



**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) "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:10,33)

April Struhm, 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 Sunday, March 17, 2024, Lent Week 5 of 5, Year B

Women's History Month 3rd Sunday

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 pg. 735

Psalm: 145 with responsorial in this bulletin, chosen for this event by the Pastor

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-10 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 220

Gospel: John 12:20-33 NRSV 2ND Test. page 106

***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, and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you, ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.**

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are 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. Copyright credits and US Copyright Fair Use statements are found throughout the presented materials. We are making every effort to comply with all regulations. Don't hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.



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, and 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 _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. 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.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,

_(State)____. Good morning, and welcome ■ (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



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

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



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:

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

Today is March 17, 2024, the Fifth of Five Sundays, the final week of Lent in our 41st year of ministry. Today is also the Feast of St. Patrick, the traditional date of his death, March 17. Patrick, the famous Bishop of Ireland, is said to have lived from about 385 AD - about 461AD, years that overlap with St. Augustine (354 AD - 430 AD), St. Ambrose (339 AD - 397 AD), and other great theologians who formed the Christian Tradition. Today is also the third Sunday in Women's History Month, and we will present some information on women in the Early Church period. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. During this Season of Lent, we look within ourselves to find areas in our spiritual life where we can grow and begin to do those things to facilitate that growth.

Please work with me to stay on track today, as we have a brief Congregational Meeting immediately following worship today.

FIRST SONG: Jesus, My Confidence Words and Music by M. D. Ridge

© 1989, 1992, M. D. Ridge. Published by OCP. G&P #624

All rights reserved. Contributors: Words and Music by

M.D. Ridge. **OCP Octavo/Bonus Music.**

First Line: Jesus, My Confidence.

Onelicense Song #85140 Used with Print Permission
and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Just this week, in a letter received from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learned every minute someone somewhere contracts HIV. In the year 2023, 1.5 million people became newly infected, and 650,000 people, including some from the United States, died of AIDS-related causes. HIV/AIDS is still with us; therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

(for more information about amfAR: <https://www.amfar.org/about-amfar/>)

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,
_(State)_____. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 107.



Names on Block # 107

- Geo (1)
- Mark Blackwell (2)
- Wayne L. Byers (3)
- Larry Fernandez (4)
- Vic Martin (5)
- Tim Howes (6)
- James Ramsey Shrode (7)
- Alex – 5 (8)

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

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually:
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Second Song: WAY MAKER Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu © 2016 Integrity Music. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI Song #7115744. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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: Now, we consider our relationship with God and others in silent prayer. Then, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who will forgive us immediately.

(silent prayer for time to confess our sins. Leader, please count to 20.)

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 _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____.

World Leaders continue to choose weapons of destruction and models of corruption, showing a growing disregard for human life; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: All forms of discrimination are learned behaviors, chosen lifestyles, and intentionally promoted. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The Church's mission is guiding people to a relationship with the living and present Christ and the ministry of reconciliation. Sometimes, we avoid opportunities to share the Gospel message: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.

Pastor: We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

Leader -4: Through confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our hearts to accept the renewal God offers when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to sing "The Gloria."

Ray of Hope Church, Inc. *The Gloria* Winds and Music
10th Annual Meeting Music for Worship *Handwritten Liturgical*
7/25/17
1/21/24

2. = 6/8 *Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND
peace to all peo-ple on Earth
Glo-ry to God in the high-est
We give You thankS and PRAISE. A-rie-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

Verse 1

You are the One God, Sov-erign of the
Uni-verse, On-ly Ho-ly God, We wor-ship You, We
give You thanks, We praise You for Your great glory! (to Refrain)

7/25/17, 1/1/24 *Handwritten Liturgical* *Chris Bruffner*

f. = 8 *Refrain* *4/21/24*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND
 peace to all peo-ple on Earth.
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est.
 We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
 We give You thanks and praise

