



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,  
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 a time of refreshments and sharing.

Today is December 4, 2022 Advent Week II Year A

The Candle of Peace

Eschatology, 4th 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:** Isaiah 11:1-10 1st Test. pg 640 in NRSV

**Responsorial Psalm** 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 in this bulletin

**Second Reading:** Romans 15:4-14 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 162

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 2

\*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 second 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 are on our website's front page. Look for the large gold box

labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at

[www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com) . Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.



**Bell's 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Please welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. \*\*During COVID, we may wave into the camera across 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.**

We are celebrating the sixth Sunday in our 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry.

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

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

**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 In Theological terms: Awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, 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 support of these ideas. Right Click Here: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

Today is December 4, 2022, Advent Week II, Year A  
The Candle of Peace  
Eschatology, 4th of 6 Sundays



35<sup>th</sup> World AIDS Day December 1, 2022

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red\\_Ribbon.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Ribbon.svg)

Here are some additional resources concerning HIV/AIDS.

<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/history/hiv-and-aids-timeline#year-2022>

<https://npin.cdc.gov/pages/hiv-and-aids-timeline#1980>

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/whatishiv.html#:~:text=It%20was%20probably%20passed%20to,the%20mid%20to%20late%201970s>.

C.D.C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \*\*Quotation from the C.D.C. website. See below for the source.

### **Where did H.I.V. come from?**

- H.I.V. infection in humans came from a type of chimpanzee in Central Africa. Studies show that H.I.V. may have jumped from chimpanzees to humans as far back as the late 1800s.
- The chimpanzee version of the virus is called simian immunodeficiency virus. It was probably passed to humans when humans hunted these chimpanzees for meat and came in contact with their infected blood.

Over decades, H.I.V. slowly spread across Africa and later into

other parts of the world. The virus has existed in the United States since at least the mid to late 1970s.

(source: <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/whatshiv.html#:~:text=It%20was%20probably%20passed%20to,the%20mid%20to%20late%201970s.>)

June 9, 2000, on page 1A of the Star-Gazette, there was an article titled: "**H.I.V. dates to '30s, study hints.**" It is by Paul Recer from The Associated Press. The article also points to the simian virus and reports it turned "into a human-killer in the early 1930s, long before it was recognized as a disease." The article says researchers found the virus evolved between 1915 and 1941, "with 1931 the most likely year." The article quotes researcher Tanmoy Bhattachary, "It could have been in humans even before that." The article also reports, "The findings are consistent with earlier studies that suggested that H.I.V. originated early in this century. .." The article says Bhattachary claims it is " 'very unlikely that a polio vaccination campaign in the late 1950s can be blamed for the rise of AIDS." The article also reports Bhattachary said new research could not eliminate that possibility.

-----end of information from this article-----

The C.D.C. points to the 1800s with hunting chimpanzees for meat, and this article points to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Use these articles to educate others that H.I.V. was never a "gay disease," and it was never God's punishment for "the sin of Sodomy" on those who enjoy same-gender sex. It was the gay community who sounded the alarms through doctors whose patients were predominantly gay men. We have waited many years for the official apology to the gay community for being blamed for AIDS.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, and the theme is peace. We will explain this in the brief Advent Wreath service shortly.

However, speaking of 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 291 days ago. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

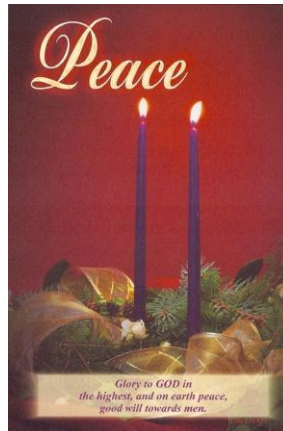
We are not here to practice a religion. One practices the piano or goes to football practice. We are here to participate in a multi-dimensional relationship in ways far beyond our human comprehension.

**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. I invite you to pray silently as I say the following prayer. (\*wait\*) God of all Creation, we come together to give you praise. We come here to remove ourselves from the noise, the conflicts, the sorrow, and the restlessness of Society to sit with each other so we can listen and hear your voice.

**ALL: We are here seeking some peace and quiet. Enfold us with the peace you promised, the peace the world cannot give. Help us abandon ourselves so we can commune in your presence, Lord Jesus.**

**Leader -3:** O God of peace and justice, we are baptized into the fire of your divine love. May we bring to every circumstance and situation your gentleness and your kindness.

**Leader -4:** With the lighting of this candle, we begin the second week of our four-week Advent journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a new embrace of our potential.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** As you light your Advent candles, both the first and now the second, 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 -2:** Together, we say the following prayer out loud.

