



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 March 3, 2024, Lent Week 3 of 5, Year B

Women's History Month 1st 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: Exodus 20:1-17 NRSV 1st Test. pg.66

Psalm: 19:7-11 with responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 1:22-25 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 166

Gospel: John 2:13-25 NRSV 2ND Testament page 93

*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.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____. 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.

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

Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "As The Deer" Words and Music Martin Nystrom© 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1431 *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com* Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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 3, 2024, the Third of Five Sundays of Lent in our 41st year of ministry. The sixth Sunday is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. During these five weeks of Lent, we look within ourselves to find areas in our spiritual life where we could grow and begin to do those things to facilitate that growth.

March 3 is also the first Sunday in Women's History Month. Today, I would like to speak to you about Maria Francesca Cabrini, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Xavier_Cabrini

FIRST SONG: Turn To Me (G&P 342) Words and Music John B. Foley, S.J.

Text: Based on Isaiah 45:22–23; 51:12, 4, 6. Text and music © 1975, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song #81205 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

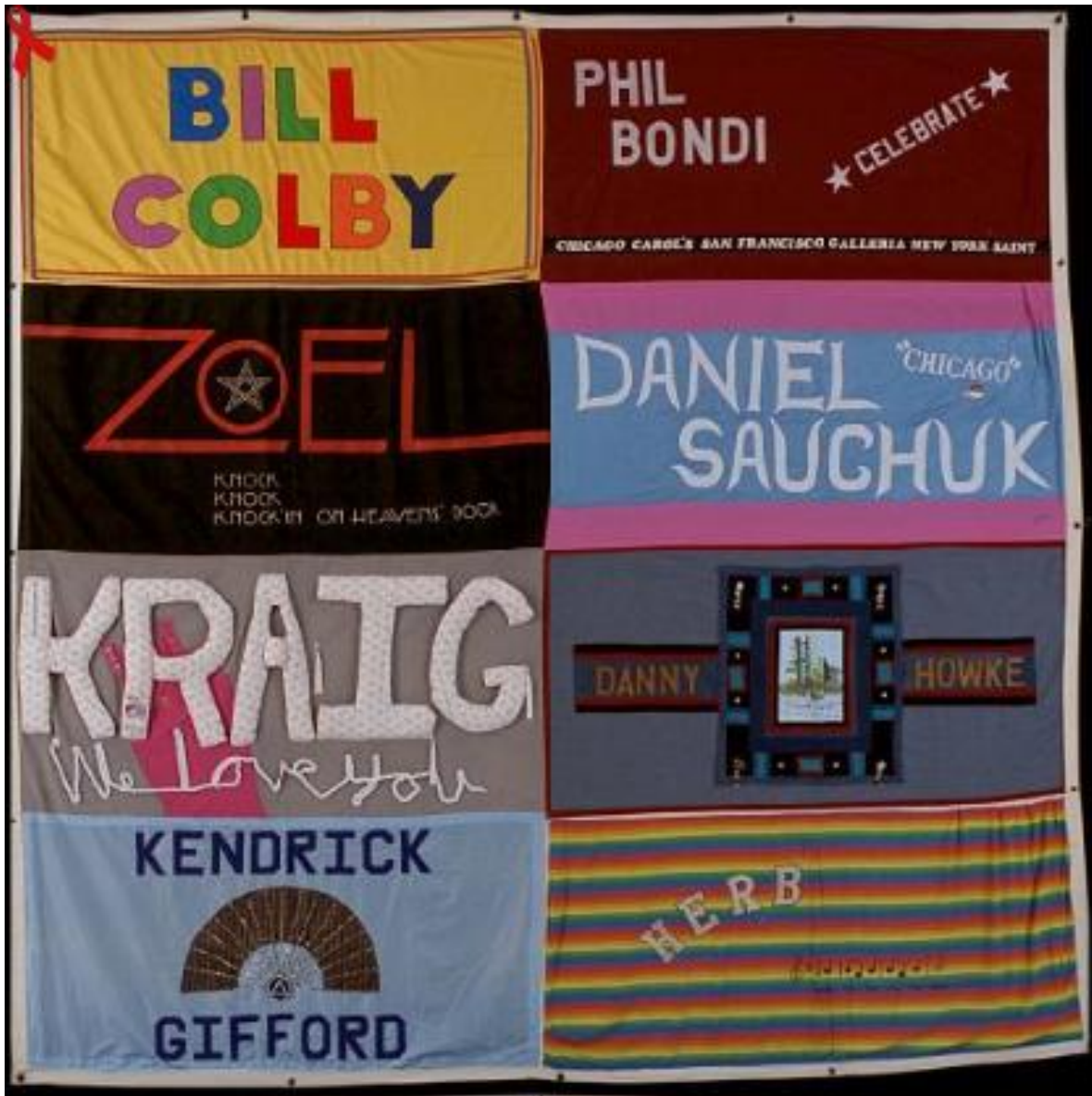
+ The Candle Of Hope

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. 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.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 106.



Names on Block # 106

- Bill Colby (1)
- Phil Bondi (2)
 - Zoel (3)
- Daniel Sauchuk (4)
 - Kraig (5)
- Danny Howke (6)
- Kendrick Gifford (7)
 - Herb (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: "As The Deer" Words and Music Martin Nystrom© 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1431 *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com* Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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>
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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 war and corrupt government to attempt to overpower other people. The disregard for human life is growing daily because of war and aggression; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: All forms of discrimination are learned behaviors, chosen lifestyles intentionally taught, and disregarding the gift of life. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The Church's message must guide people to a relationship with the living and present Christ and the ministry of reconciliation. With the ministry of reconciliation, the living Christ among us, the Church provides the opportunity to know Christ in person. 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
40th Anniversary *Music for Worship* Church
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. Al-le-lu-ia.
 We give You thanks and praise

Verse 1

You are the One God, Sov-ereign of the