VERSE 2 *The Gloria, Pg 2*

LORD, Jes-us Christ, The on-ly Be-got-ten Son of God, You are
 LORD God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the
 world: HAVE MER-cy on us; you are seated at the
 right hand of God; re-ceive our prayer. (To Refrain)

2. = 8 *Refrain* *1/21/24*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND
 peace to all peo-ple on Earth
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est.
 We give You thank- and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
 We give You thanks and praise

Verse 3

For You a-lone are the hol-y one, You a-lone are the
 LORD of all, You a-lone are the Most High,
 Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
 spir-it, in the glo-ry of God. In the
 Ho-ly spi-rits in the HO-ly uni-ty of

(TO REFRAIN)

© 7/25/17 1/1/24 Gaudes! Liturgical Arts *Ru. M. Beraud*

$\frac{2}{8} = \frac{6}{8}$ *Refrain* $\frac{4}{21/24}$

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND
peace to all peo-ple on Earth
Glo-ry to God in the high-est
We give You thank-s and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

Verse 4: Amen

The Gloria, Pg 3

ALL: A ————— men; we give you thanks and

We give you thanks and praise

LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you, we give you thank we give you praise

ALL: Praise!

We give you thank and praise

We give you thank and praise LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you

ALL: men

Mand. Alleluia

men al-le-lu-ia

Prima @ 7/25/17 - 11/24/17
Gaudete! Liturgical
Order Book

+ Opening Prayer

Leader: Eternal Word of God, speak to us as we listen to the Sacred Scriptures read aloud. We ask the Holy Spirit to open our understanding of what we hear so we may apply it in our lives. Creating and Living God, we desire to give you honor and glory in all we do through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. The first reading is the Book of Jeremiah, chapter 31, verses 31-34. The reading contains the text of the New Covenant the People of Israel were waiting for during the lifetime of Jesus. Jesus connected this Covenant to giving the Eucharist according to Luke 22, verses 17-21. It is on page 66 in the front of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated edition. Here begins the reading:

A New Covenant

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Read full chapter

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+31%3A31-34&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

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)____. Today, the Psalm is 145, verses 1-3, 8-9, and 17-18. The response is, "The Lord is near to everyone. Call upon the Lord."

R. The Lord is near to everyone. Call upon the Lord.

¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

R. The Lord is near to everyone. Call upon the Lord.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

R. The Lord is near to everyone. Call upon the Lord.

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

R. The Lord is near to everyone. Call upon the Lord.

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+145&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.)

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. The second reading is the Book of Hebrews, Chapter 5, verses 7-10. You will find this on page 220 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus^[a] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. ^{5.7} Gk *he*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+5%3A7-10&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.)

+ 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.

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 John, chapter 12:20-33, on page 106 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version.

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.

Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew,

then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Jesus Speaks about His Death

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself."³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 12.32 Other ancient authorities read *all things*



(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+2%3A13-25&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.)

Gospel Acclamation

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!

 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.** 
The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st 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

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."***

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

The Gospel reading today includes Jesus proclaiming:

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. (John 12:31-33 NRSVUE)

The footnote reads some ancient texts, such as "I will draw all things unto myself."

Last Sunday, March 10, 2024, we spent most of the time together looking at Scripture verses to demonstrate a possible interpretation of the Bible, including a dateless past before Adam and Eve that may have lasted millions of years. We examined verses that propose Lucifer is the igniter of sin in creation, when it was "found in" him. (see Ezekiel 28:15) Finally, looking through this lens, the Scriptures can explain how fallen Lucifer became the "ruler of this world" (Jesus: John 12:31, John 14:30, and John 16:11), "the god of this age" (St. Paul: 2 Corinthians 4:4) and even called "the prince/ruler of the powers (demons) of the air (St. Paul Ephesians 2:2). Last Sunday's bulletin included many links and more information on the vast subject of Lucifer's existence while enjoying God's favor, then Lucifer's decision to reject that favored position with God, and ultimately how fallen Lucifer lied to and tricked Adam and Eve. Once they were convinced, Adam and Eve placed Lucifer's word above God's word, and thus Lucifer became their chosen god, and therefore Lucifer's rule over sin and physical death began.

