



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 3, 2023, Advent 2 readings week 1, Eschatology 4 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."



World AIDS Day Remembrance

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: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:1-8 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 694

Psalm: 80 with selected verses and responsorial verse.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 166

Gospel: Mark 13:32-37 NRSV 2ND Testament page 51

***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.**

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



CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, 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. This morning, Ed Askins will play a prelude, "**Change My Heart Oh God**" Words and Music by Eddie Espinosa. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer and meditation preparation time and to refrain from visiting. 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](#))

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



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: In John, chapter 14, verses one through three-A, Jesus promised to return and take the Church to be with Him forever. We read the following:

14 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many ⁱⁿmansions; if *it were* not so, ⁱⁿI would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

(Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The text from the New King James Version® (NKJV®) may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio), up to and inclusive of 500 verses or less without written permission..)

Pastor: We often hear the popular word "Maranatha" during the

Season of Advent. It is made of two Aramean words, Maran'athah meaning "Our Lord" and "is coming." We sing Maran'athah today in the song Lion Of Judah. In joyful hope, we look forward to His fulfilling this promise.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, Come. We long for your appearing, alleluia. Maran'atha!

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



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

Today is December 3, 2023, the Second Sunday of Advent, year B in the church calendar in our 41st year of ministry.

Today's theme: Praying for an end to HIV/AIDS through Scientific development of a

vaccine. World AIDS Day was Friday, December 1.



On a personal note, today I am celebrating the 51st anniversary of my Confirmation Day when I received the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**. I was 13 years old. I am very grateful for the **Sacrament of Confirmation**.

**We are following the Lectionary Readings today for week one - Hope.
Today is also week 4 of 6 weeks on the theme of Eschatology.**


FIRST SONG: Save Us, O Lord Words and Music by Bob Dufford, SJ, b. 1943. Glory And Praise second edition #301 Text: Based on Psalm 80. Text and music © 1981, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved.
Contributors: Bob Dufford Onelicense Song #80685. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

+ The Advent Wreath Week 2, 2023 – *the candle of Hope.*

Leader -2: Please be seated. At this time, we light the first and second candles. Please do show it on your camera if you can. Thank you. (**wait**)



Leader- 2: Thank you. Please return your cameras to the regular position.

Leader -3: Friday was December 1, World AIDS Day.  Globally, approximately 38 million people live with the virus that causes HIV/AIDS,

and more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS-related illnesses in these last forty years. (source: <https://worldaidsday.org/about/>) In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. On Sundays, we light the Candle Of Hope at Ray Of Hope Church, and we read names from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt as our way of being sure to remember those who lost their lives to the HIV Virus and pray for their families. It just happens that one candle on the Advent Wreath is named Hope.

So, as we sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel, keep in mind all those who have gone before us, especially those who died of AIDS, those who have passed of COVID-19-related illnesses, and everyone who has entered the divine protection of Christ who is Lord of the living and the Dead (Romans 14:9). When Emmanuel comes to take us home, they will accompany Him and receive their resurrection bodies in the event known as "The Blessed Hope" promised in Titus Chapter 2, verse 13. Together, we sing the first two verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel as we continue to give thanks as we wait for His return.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Word of God appear.

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

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, Who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.**

**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.

Leader -3: We continue forward in Hope with expectant faith.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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 _____.

Wars continue to cripple the Human family. Hundreds and thousands of innocent people are suffering, being thrust into poverty, losing shelter, employment, and being killed; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: The lives of children experiencing war are changed forever and result in physical and psychological long-term injuries; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The message of Christ and His Church is peace and respect between all people, but the messengers in the Church are staying quiet, or when they do speak, they leave Christ out of the discussion in the name of dialogue; 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, as we listen to your Word, we seek to understand it so we may put into action, seeking your 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 Isaiah, Chapter 63, verses 16b-17, 19, and then chapter 64, verses 1-8 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 694 in the First Testament. Here begins the reading.

You, O LORD, are our father;
our Redeemer from of old is your name.
¹⁷ Why, O LORD, do you let us stray from your ways
and let our heart harden, so that we do not fear you?
Turn back for the sake of your servants,
the tribes that are your heritage.

¹⁹ We have long been like those whom you do not rule,
like those not called by your name.

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come
down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
² [a] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your
presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

- ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.^[b]
- ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered^[c] us into the hand of our iniquity.
- ⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

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

Footnotes

- a. 64.2 64.1 in Heb
- b. 64.5 Meaning of Heb uncertain
- c. 64.7 Gk Syr OL Tg: Heb *melted*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+63&version=NRSVUE>
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+64&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ Psalm: ***** **If an introduction is needed:******* Hello. My name is

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

Today's Psalm is 80, selected verses with a responsorial verse. Psalm 80 is the basis of the text to the first song we sang today; "Save Us O Lord." Today's response is, "Lord, we turn to you; let us see your face and salvation."