 Uni-verse, On-ly Ho-ly God, We wor-ship You, We
 give you thanks, We praise You for Your great glo-ry! (Refrain)

7/25/17, 1/1/24 *Church Liturgical Arts by Jennifer*

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)

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 spir-its, in the Ho-ly uni-ty of

God. (TO REFRAIN.)
 © 7/25/17 1/124 Gaudete! Liturgical Arts Ben Berner

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!

A —————

We give you thank and praise

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

ALL: men

men al-le-lu-ia

mine @ 7/25/17 - 11/24/18
Gaudete! - 11/24/18
Pete Behm

+ Opening Prayer

Leader: Eternal Word of God, we now dedicate these next few minutes to hear 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, for 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 Exodus, chapter 20, verses 1-17. It is on page 66 in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

The Ten Commandments

20 Then God spoke all these words,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation^[b] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien

resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.^[c]

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

a. [20.3](#) Or *besides*

b. [20.6](#) Or *to thousands*

c. [20.13](#) Or *kill*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+20%3A1-17&version=NRSVUE>
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+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____. Today, the Psalm is 19, verses 7-11. The response is, "Lord, you have the words of everlasting life."

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;

The decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
The ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+19&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 First Corinthians,
Chapter 1, verses 22-25. You will find this on page 166 in the back of the

1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1%3A22-25&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.)

+ 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

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "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 John, chapter 2:13-25, on page 93 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. This reading is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel.

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.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the

doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

²³ When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to testify about anyone, for he himself knew what was in everyone.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

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

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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

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SPECIAL MUSIC Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: "Shepherd Of My Heart" Words and Music by Mark Baldwin and Dick Tunney, © 1985 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Pamela Kay Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI Song # 14679 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152



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)

Again today, I will speak on two themes, one directly from the Readings and the second from Women's Month.

1- the Readings.