**ALL: Shatter the silence of Advent longing with the voice calling out, "Prepare the way of the Lord." We open our hearts, minds, and beings to receive your message and holy love teeming through all creation. Move us ever closer toward your all-encompassing and everywhere-present love. Continue to fill all your people with your awesome essence of life. We ask this 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, we rejoice, but we celebrate the future fulfillment of these promises to Israel. This understanding is the "futurist" or Premillennial interpretation. Together we sing verses 3 and 4. Please rise as you are able.

**O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times did give the law, in cloud and majesty, and awe.**

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



**O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them that trust your mighty power to save, and give them victory o're the grave.**

**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 in peace, holy peace.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader 5:** O Loving, Eternal, and Holy God, our hearts and minds are open to hearing these Scripture readings. May 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**

### **+ 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 11, verses one through ten. The reading is on page 640 in the first testament, in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

## **The Peaceful Kingdom**

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear (respect, reverence)  
of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear (respect, reverence)  
of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

## **Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah**

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**+ 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 number 72, selected verses, with a responsorial verse. The response today is "Justice shall flourish in his time, and the fullness of peace forever."

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and the fullness of peace forever.**

O God, with your judgment, endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
he shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and the fullness of peace forever.**

Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace until the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and the fullness of peace forever.**

For he shall rescue the poor when they cry out,  
and the afflicted when there is no one to help them.  
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;

the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and the fullness of peace forever.**

May his name be blessed forever;

as long as the sun rises and sets, his name shall remain.

In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed;

all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.

**R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and the fullness of peace forever.**

## + Second Reading

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

The second reading is in the Book of Romans, chapter 15, verses four through thirteen. The reading is on page 162 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike**

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a

servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,<sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name"; (Psalm 18:49)

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; (Deut. 32:43)

<sup>11</sup> and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him"; (Psalm 117:1)

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope." (Isaiah 11:1, 10)

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is Matthew, chapter 3, verses one through twelve on page 2 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.**

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.'" (Isaiah 40:3)

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

# Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

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## + Sermon

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

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

### Sermon Notes December 4, 2022 Advent Week II

Theme: 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.

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 <sup>7</sup> 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**

<sup>3</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> year. **ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 4 of 6**

Eschatology: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_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. The position I, Pastor Benedict, have found to be the most logical and faithful to the Scriptures is Premillennial Eschatology. 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.

- 4) Spiritual, Metaphorical, Allegorical, sometimes called Realized Eschatology – Details do not matter. There may be a kingdom, or there may not be one; perhaps it is in our hearts, our good works, and our being together. The Scriptures thought to be about prophecy are considered a particular genre of writing, apocalyptic. Apocalyptic writing is believed to be filled with unknowable symbols, metaphors, and allegory. Sometimes apocalyptic writing is thought to have been code for survival under persecution in the past. Understanding these verses will require a specialist who can reveal the hidden and sometimes secret meanings behind the written text. The specialization of interpretation is one instrument used to increase the artificial distance of the clergy from the people.

## December 4, 2022 Readings

There are three groups of people addressed in Scripture, especially in the topic of Eschatology: The Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church.

1 Corinthians 10:31 and 32 Do everything to give glory to God. Give no offense either to the Jews, the Gentiles, or to the Church.

All are saved: the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church.

Isaiah 49:6

The Lord says:

‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant

To raise up the tribes of Jacob,

And to restore the preserved ones of Israel;

I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,

That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10 : The Peaceful Kingdom.

"In the days to come...." has this happened yet?

Is the day or the time it will happen revealed?

How did Jesus relate to this prophecy?

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit @ Confirmation: December 3, 1972 50 years.

Does the church bring in this Kingdom now?

Do gentile world governments bring in this Kingdom now with politics?

When will this happen? Who will it effect? All Nations.

Psalm 72 Peace and Justice will not flourish forever until He brings in His Kingdom.

Disney!

Romans 15 read line by line.

Gospel: John baptizes in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus.

Advent Week I Hope— Gospel: IT WILL HAPPEN, but the time is not revealed.

Advent Week II Peace – partly now, fully later.

NEXT SUNDAY ADVENT III JOY PRIDE SUNDAY IN THE WINTER REJOICE

2) Page 1742 summary THE DAY OF THE LORD Revelation 19:19

**19:19 THE DAY OF THE LORD,  
SUMMARY**

The Day of the LORD is that period of time when God openly intervenes in the affairs of men—in judgment and in blessing. See Joel 1:15, *note*. It will begin with the translation of the Church and will terminate with the cleansing of the heavens and the earth preparatory to the bringing into being of the new heavens and the new earth.