R/ Lord, we turn to you; let us see your face and salvation.
O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse your power,
and come to save us.

R/ Lord, we turn to you; let us see your face and salvation.

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted
the Son of Man whom you yourself made strong.

R/ Lord, we turn to you; let us see your face and salvation.

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the Son of Man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R/ Lord, we turn to you; let us see your face and salvation.

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

+ 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 First Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 3-9 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 166 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my^[a] God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶ just as the testimony of^[b] Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Read full chapter

- a. Footnotes 1.4 Other ancient authorities lack *my*
- b. 1.6 Or *witness to*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Corinthians+1%3A3-9&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Opening Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church "Music for Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

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

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

Reader: The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 13:32-37, in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 51 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 Mark.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be in our (+) minds that we will understand it, on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and in our (+) hearts that we will love it.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert,^[a] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the

watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [13.33](#) Other ancient authorities add *and pray*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+13%3A32-37&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
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!

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

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

=====
It is my opinion the preaching tradition and theological influence of every pastor and teacher is firmly grounded in their particular adherence to one of the four schools of

Eschatology.

I am grounded in Premillennial and Dispensational schools when studying the Last Things.

Basically, the question in Theology is what is this "kingdom" or "realm" we read about, and when will it, or has it, or is it happening?

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

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

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

Much of this comes from a few verses in Scripture, Acts 3:19-22

¹⁹ Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the Messiah[Ⓜ] appointed for you, that is, Jesus, ²¹ who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets. ²² Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. (NRSVUE <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3%3A19-22&version=NRSVUE>)

This "times of refreshing" is understood as the resurrection from the dead. Therefore, to usher it as quickly as possible, laws must be enacted from Church councils, city councils, state houses, political party platforms, federal law, and international laws. All law must be brought into compliance with this particular form of "Christianity" so those who refuse to comply may be prosecuted, jailed, and or executed so Christ may return. To further understand this theological perspective, see articles on Dominion Theology, Kingdom Now theology, and Theonomy.

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

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

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

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

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

What do we do???? First, be the church. Do not attend a church service; be the church

with your service to everyone. Explain to people your hope and motivation to serve them in any way they need, that you are blessed with the assurance that Christ is coming and that he will establish his Kingdom. Explain the answer to their question: "What kind of god would allow all this sickness, death, crime, war, murders, all this sin?" The answer: the god of this world system is behind all of this, and unfortunately, he is gathering many sheep. Jesus describes him as the thief who comes into the flock to capture, crush, kill, and destroy the sheep. (read John Chapter 10) People are seduced by what they think is power, security, treasure, satisfaction, and abundance. Then, they have to fight to keep it and turn to the world system for help.

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

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

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

Today's readings 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. Here 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. So, creation continues, the coming of Christ at his birth continues, everything He did continues, the sacrifice, resurrection, ascension, and every part of God's will is eternal. We are stuck in Earthly time, and we know from Science that no other planet or star measures time the way we do since our measurement is based upon our perception of the speed of the rotation of this planet we call the Earth. So, while we seek to understand these prophecies on a timeline, remember the eternal state is also a reality where they are already being fulfilled. To be clear, as we sing songs that refer to Jesus as the King of Kings or on His Throne, we are speaking of the glory of His Eternal Realm and the future glory of His Kingdom on Earth as it is in the heavenly realm now. We are NOT claiming that He is ruling in this earthly world system at this hour. However, as each believer finds Him in their heart, Jesus is, in fact, then the true King of Hearts in this present moment as we are in the world but not of the world.

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19 and 64:1-8, we have the text of a historical moment of the people of

Israel repenting for falling away from faith. Nationally, The Chosen People of the First Testament had many episodes of unfaithfulness and returning to God. We also read they wished, at times, that God would prevent them from wandering into distractions and "hardening our hearts," indicating losing interest in God and consequently going off to other religions. Commencing with the following verses we read, they clearly understood God would establish every last detail of the promises made to them for a Theocratic Social Order on Earth; ordered in the ways of God's Paradise, also called Heaven.

At this point, the reading turns to the future as we are still waiting for the fullness of this Kingdom.

Many human plans have been attempted to forge this Kingdom ahead of its time with human leadership. Israel had her Kings, all of whom failed. When Jesus, the actual King, was present, the people declared, "We have no king but Caesar." Throughout the Church Age, numerous attempts have been made to have the Church be the instrument of the establishment of this Kingdom, even calling itself the Kingdom and even replacing the promises to the Jewish People as relegated to the Christian Church.