However, in Romans 5:12-21, Scripture states seven times that all are saved through the "free gift" of grace resulting from Jesus being obedient "even unto death, death on the cross." (Philippians 2:8)

Romans 5:12-22 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 156

Adam and Christ: The Doctrine of Universal Salvation

SIDE 1: ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

SIDE 2: ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass.

(Here the Holy Spirit through St. Paul states SEVEN TIMES that all are saved. Br. Benedict)

(#1) **SIDE 1:** For if the many died through the one man's trespass,

SIDE 2: much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin.

(#2) **SIDE 1:** For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation,

SIDE 2: but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.

(#3) **SIDE 1:** ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one,

SIDE 2: much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

(#4) **SIDE 1:** ¹⁸ Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all,

SIDE 2: so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.

(#5) **SIDE 1:** ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners,

SIDE 2: so by the one man's obedience, the many will be made righteous.

(#6) **SIDE 1:** ²⁰ But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied;

SIDE 2: but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

(#7) **SIDE 1:** ²¹ so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death,

SIDE 2: so grace might also exercise dominion through justification^[f] leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's Gospel is the first declaration that Jesus knew his pending death on the cross would bring salvation to the entire human race:

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. (John 12:31-33 NRSVUE)

Each Sunday of Lent's readings covered one of the Covenants in Scripture:
Week One - Covenant with all creation - Noah - the rainbow.

Week Two - Promise - Abraham

Week Three - Law - Moses to Christ on the Cross

Week Four - special topic "The World that then existed" 2 Peter 3:6, see verses 1-10. The Origin of Sin and why Jesus had to be human and Divine to "take away the sin of the world."

Week Five - The New Covenant in His Blood Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Luke 22:17-21; Hebrews 5:7-10; and today's Gospel.

This New Covenant is the subject of Holy Week. This New Covenant is universal, far exceeding our limitations and boundaries. The "good trouble" (St. John Lewis b. 2/21/1940 - d. 7/17/2020) brought on by the expanding influence of the New Covenant stands against every agenda of the "god of this age"

(John 12:31, John 14:30, and John 16:11). Liberty and justice for all is not a welcomed goal for "the god of this age" and his cohorts. Women's equal status, equal opportunity, equal pay, and so on, is not a welcomed goal for "the god of this age" and his cohorts. Women's control over their bodies and the choices necessary to self-determine their healthcare with their doctor is not a welcomed goal for "the god of this age" and his cohorts. Freedom to inquire, to learn, to question, to reason, to explore, to research any and all things is not a welcomed goal for "the god of this age" and his cohorts. Sharing work and wealth so that everyone has the equal opportunity to work, have food and shelter, and be able to afford to have children is not a welcomed goal for "the god of this age" and his cohorts.

This New Covenant instituted by God in Christ would form in the Age of the Church. So many things would change as the Lord built His Church. Among the changes would be the place of women. After the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, women would be equal to men in the living ministry of the new community of God Christ, which would form the Church.

The record of women in leadership has been suppressed for various reasons, some from inside the institutional church and some from the culture and society where new Christian communities would form. The suppression of women in "ministry" has varied widely from place to place and from time to time.

Here is a resource from PBS Frontline: "Women In Ancient Christianity: The New Discoveries" by scholar Karen L. King, Professor of New Testament Studies and the History of Ancient Christianity at Harvard University in the Divinity School. This article looks like a piece of a large series titled "From Jesus to Christ," presented in 1998.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/first/women.html>

(Other publications by Karen L. King [Click Here](#).)

