



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 Fortieth 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 very 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)

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel 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 18, 2022, Advent Week IV, Year A

Love Sunday, Reverend Mother's Day In The Winter

Eschatology, 6th of 6 Sundays

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."

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: 1 Maccabees 4:36-59 – Purification of the Temple and

Second Reading: 2 Maccabees 10:1-8 The Rededication of the Temple

Canticle of Mary: Luke 1:46-55

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 11

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



CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. 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) The bell is rung 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 _____. We welcome you 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. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the Chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject. Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

We invite everyone to participate in some parts or all of this worship event as you feel comfortable. At Ray Of Hope Church, we assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page and song numbers, and using a psalm response verse.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Today, those participating through the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You do not need to be a Member of this church or any church to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. We celebrate the Lord's open table, where everyone is welcome. Those celebrating at home, please prepare the following items at this time and bring them to your table; 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. We will use these items for Holy Communion during the second half of the worship service. Also, if you have a four-candle Advent Wreath or a Yule log, bring those to your table today. We will light the **fourth** candle during the worship today.



Lars Jacob for Ristesson Southerly Clubs donated this picture to the Public Domain.
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christmas_decor_2014_Sweden_\(1\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christmas_decor_2014_Sweden_(1).JPG)

Leader-1: The bulletin with the worship order is available in multiple ways. People watching on Facebook Live, look for the "Featured Link" in the window. Click on the icon, and the bulletin will appear in a second window. You can flip or slide between the Order of Worship bulletin and the webcast. People watching on Skype find a link in the chat window, "Order of Worship." Right-click on it and choose to open it in a new window or new tab. The Order of Worship bulletin and the Skype link is also on our website's front page. Look for the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these

items. We will start shortly. This morning, Ed Askins is going to play a piano prelude for our service. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and not visit during the music. Thank you.

Music Prelude.



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

Leader – 2: We are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. 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: God is glorified when we welcome one another and introduce ourselves to those around us. You are truly welcome here. **During COVID, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: We begin in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: 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 began on 10/31/1983.

Today we are celebrating the eighth Sunday in our 40th year of

ministry. Welcome to the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira, NY, and the world.

Romans 13:11 "Now is the time to WAKE from your SLEEP."

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, the definition of "woke" is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/woke>

In Theological terms: Awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, actively supporting persons of all Religions and faiths and those with no faith or religion.

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information on these ideas. Right Click Here:

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

Today is also the fourth Sunday of Advent, and the theme is Love Sunday, Reverend Mother's Day In The Winter. In our series on Eschatology, this is the 6th and final Sunday.

Today's service outline is as follows:

- 1) Advent Wreath
- 2) Two readings and an explanation of Hanukkah
- 3) Mary's Canticle and the Gospel Reading with an explanation
- 4) Holy Communion
- 5) Final Blessing and Welcome to the Christmas Season
- 6) Social

However, speaking of love and peace, we stop and pray for all the people in the war still raging in Ukraine. We pray to end these hostilities that started approximately 305 days ago. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The Winter conditions are very harsh when the power system is not functioning. It is frigid in Ukraine these days.

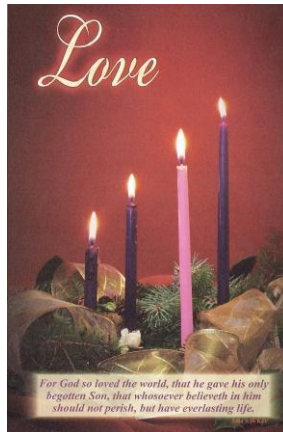
Pastor: We begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG Prepare Ye, The Way Of The Lord.

Text of the song: Prepare Ye, the way of the Lord.

+ The Advent Wreath Week II – the candle of Peace.



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.

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

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

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: O Loving, Eternal, and Holy God, our hearts and minds are open to hearing these Scripture readings. We pray your Word cause action and change to equip us for many more years of ministry. We ask this through Christ, our Lord;

ALL: AMEN.

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/BibleEnrichment.htm>

Read a short article explaining that the original King James Version of 1611 did in fact contain all of the books designated as Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical by some traditions. This shows there should be no distinction between a so-called "Catholic" and a so-called "Protestant" Bible based upon the presence of the absence of these books. To read this article [Click Here](#).