The order of events appears to be:

- (1) the rapture of the Church just preceding the beginning of the Day of the LORD (1 Thess. 4:13–17);
- (2) the fulfillment of Daniel’s seventieth week (Dan. 9:27), the latter half of which is the great tribulation (Matt. 24:21; see Rev. 7:14, *note*);
- (3) the return of the Lord in glory to establish the millennial kingdom (Matt. 24:29–30);
- (4) the destruction of the beast, the false prophet, and their armies, which is the “great and awesome” aspect of the day (Rev. 19:11–21);
- (5) the judgment of individual Gentiles according to their treatment of Christ’s brethren, the Jewish people (Zech. 14:1–9; Matt. 25:31–46) and the judgment of Israel (Ezek. 20:34–38);
- (6) the millennial reign of Christ on earth (Rev. 20:4–6);
- (7) the satanic revolt and its judgment (Rev. 20:7–10);
- (8) the resurrection and final judgment of the wicked (Rev. 20:11–15);
- (9) the destruction of the present earth and heaven by fire preparatory for the future “day of God” (2 Pet. 3:10–12); and
- (10) the creation of the new heavens and the new earth (Is. 65:17–19; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1).

**Hebrews 9:28** so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

2 Timothy 4:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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**SOCIAL ISSUES THIS WEEK.**

**Article: Russian Duma gives LGBTQ 'propaganda' bill final approval**

<https://www.aol.com/news/russian-duma-gives-lgbtq-propaganda-143425099.html>

**Respect for Marriage Act** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respect\\_for\\_Marriage\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respect_for_Marriage_Act)

" If passed, RFMA would officially repeal DOMA and require the federal government to recognize same-sex and interracial marriages, codifying parts of both *Obergefell* and the 1967 ruling in *Loving v. Virginia*.<sup>[9]</sup> "

"A motion of [cloture](#) passed 62–37 in the Senate on November 16, with an overwhelming majority of Senate "nays" originating from Republican Senators representing states in the [Great Plains](#) and [Southern United States](#).<sup>[13]</sup> "

"The final version of the bill divided American religious groups opposed to same-sex marriage;<sup>[16]</sup> it was supported by some [evangelical Christians](#) as a suitable compromise between the [rights of LGBT couples](#) and religious liberty,<sup>[17]</sup> a position that was similarly taken by [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#),<sup>[18]</sup> but was prominently opposed by the [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) and the [Southern Baptist Convention](#) due to [their views on sexuality](#).<sup>[16]</sup>

**Respect for Marriage Act H.R.8404 117<sup>th</sup> Congress:**

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

**Same-sex marriage legislation divides conservatives ahead of vote next week** <https://www.aol.com/news/same-sex-marriage-legislation-divides-190506182.html>

Please read both of these.

=====



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Leader – 3:** Having heard the Word Of God, we bring our prayers to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today we will offer communal prayers. Our response will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader – 3:** Oh God, thank you for giving us another week of ministry and service. In thanksgiving, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages in Ukraine whose lives have been changed forever by the war raging for about 291 days. We ask God to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by losing loved ones to war and destroying their homes, schools, and towns. For these intentions, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We thank you for the possibility of peace, and we pray that world leaders will work toward peace; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We thank you for our Country, the United States of America. May liberty and freedom increase for all; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader -2:** We ask your blessing on all people suffering from the effects of climate change, especially the loss of food sources and shelter. We particularly remember this week the millions of people in desert regions, especially in Africa, where there is very little water. Children and women dig deep caves and tunnels into the ground to search for water. That the leaders of the World would respond to the climate emergency; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader -2:** Gathered together, we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every Religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will

guide people to work for freedom, equality, and respect for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers and those with no faith or formal Religion. We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader- 2:** We pray for those driven from faith because of the misuse of Religion. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included in the worship community. We hope all people grow to realize that they, too, are God's living light. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. We pray to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We invite you to add your petitions in silent prayer.  
**(silent prayer)**

**Leader –4:** We pray to the Lord for these silent prayers.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you in intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**



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

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

**\*\*\*\* Leader:**

At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. 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.

