 426

Text based on Luke 1:28, 42. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Carey Landry. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense song# 81283 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

+ 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 thank God for the example of women of faith who helped us along the way in our lives. Some may not have expressed their faith in you, but by their example they showed your love. In thanksgiving; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: The war in Ukraine continues past the 631st day. Today marks the eleventh Sunday of the War between Hamas and Israel. The loss of life and the inhumane conditions are immeasurable. Tension is rising on all sides of this and other conflicts. We pray for leaders to 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 pray for a successful pacemaker replacement surgery for Ed Askins this week. We pray for families who will go through these holidays and Holy Days for the first year following the death of loved ones. May they find the deep and lasting peace that only Christ can provide. We add to this list those we hold in our silent 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 continue praying that the 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.

Leader: 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 _____

Leader: 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: NTBK #95 Lion Of Judah. Words and Music by Ted Sandquist. © 1976 Lion Of Judah Music. Renewed 1981. CCLI Song # 16990. Lyrics appear here solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

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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.

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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,**

+ 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:

General Offering for the week of November 19 \$168 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of November 26 \$88 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of December 3 \$1,564.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of December 10 \$568.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)
Attendance 12

****Special Gifts****

Recent Special Gifts:

Ed Askins and Brother redesigned, repaired, and remodeled the Tabernacle and the booth. This is still an ongoing project. We are grateful for cleanup, fresh design, and renewed purpose for this area of the chapel.

Phillipa and Ed Askins donated and installed a new refrigerator in the kitchen. They also have donated new toilet seats and made some repairs to the plumbing throughout the building. Thank you, Phillipa and Ed.

Kaiden has been donating many extra hours of help this week decorating and preparations. April assisted with decorating the chapel. Council members are spending extra time preparing new officers who will begin their terms after the Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who is donating time and talent.

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.

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 the last page.**

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

December 18, Monday, 6:00 p.m. Gary Davis is celebrating 31 years clean with his NA group in Millerton, PA. All are welcome. [Google Maps 5147 Main St. Millerton, PA Rt 328](#)

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

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

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

December 26, Tuesday, NO Bible Enrichment Session.

December 27, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

December 28, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Ray Of Hope Church Kwanzaa Celebration.

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

December 30, Saturday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. regional NAACP Kwanzaa Celebration.

December 31, Sunday, 10:30 a.m. The Holy Name Of Jesus

January 2, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment

January 3, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

January 7, Sunday, Feast of The Epiphany, Orthodox Christmas 10:30 a.m.

January 7, 2024 Annual Reports Due to Veronica

January 9, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment

January 10, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

January 14, Sunday, Civil Rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10:30 a.m.

January 14, 2024 Reports for Annual Meeting will be distributed.

January 21, 2024 Mother Marianne Cope, "Beloved Mother of Outcasts" Annual Meeting with Dinner.

(Marianne Cope was born on January 23, 1838, in Darmstadt, Germany. In 1862, she entered the Sisters of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York. In 1883, she led a group of sisters to the Hawaiian Islands to care for the poor, especially those suffering from leprosy. She died on August 9, 1918.)

The Third Annual Prayers At Noon Together on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day will take place Saturday, January 27, 2024 at NOON. It will be in-person and virtual.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

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: Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming (Lo How A Rose) G&P 320

Harriet Krauth Spaeth, Michael Praetorius, Roger C. Wilson, Theodore Baker
CCLI Song #2186546

Words: Public Domain; Music: 1975 The Lorenz Corporation

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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/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

*** 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."



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

=====**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)