The names and order of all the Bookes of the Olde and New Testament, with the number of their Chapters.

Old Testament	Number of Chapters	Old Testament	Number of Chapters
Genesis	50	Ezekiel	48
Exodus	40	Lamentations	5
Leuiticus	27	Ezekiel	48
Numbers	36	Daniel	12
Deuteronomie	34	Hosea	14
Joshua	24	Ioel	3
Judges	21	Amos	9
Ruth	4	Obadiah	1
1 Samuel	31	Jonah	4
2 Samuel	24	Micah	7
1 Kings	22	Nahum	3
2 Kings	25	Habakkuk	2
1 Chronicles	29	Zephaniah	3
2 Chronicles	36	Haggai	2
Ezrah	10	Zechariah	14
Nehemiah	13	Malachi	4
Ester	10		
Iob	42		
Psalmes	150		
Proverbs	31		

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Judges	21	Amos	9
Ruth	4	Obadiah	1
1 Samuel	31	Jonah	4
2 Samuel	24	Micah	7
1 Kings	22	Nahum	3
2 Kings	25	Habakkuk	2
1 Chronicles	29	Zephaniah	3
2 Chronicles	36	Haggai	2
Ezrah	10	Zechariah	14
Nehemiah	13	Malachi	4
Ester	10		
Iob	42		
Psalmes	150		
Proverbs	31		

✦ The Bookes called Apocrypha.

1. B esdras hath Chapters 9	Baruch with the Epistle of Ieremias 6
2. Esdras 16	The song of the three children.
Tobit 14	The story of Susanna.
Judeth 16	The idle Bel and the Dragon.
The rest of Ester 6	The prayer of Manasseh.
Wisdom 19	1. Maccabees 16
Ecclesiasticus 31	2. Maccabees 15

✦ The Bookes of the New Testament.

M atthew hath Chap. 28	2. Thessalonians hath Chapters 3
Marke 16	1. Timothy 6
Luke 24	2. Timothy 4
Iohn 21	Titus 5
The Actes 26	Philemon 1
The Epistle to the Romanes 16	To the Hebrewes 13
1. Corinthians 16	The Epistle of Iames 5
2. Corinthians 13	1. Peter 5
Galatians 6	2. Peter 5
Ephesians 6	1. Iohn 1
Philippians 4	2. Iohn 1
Colossians 4	3. Iohn 1
1. Thessalonians 5	Iude 1
	Reuelation 22

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[v]

Proper Lesson to be read for the first Lessons, both at Morning and Evening prayer, on the Sundays throughout the year, and for some other feasts.

Sundays of Advent	Evangel.	Matth.	Evangel.	Matth.
The first. i. j.	Matth. i. j.	Matth. i. j.	Matth. i. j.	Matth. i. j.
Second after Christmas. ii. j.	Matth. ii. j.	Matth. ii. j.	Matth. ii. j.	Matth. ii. j.
Third after Epiphany. iii. j.	Matth. iii. j.	Matth. iii. j.	Matth. iii. j.	Matth. iii. j.
Fourth after Epiphany. iv. j.	Matth. iv. j.	Matth. iv. j.	Matth. iv. j.	Matth. iv. j.
Fifth Sunday. v. j.	Matth. v. j.	Matth. v. j.	Matth. v. j.	Matth. v. j.
First Sunday in Lent. i. j.	Matth. vi. j.	Matth. vi. j.	Matth. vi. j.	Matth. vi. j.
Second Sunday in Lent. ii. j.	Matth. vii. j.	Matth. vii. j.	Matth. vii. j.	Matth. vii. j.
Third Sunday in Lent. iii. j.	Matth. viii. j.	Matth. viii. j.	Matth. viii. j.	Matth. viii. j.
Fourth Sunday in Lent. iv. j.	Matth. ix. j.	Matth. ix. j.	Matth. ix. j.	Matth. ix. j.
Easter day. i. j.	Matth. x. j.	Matth. x. j.	Matth. x. j.	Matth. x. j.
Second Sunday after Easter. ii. j.	Matth. xi. j.	Matth. xi. j.	Matth. xi. j.	Matth. xi. j.
Third Sunday after Easter. iii. j.	Matth. xii. j.	Matth. xii. j.	Matth. xii. j.	Matth. xii. j.
Fourth Sunday after Easter. iv. j.	Matth. xiii. j.	Matth. xiii. j.	Matth. xiii. j.	Matth. xiii. j.
Ascension day. i. j.	Matth. xiv. j.	Matth. xiv. j.	Matth. xiv. j.	Matth. xiv. j.