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 on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

Also, we now prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. Ideally, you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. 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.\*)

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

(\* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set at this time. A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. \*)

## **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 next 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.

For those 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



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; 1 Corinthians 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, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, almighty and eternal God. We praise You in the company of all the Faithful from every time and every place. We thank you for every person who shared in this ministry, especially our Foundresses, Founders, and those visionaries who dared to step up and form a church where everyone is welcome when AIDS was causing a great deal of fear, even in the churches. By the way they lived their lives, you offer us an example. By our Communion with them now in Paradise, you give us companionship. By their intercession, we experience sure support so that, encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run as victors in the race before us, and win with them the imperishable Crown of Glory through Christ our Lord. (Based upon the New Roman Missal (prayer book) Eucharistic Prayer #66, Preface I Of Saints (page 598))

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

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
10 high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.  
16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
22 Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho -  
27 san - na in the high-est.

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### + We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

**Leader-1:** Jesus promised: "..truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:19-21)

**ALL:** Further, Jesus also said: "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to God. I will do whatever you ask in my name so that God may be glorified in the

**Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." (John 14:12-14)**

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

**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**

**Leader-1:** 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.

**Leader-1:** 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.

**Leader-3:** 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:

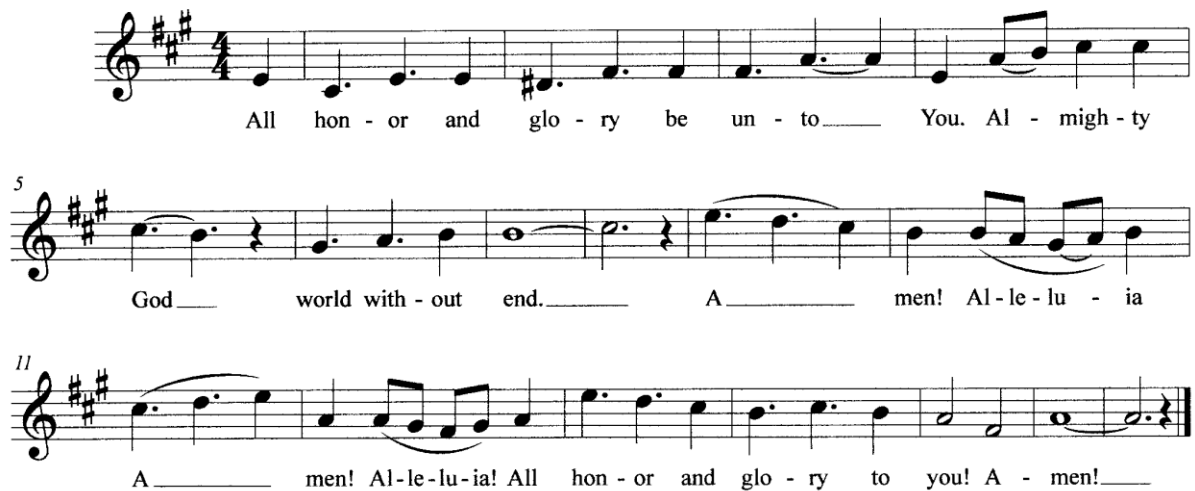
**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

**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:**

**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 6 \$ 873.14 (some people give monthly  
| rather than weekly) Attendance 7  
| **General Offering** for the week of November 13 TBA (some people give monthly  
| rather than weekly) Attendance 8  
| **General Offering** for the week of November 20 \$68.00 (some people give monthly  
| rather than weekly) Attendance 9  
| **General Offering** for the week of November 27 \$1,573.00 (some people give  
| monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7  
|  
| **\*\*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.**  
|  
|-----



Electric Menorah <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Rite-Lite-JRN-400-LED-Menorah/190846247?fulfillmentIntent=Shipping>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OUR CALENDAR

December 6 Tuesday St. Nicholas Day Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

December 11 **Advent WK III Gaudete** – **Joy** Sunday Pride in the Winter - **PARTY**

December 13 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

**December 15 Friday @ 3:15 p.m. Council Meeting**

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**

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

December 27 Tuesday Kwanzaa **day 2 Kujichagulia (Self determination)**

7:00 PM service online

December 27 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

December 28 Wednesday Kwanzaa **day 3 Ujima (Collective work & responsibility)**

7:00 PM service online

December 29 Thursday Kwanzaa **day 4 Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)**

7:00 PM service online

December 30 Friday Kwanzaa **day 5&6 Nia (Purpose) & Kuumba (Creativity)**

7:00 PM service online

December 31 Saturday no service

January 1 Sunday Kwanzaa **day 7 Imani (Faith)** 7:00 PM service online

January 8 Sunday Epiphany





**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:**

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.

=====

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

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 web site;

[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors\\_At\\_Events.htm](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.

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Visit us on line:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#).  
Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs](http://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)