Popes have declared divine right to rule the world. Kings have also announced a "Divine Right of Kings." Explorers and Crusaders claimed the Kingdom of Christ was to replace any government of any peoples previously established either by treaty, war, or genocide. Today, we have a recent revision of kingdom making known as Postmillennialism that has invaded the halls of the Capital of the United States and is tearing down the concept of separation of church and state. The problem is there is no one concept of what "church" means any more than there is one concept of what "state" means. Just as every State seems to have the personality of the people who live there, every denomination of the Church has its personality based upon the people who form the organization. Just as States hardly agree on most issues, Denominations are equally varied and divided.

Currently, one particular theology is working the mechanisms of Congress to establish by machinations laws of morality that are consistent with their denominational dogmas, teachings, and practices. Money talks, so it is said. Indeed, the organizations behind this movement are exceptionally well organized and funded. All the issues up for debate under the so-called "culture wars" are denominationally grounded, as expressed by the opinions coming forward during official oral arguments. Our members of Congress often debate matters of Theology that they understand to be matters of ethics, rights, or justified restricted behaviors. In my opinion (Br. Shawn Benedict), the people being fooled into a powerless position insist there is no religion involved, that it is all a matter of common sense, right and wrong. The Theonomists are hiding in plain sight behind such terms as patriots, Christian Nationalists, Replacement Theorists, America First, and the like. People who are not religious in America are not equipped to discern the religious motives behind the laws being put forth all across the Nation at a very rapid pace. The public is intentionally being tired out, so we stop paying attention.

These machinations are the latest attempt to establish the Kingdom of God as the United States of America.

In his sermon o Thanksgiving, 1799 Abiel Abbot wrote: "It has been often remarked that the people of the Unites States come nearer to a parallel with Ancient Israel, than any other nation upon the globe. Hence OUR AMERICAN ISRAEL, is a term frequently used: and common consent allows it apt and proper."

In 1630 John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony wrote: "Wee shall finde that the God of Israell is among us . . . when hee shall make us a prayse and glory, that men shall say of succeeding plantacions: the lord make it like that of New England: for wee must Consider that wee shall be as a Citty upon a Hill, the eies of all people are upon us."

(Source: God's New Israel. Religious Interpretations of American Destiny. Edited by Conrad Cherry. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, © 1971. pg. v)

A premillennial reading separates what was for the historical record of the time, what portions of this reading are for our spiritual journey, and leaving the future to the future. When we do that with the first reading, we are left looking forward to the fulfillment, and in the anticipation, we are like clay in the hands of the potter, meaning we need to be formed and reformed daily into God's plans for us today, tomorrow, and forever.

Today's Psalm, #80, has a timeless theme: calling out to the Shepherd of Israel to hear and guide us. This is the psalm of our opening song of last week, and this week is based on the song titled "Save us, Oh Lord." One can readily see the conflict here: is this the voice of National Israel, or is the Christian Church making this prayer? The Amillennialist claims these promises are relegated to the modern Christian Church, and consequently, the State of Israel is of no regard other than a secular society. Notice as the war between Hamas and Israel resumes, we hear not a word from the Denominational headquarters of any church except to extend wishes for peace and concern over the loss of life. However, as far as their theologies are concerned, the Church is the new Israel, so why get involved in secular politics, they say. Religious Jews indeed would and are praying this prayer. Postmillennial (political) Christians are praying it as they try to convert the whole Society to their agenda. Premillennialists are praying it as a hope for the soon-coming return of Christ, who is the Good Shepherd of John 10 and promised to return for the Church to shepherd it into his realm.

The second Reading, 1 Cor. 1:3-9 is undoubtedly to the historical church of Corinth, but we find enduring Christian doctrine for all believers in these words. The gift of the real presence of Jesus in the Church is the most remarkable gift of any except for creation itself. Christ is with us as He promised, recognized in the worship community, the holy Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the service these procure to all around us. Paul tells us to expect to be enriched by Jesus in "speech and knowledge of every kind... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." (verses 5-7) Here, the Congregation is promised everything we will need to serve Jesus right up to the moment of his appearance, his apokalupsis - Greek word 602 in Stong's; "disclosure, appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation." The name of the last book, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:1), is very misleading when rendered the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ. That is very misleading and has led to every kind of distraction for the real purpose, revealing God's fullness in Christ.