Lesson proper for Holy days.

Day	Lesson	Lesson
Christmas day	Matth. ii. 1-12	Matth. ii. 1-12
S. Stephen	Acts. vi. 1-15	Acts. vi. 1-15
S. John Baptist	Matth. iii. 1-12	Matth. iii. 1-12
Epiphany	Matth. ii. 1-12	Matth. ii. 1-12
Good Friday	Matth. xxvi. 1-46	Matth. xxvi. 1-46
Easter Sunday	Matth. xvi. 1-28	Matth. xvi. 1-28

Reader: **** If an introduction is needed:**** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The first reading for Hanukkah is the Book First Maccabees, Chapter 4, verses 36 through 59. The reading is not included in our pew Bibles. Here begins the reading:

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Cleansing and Dedication of the Temple

³⁶ Then Judas and his brothers said, "See, our enemies are crushed; let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it." ³⁷ So all the army assembled and went up to Mount Zion. ³⁸ There they saw the sanctuary desolate, the altar profaned, and the gates burned. In the courts they saw bushes sprung up as in a thicket or as on one of the mountains. They saw also the chambers of the priests in ruins. ³⁹ Then they tore their clothes and mourned with great lamentation; they sprinkled themselves with ashes ⁴⁰ and fell face down on the ground. And they blew the signal trumpets, and they cried out to heaven.

⁴¹ Then Judas detailed men to fight against those in the citadel until he had cleansed the sanctuary. ⁴² He chose blameless priests devoted to the law, ⁴³ and they cleansed the sanctuary and removed the defiled stones to an unclean place. ⁴⁴ They deliberated what to do about the altar of burnt offering, which had been profaned. ⁴⁵ And they thought it best to tear it down, so that it would not be a lasting shame to them that the nations had defiled it. So they tore down the altar ⁴⁶ and stored the stones in a convenient place on the temple hill until a prophet should come to tell what to do with them. ⁴⁷ Then they took unhewn^[a] stones, as the law directs, and built a new altar like the former one. ⁴⁸ They also rebuilt the sanctuary and the interior of the temple and consecrated the courts. ⁴⁹ They made new holy vessels and brought the lampstand, the altar of incense, and the table into the temple. ⁵⁰ Then they offered incense on the altar and lit the lamps on the lampstand, and these gave light in the temple. ⁵¹ They placed the

bread on the table and hung up the curtains. Thus they finished all the work they had undertaken.

⁵² Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-eighth year, ⁵³ they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built. ⁵⁴ At the very season and on the very day that the nations had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. ⁵⁵ All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed heaven, who had prospered them. ⁵⁶ So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days and joyfully offered burnt offerings; they offered a sacrifice of wellbeing and a thanksgiving offering. ⁵⁷ They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests and fitted them with doors. ⁵⁸ There was very great joy among the people, and the disgrace brought by the nations was removed.

⁵⁹ Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ 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 for Hanukkah is in the Second Book of Maccabees, chapter 10, verses 1 through 8. The reading is not included in our pew Bibles. Here begins the reading:

Purification of the Temple

10 Now Maccabeus and his followers, the Lord leading them on, recovered the temple and the city; ² they tore down the altars that had been built in the public square by the foreigners and also destroyed the sacred precincts. ³ They purified the sanctuary and made another altar of sacrifice; then, striking fire out of flint, they offered sacrifices, after a lapse of two years, and they offered incense and lighted lamps and set out the bread of the Presence. ⁴ When they had done this, they fell prostrate and implored the Lord that they might never again fall into such misfortunes but that, if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with forbearance and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbarous nations. ⁵ It happened that on the same day on which the sanctuary had been profaned by the foreigners, the purification of the sanctuary took place, that is, on the twenty-fifth day of the same month, which was Chislev. ⁶ They celebrated it for eight days with rejoicing, in the manner of the Festival of Booths, ^[a] remembering how not long before, during the Festival of Booths, ^[b] they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals. ⁷ Therefore, carrying ivy-wreathed wands and beautiful branches and also palm fronds, they offered hymns of thanksgiving to him who had given success to the purifying of his own holy place. ⁸ They decreed by public edict, ratified by vote, that the whole nation of the Jews should observe these days every year.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Sermon Part One: Hanukkah

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Hanukkah.htm>

(https://www.agapebiblestudy.com/SalvationHistory/L23_REVOLT%20OF%20THE%20MACCABEES.htm)

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY. New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQISA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year

Home | Purpose | Sexuality | Location | Worship | Contact | Resources | Staff | Ministry | Organization

updated 1/13/22 14 p.m.