The information for this Frontline piece includes Professor King stating there has been a dramatic outpouring of new scholarship for twenty years (plus), led mainly through new women scholars looking in new ways at women in ancient Christianity. New discoveries and revisions of previously held ideas regarding women in the Early Church exist. Even the story of Mary Magdalene has been revised, which I heard in the 1990s, as stated by Pope John II. Professor King

agrees Mary Magdalene is not the woman who confesses sexual sins as previously taught. Magdalene is now understood to have been prominent in the first-century church and may have led other women in establishing the church in certain regions, perhaps even southern France

(http://www.saintsinrome.com/2013/08/st-mary-magdalene_3.html).

King agrees that women were prominent in supporting Jesus's ministry and the church's early movement. She agrees with many scholars that most of the first believers were women.

King: "Women's prominence did not, however, go unchallenged. Every variety of ancient Christianity that advocated the legitimacy of women's leadership was eventually declared heretical, and evidence of women's early leadership roles was erased or suppressed."

This is the end of the material from the Frontline piece.

In the booklist for the Ray Of Hope Vocational Ministry Training Program, book #29 is

[When Women Were Priests: Women's Leadership in the Early Church and the Scandal of Their Subordination in the Rise of Christianity](#)

by Karen J. Torjesen | Apr 15, 1995 ([Click Here if the title doesn't link](#))

Also,

[The Lady Was a Bishop: The Hidden History of Women with Clerical Ordination and the Jurisdiction of Bishops Hardcover – March 1, 1973](#) by Joan Morris

Also,

Women in Early Church by Joe Ashirwadam: "This paper is about the role of women in the development of Christianity in the till 2nd Century C.E."

https://www.academia.edu/8096913/Women_in_Early_Church

=====

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

=====



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People


Leader – 4: (when all prayers have been heard) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen.

Leader - 5: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. 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.

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.

Offertory Song: Let All That Is Within Me by Melvin Harrell. Words and Music by Melvin Harrell ©1963 Gospel Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 2841616 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(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

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

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

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

©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 well-being. 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION 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: We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion based upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and 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. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

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

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to ____ You. Al - migh - ty

5
God ____ world with - out end. ____ A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11
A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! ____

©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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

COMMUNION SONG: I Am The Bread Of Life. Words and Music by Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927 Contributors: Suzanne Toolan

Tune: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Based on John 6 and 11; © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Onlicense Song # 00044 Lead Me, Guide Me 2nd Edition 755 Used with permission. Onlicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are 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. Copyright credits and US Copyright Fair Use statements are found throughout the presented materials. Every effort is being made to comply with all regulations. Please contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ. Copyright Information "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. All rights reserved worldwide. Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

New Revised Standard Version – 1989

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Up to 500 verses of the RSV or NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission...Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

General Offering for the week of February 25 \$110.00 Attendance 7 Sunday; Wednesday, February 28, Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of March 3 \$1490.00 Attendance 11 Sunday; Wednesday, March 6, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of March 10 \$30.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7 Sunday; Wednesday, March 13, Attendance 6

We are grateful for these gifts received this week.

**** Additional Special Gifts****

The floor has been completed in the Frasier Room. Thank you, Ed for your amazing talent and skill with all this help with the building.

**** Recent Special Gifts****

Thank you, Ed for the birthday cake last Sunday and all the baking you regularly do for our social time. Thank you Ian and Christina for donating one pound of Dance of the Nutcracker coffee. Thank you Lisa for donating one pot packet of Birthday Cake coffee. Ed continued working on refinishing the floor in the Frasier Room, thank you Ed.

Building Fund Donations: \$1,677.33 (Anonymous \$637.33; Kaiden \$400.00; Brother \$640.00)

Christina McLaughlin donated two kindle style reading notebook computers.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given, and for those who give in so many ways.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

***** <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/> **Christians Against Christian Nationalism**

Sunday, March 17, 2024 St. Patrick's Day Worship at 10:30 a.m. Lent Week 5 of 5 Women's History III Special Congregational Meeting immediately after worship.