THE GOSPEL READING: The day nor the hour of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Hope, the "Rapture" no one knows. **HOWEVER**, from the very minute that event takes place, we **DO** know Jesus will return to the terra firma, the Earth, to establish HIS Kingdom, the real Kingdom, the only time there will be liberty and justice for all under the rule of God on the throne precisely seven years later. The precise time of seven years later is revealed in the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel. Every attempt to outrun the time clock and establish that realm before Jesus sets it up in person will continue to prove to be futile and hopeless, as every empire, republic, kingdom, commonwealth, dictatorship, and autocracy is. World governments and churches will never succeed at canceling or establishing the Kingdom ahead of the return of its proper King, the Messiah, the Christ of God, Jesus.

We have the sure word of the Scriptures, which establishes hope. Hope in Scripture indicates something will surely come to pass, but at a time not revealed. Hope in English tends to be used as it may or may not come to pass; there is a significant difference.

This doctrine is built into our name: Ray of HOPE, the coming of His promised Kingdom, and we wait with joy.

Jesus says: **35** Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, **36** or else he may find you

asleep when he comes suddenly. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

I like to say, be here; we have a lot to learn and give God thanks and praise for. We have a lot to look forward to in Hope. Don't make the mistake of being distracted. Don't miss this for the world, instead, be present and awake for the Word. (Br. Benedict)

=====

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

=====

+ The Prayers of the People

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

Leader – 3: We pray that the world's governments will turn away from violence and destruction and focus on making Society a better place as we wait in joyful hope for the Kingdom of Christ; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: The war in Ukraine continues past the 617th day. Attention to this crisis is fading as the public looks to other wars, too. Today marks the ninth Sunday of the War between Hamas and Israel. We are grateful for progress toward peace, but the unresolved conflicts are deep and dangerous. There are roughly thirty-three Countries at war this morning. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end all wars and find diplomatic solutions to conflict; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Leader – 2: We thank you, Lord, for the praise reports of those who have experienced healing. In particular, we thank you for helping Micah Askins this week as he struggled with a virus. (Micah is five years old and was rushed to the Watertown hospital Wednesday night and taken to Syracuse

Upstate Hospital Thursday. A second doctor recognized the presence of a particular virus that is very difficult for children. The family prayed, and he was on the road to recovery within hours.) We continue to pray for the people we know who are facing treatments, surgeries, hospice, and recovery. 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 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 Holy Communion

Preparation of our at-home 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

Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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

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

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Leader: Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

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

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Leader: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus

Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual wellbeing. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

Leader: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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



The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

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

Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

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

forever and ever. Amen

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to ____ You. Al - migh - ty
5 God ____ world with - out end. ____ A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia
11 A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! ____

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

+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

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: Like A Shepherd. Words and Music by Robert J. Dufford, SJ. Text: Based on Isaiah 40:9ff; Ezekiel 34:11ff; Matthew 11:28ff. Text and music © 1976, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved. Glory & Praise second edition #708. Onelicense Song #80672. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

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

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

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

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

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

****Special Gifts****

New Gifts This Week:

Recent Gifts:

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

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

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

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

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

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.**

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

Wednesday, December 6, the **Feast of St. Nicholas**, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

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

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

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

December 10, GAUDETE SUNDAY – GAUDETE PARTY – Joy, Pride

Sunday in the Winter - WEAR ROSE COLORS - Dinner **Eschatology - 5 of 6**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

December 28, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Kwanzaa Celebration.

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

January 7, 2024 Annual Reports Due to Veronica

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

January 21, 2024 Annual Meeting Dinner also

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

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

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

Thank you
Veronica

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



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

***** INTERESTING WEB INFORMATION TO KNOW:

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

This online presentation is covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A- 741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 2178715.

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: **The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns.** Type: Words and Music; Text: CM; Greek; tr. by John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt. Music: Sixteen Tune Settings, Philadelphia, 1812; Kentucky Harmony, 1816. Contributors: MORNING SONG. Onelicense Song #87272 Glory & Praise second edition #307. Onelicense Song #80672. 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.

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)

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

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

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

=====

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.

=====

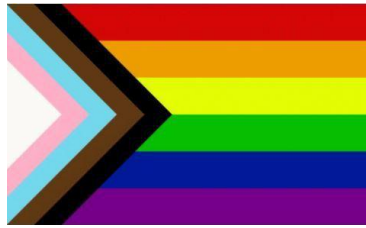
Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please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

***** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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

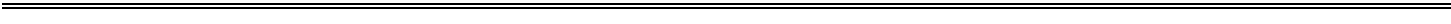
Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The

founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or **RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.
We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING** Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.
WE ARE YOU!
THIS is the Church where YOU belong.
Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019



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

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.
Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)



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

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

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

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it, or right

after so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