1st night 12/18/22 1st Dispensation Innocence	2nd Night 12/19/22 2nd Dispensation Conscience	3rd Night 12/20/22 3rd Dispensation Human Government	4th Night 12/21/22 4th Dispensation Promise	5th Night 12/22/22 5th Dispensation Law	6th Night 12/23/22 6th Dispensation Church / Grace	7th Night 12/24/22 7th Dispensation Kingdom	8th Night 12/25/22 8th Dispensation New Earth New Earth God is "All in All" Eternity
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+ Psalm

Reader: **** If an introduction is needed:**** Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The Psalm today is Mary's Canticle Luke 1:46-55

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 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 descendants forever.

Glory to God, The Christ, and The Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, it is now and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

+ **The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the

6 truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

11 Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

16 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 1, verses eighteen through twenty-four on page 1 in the second testament of the NRSV Bible.

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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 the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary

as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Acclamation

December 18, 2022 Advent Week IV Year A page:
Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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

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 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.** 
The LGBTQIA2SS+ 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**

+ Sermon part 2

Sermon Notes December 18, 2022, Advent Week IV

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."**

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm>

Luke 21: 7 ⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Matthew 24:3

New King James Version

The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

We are continuing in our 40th year, and this is the 8th Sunday.

ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 6 of 6

Theme: Just as all of the prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus and his life were literally fulfilled, so too, all of the promises made to Israel will be fulfilled. God's promises to Israel have not been canceled or transferred to the church, as some have theorized.

Eschatology:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_eschatology

Four dogmatic understandings of the "kingdom of Christ."

- 1) Amillennial
- 2) Postmillennial
- 3) Premillennial
- 4) Spiritual Metaphorical, Allegorical, sometimes called Realized Eschatology

=====

Reminder: Ray Of Hope Church does not have a declared dogmatic position on eschatology. Each person is free to accept any understanding of eschatology. I, Pastor Benedict, find the Premillennial school of eschatology to be the most logical and faithful to the Scriptures. I find it compelling that the church taught the premillennial view until the middle of the fifth century. The reasons for abandoning the premillennial approach had little to do with Scripture and were deeply bound up in politics.

Theologians re-evaluated eschatology during the 18th and 19th centuries and developed a renewed commitment to the premillennial academic position.

+++++ Sermon Notes: - Advent Week I **Hope**— Gospel: IT WILL HAPPEN, but the time is not revealed.

Advent Week II **Peace**— Now may the God of hope fill you with all Joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)
The God of "steadfastness and encouragement" (Romans 15:5)
With "one voice glorify God." (Romans 15:6)

Advent Week III **Joy** -

Philippians 4:4-8 (NRSV) **Latin: gaudete in Domino semper iterum dico gaudete Philippians 4:4**

⁴ **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.** ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Advent Week IV **Love** -

Matthew 1:24 ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

All souls are mine says God (Ezek 18:4)

All the animals and the birds are mine says God (Psalm 50:10, 11)

Some Prophecies (<http://www.100prophecies.org/page2.htm>)

Below is a selection of prophecies in the Bible that found fulfillment in the birth of Jesus the Messiah about 2,000 years ago.

The commentaries below are from the second edition of the book, 100 Prophecies, by George Konig and Ray Konig, who are the authors and copyright holders of the material. The third edition, revised and expanded, of [100 Prophecies: Ancient Biblical prophecies that foretold the future](#) is available through Amazon.com.



Isaiah foreshadowed the virgin birth of Jesus

Bible prophecy: Isaiah 7:14

Prophecy written: Between 701-681 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC

In Isaiah 7:14, the prophet Isaiah addresses the "house of David," meaning the family and descendants of King David, and speaks of a virgin being pregnant with a child, and giving birth to the child. Isaiah says this in the context of it being a sign from God. He also says that the child would be referred to as "Immanuel," which means, "God with us."