March 18, Monday, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by April Struhm. April invites all to participate in this meeting, and one may join the committee or attend occasionally. The meeting is both in-person at the monastery and virtual on Skype.

March 19, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #8 Final** Sexuality and the Bible.

March 20, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. Lent Week 5 of 5

HOLY WEEK, 2024

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 25, no By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

Tuesday, March 26, there will be no Bible Enrichment meeting.

March 27, Wednesday, no Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m. 8:15 p.m. silent prayer 8:30 p.m. Benediction

Good Friday, March 29, 2024, The Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024, 7:45 p.m.- 9:15 p.m. **Celebrating The Vigil Of The Resurrection Of Christ.** *This is our "Easter Service."

* * No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024 * *

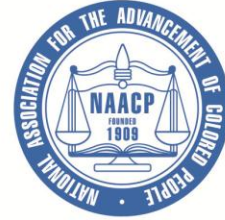
** April 1, Monday, no By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

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

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



ELMIRA-CORNING NAACP



34th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024
12:00 – 2:00 pm

The Clarion Inn • 760 E. Water Street • Elmira NY

“Memberships – NAACP Bloodline”

Tickets: \$30 Adult \$15 Youth Ages 3-10
Ages 2 and under free



Speaker

Rev. Corey Cooke

Pastor, Monumental Baptist Church
Elmira, NY

2nd District Councilman
Elmira, NY

For Ticket Information Call –

(607) 962-8398, (607) 936-6770, (607) 962-5362, (607) 733-7963



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Leader - 2: **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Leader - 2: We bless you and praise you God for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (*+*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Leader - 2: We pray Romans chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

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: Bless His holy Name Words and Music by Andraé Crouch
CCLI SONG # 17566 COPYRIGHTS ©1973 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019



380 W. FIRST ST.
ELMIRA, NY 14901

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Congregational Meeting for Members and Friends of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 per By-Laws section 12.03. You may attend in person or on SKYPE. The schedule for the day will be as follows:

10:30 a.m. – Worship
12:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting

The Special Congregational meeting has one item on the agenda. The Council is proposing to make a change to line 262 of Article 4.06 section d. Treasurer duties of the By-Laws which currently state that “all bank accounts shall require two signatures for withdrawals.”

We look forward to having you join us and engage in this ministry.

Sincerely,

Veronica Floyd, Clerk
Ray Of Hope
Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

Agenda

Special Congregational Meeting

March 17, 2024 12:30 p.m.

Ray Of Hope Church Parsonage

380 W. First St. Elmira NY

Members of the Ray Of Hope Church Council are:

April Struhm (1/25), Veronica Floyd (1/25),

Christina McLaughlin (1/26), Ed Askins (1/26)

Br. Shawn F. Benedict (Appointed Pastor)

PRAYER

OPENING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBERSHIP QUORUM

(As of this meeting, there are 10 members eligible to vote. According to the by-laws, a quorum for the Congregational Meeting is 25%, therefore 3 members must be present)

Quorum established with _____ of 10 total members present.

AGENDA REVIEW & APPROVAL

Motion to approve agenda: _____ second:

Vote: _____ *in favor* _____ *opposed* _____ *abstain*

OLD BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) The Council of Ray of Hope makes a motion to strike line 262 of Article 4.06 section d. Treasurer duties which state, "All bank accounts shall require two signatures for withdrawals", to be replaced with The Treasurer may conduct banking transactions through all bank accounts electronically or with one signature required on checks below \$1000. Any transaction above \$1000 requires two approvals and must be written into the Treasurer report in the monthly Council minutes.

Second:

Vote: _____ *in favor* _____ *opposed* _____ *abstain*

COMMENTS/REMARKS FROM THOSE IN ATTENDANCE

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRAYER

MOTION TO ADJOURN: _____ *second:*

Vote: _____ *in favor* _____ *opposed* _____ *abstain*

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)