The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

Bible prophecy: Micah 5:1-2

Prophecy written: Sometime between 750-686 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC

In Micah 5:2, there is a prophecy that reveals that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

Micah 5:1-2 (NIV):

1 Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah

Bible prophecy: Genesis 49:10

Prophecy written: As early as 1400 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC

Genesis 49:10 (NIV):

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Nations would seek the counsel of Jesse's descendant

Bible prophecy: Isaiah 11:1-10

Prophecy written: Between 701-681 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: By the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago

In Isaiah 11:1-10, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a ruler who would be a descendant of Jesse. Jesse was the father of ancient Israel's great King David. This descendant would rule with true justice and true faith, and he would establish true peace.

The Messiah would be a descendant of King David

Bible prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5

Prophecy written: Sometime between 626-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: By the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago

In Jeremiah 23:5, as well as in other Bible prophecies, we are told that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David.

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

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SOCIAL ISSUES THIS WEEK.

Respect for Marriage Act H.R.8404 117th Congress:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8404>



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ 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. In the Chapel, use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event. In addition, there are donation envelopes available on the hospitality table by the door.

December 18, 2022 Advent Week IV Year A page:

Internet participants may use the [PayPal link](#) in your bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. Additionally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

Now we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Folks viewing on the Internet, please turn to page three and follow the instructions under leader two.

We are using the small Communion set at your seat in the Chapel. Shake the kit gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup.

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, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*))

SONG:

Leader -2: (*Pray a prayer over the offering, giving thanks and praise.*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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

Kaiden: Please gently hold the communion kit in your hands for the following two prayers. Those at home with bread, please lift it now.

(*The Pastor may invite someone to say this prayer out loud.*)

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, 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), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Kaiden: Please set down your bread. In the Chapel, please continue to hold your communion kit.

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: Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer.
(*The Pastor may invite someone to say this prayer out loud.*)

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this 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 fruit of the vine will become for us the

December 18, 2022 Advent Week IV Year A page:

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), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; 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 Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join in their unending hymns of praise.

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, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. 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. 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

Cheryl: 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

December 18, 2022 Advent Week IV Year A page:

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

Cheryl: You may relax your arms and hands.

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29,36) Behold Jesus truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this Cup though they die shall live forever. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)



The Reception of Holy Communion

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Veronica: Push down on the tab of your kits. Open the first seal and remove the bread. Please lift the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation, and together we will say our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

**ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.**

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

Pastor: You may now receive the Bread of Life, the Body of Christ. The Gift of God for the People of God.

Veronica: We are not going to open the seal on the cup just yet. Please lift now the cup of salvation, and together we will say:

**ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

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

Pastor: Open your kit and receive the Cup of Salvation, the Blood of Christ. 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.

+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith

Leader-2: We proclaim our faith together.

ALL: Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.
You are the Savior of the world.

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:

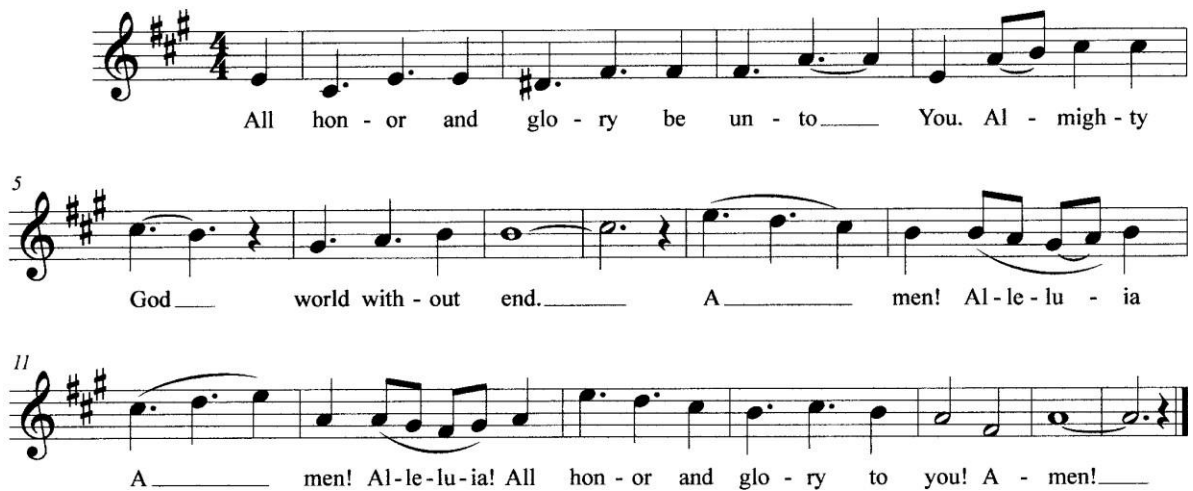
ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

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: 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.

SONG:

Post-Communion Music: Ed Askins sings the song: "Breathe" by Marie Barnett (made popular by Michael W. Smith)

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](#).

General Offering for the week of November 27 \$1,573.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of December 4 \$468.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of December 11 \$388.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance **15 ALLELUIA!**

***** Donations for the end of the year special gifts are now being received.**

****Special Gifts recently given.****

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

December 18 Sunday **Advent WK IV** – **Love** Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter.

Hanukkah Starts at sundown Day 1 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 19 Monday Hanukkah **Day 2** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 20 Tuesday Hanukkah **Day 3** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 20 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment

December 21 Wednesday Hanukkah **Day 4** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 22 Thursday Hanukkah **Day 5** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 23 Friday Hanukkah **Day 6** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 24 Saturday Hanukkah **Day 7** 5:00 p.m.,. service of light

SUNDAY December 25 NATIVITY 10:30 a.m. 1st Day of Christmas

Hanukkah **Day 8** 5:00 p.m. service of light December 26 Monday Hanukkah ends at sunset.

December 26 Monday Kwanzaa **day 1 Umoja (Unity)** 7:00 PM

service online **2nd** Day of Christmas

December 27 Tuesday Kwanzaa **day 2 Kujichagulia (Self determination)** 7:00 PM service online

No Bible Enrichment **3rd** Day of Christmas

December 28 Wednesday Kwanzaa **day 3 Ujima (Collective work & responsibility)** 7:00 PM

service online **4th** Day of Christmas

December 29 Thursday Kwanzaa **day 4 Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)** 7:00 PM

service online **5th** Day of Christmas

December 30 Friday Kwanzaa **day 5&6 Nia (Purpose) & Kuumba (Creativity)** 7:00 PM

service online **6th** Day of Christmas

December 31 Saturday no service **7th** Day of Christmas

January 1 Sunday The Presentation of Jesus, the Holy Name of Jesus **8th** Day of Christmas

Kwanzaa **day 7 Imani (Faith)** 7:00 PM service online

January 2 Monday **9th** Day of Christmas

January 3 Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m. **10th** Day of Christmas

January 4 Wednesday **11th** Day of Christmas

January 5 Thursday **12th** Day of Christmas The Twelfth Night Epiphany Eve

January 6 Friday actual Epiphany and Orthodox Christmas

January 8 Sunday Epiphany Celebration at Ray Of Hope Church

January 10 Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

January 15 Sunday Civil Rights Sunday, The Memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 17 Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m

January 22 the 39th Annual Meeting in the 40th year of Ministry also The Memorial of St. Marianne Cope of Syracuse, NY, "Beloved Mother of Outcasts".

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023

Holy Week 2023: Palm Sunday April 2 10:30 a.m. Holy Thursday April 6

7:00 p.m. Good Friday April 7 7:00 p.m. Vigil of the Resurrection

Saturday April 8 7:45 p.m. No service on Sunday April 9.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: Amen

ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen (Romans 15:13)

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

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

SONG: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing. G&P 317

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/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqisia? 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, and a larger project day for removal of carpet and replacement with new carpet. 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."



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 is invited to 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.

It is not required that you 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 really 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 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 would 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.

I have thought about this extensively and have decided to 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 teach people about this gift. I have stated in other places, **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 in that life.

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

We begin by inviting those who are on the fringe of Society, those who have been pushed aside, those who are poor, who are not accepted, who are sick, who need God's help in special ways. We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone who has been told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to all persons who have ever been 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

December 4, 2022 Advent Week II Year A page: 34
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)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here](#).
See this in a PDF format from our website and 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 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.

Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery.
Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15
PM. [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 at this time 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. All of 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](#). As soon as it reasonably safe and prudent the Chapel will be reopened.

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/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here.](#)

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs

—————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)