The readings during the Season of Lent review the Covenants. Last week, we discussed the Covenant with Abraham and that Abraham accepted God's place and trusted God's promises.

This week, the Covenant is the LAW given to the newly freed Hebrew people through Moses. Some call this the Dispensation of Law, the Covenant of Law, and it continues until Jesus says from the Cross: "It is finished," and he dies as the sacrifice for our sins.

In your Scofield III Study Bibles, there are a few essential summary sections. In Exodus 19:1, a large annotation section is titled "The Fifth Dispensation: the Law." (pg. 113) In Exodus 19:5, there is a large annotation section titled, "The Mosaic Covenant." (pg. 114) On page 115, a large section of notes titled; "(heading) The Law." In that section are "six important factors.." regarding the Law. (If time permits, I will read the six items noted here.) Also, on page 115 at Exodus 20:1, there is another boxed annotation titled "The Giving of the Law," which stresses it came first orally, then in one set of tablets written "with the finger of God" (Exo. 31:18), and thirdly by a second set of tables this time "written by the hand of the Lord." These two representations of God sound like a fascinating discussion is waiting to be had. What study of the dispensation of the Law would be modern and complete these days without discussing the authorship of Moses and the Torah? The annotation on page 111, at Exodus 17:11, walks the reader through the main questions raised in the last two centuries by the school of Higher Criticism concerning whether Moses wrote the Pentateuch, the Torah. This annotation gives the reader many other sources to look up and settle the question in Moses' favor. Notably, the paragraph includes the statement that Jesus accepted the authorship of Moses. If there were any questions, Jesus would have brought it up, which depends on Christ's divinity.

If there is time, how might we be "using the Lord's name in vain?" (Christian

Nationalism)

The second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:24, 25, says, "To those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. "

If there is time, discuss why and **how many times Jesus cleared the Temple:** the website: Got Questions, Biblical Answers. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/temple-cleanse.html>)



2) <https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov/>

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

Maria Francesca Cabrini, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Xavier_Cabrini

In theaters International Women's Day March 8th Get Showtimes: <https://www.angel.com/cabrini> When Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini steps foot in America in 1889, she is greeted by disease, crime, and impoverished children living in New York's slums. Armed with a fearless spirit and a compassionate heart, Cabrini sets off on a daring mission to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing and healthcare for society's most vulnerable. Despite broken English and poor health, Cabrini leverages her entrepreneurial mind to build an empire of hope unlike anything the world had ever seen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaMIUazXvyY&t=3s>

=====
*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****
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WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 4: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others, prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart. Please keep the prayers brief so that as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and truth. So, we begin with _____

(The person leading will invite prayers from the various rooms in the service.)

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

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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

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: 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,**

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, 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: He Is Exalted Words and Music by Twila Paris

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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General Offering for the week of February 4 \$810.00 Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 11 \$340.00.00 Attendance 4 Sunday; Ash Wednesday, February 14, Attendance 13

General Offering for the week of February 18 \$510.00 Attendance 10 Sunday; Wednesday, February 21, Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of February 25 \$110.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7 Sunday; Wednesday, February 28, Attendance 7

We are grateful for these gifts received this week.

**** Additional Special Gifts****

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

Christina McLaughlin donated two kindle style reading notebook computers.

We are grateful for these special gifts received this week.

**** Recent Special Gifts****

An anonymous \$1,000.00 donation was given to Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. "In memory of William and Jean Houser, from their Special Memory Fund." This donation was given to the Building Improvement Fund especially for the exterior paint and clapboard repair project we will do this summer.

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. **

March 3, Sunday: **1st of two announcements: Special Congregational Meeting immediately after worship, March 17, 2024. See below for announcement and agenda.

March 4, 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 5, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #6** Polity and Practice (an explanation of the By-Laws and operational procedures to govern Church administration).

March 6, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. **Lent Week 3 of 5**

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 6:30 p.m., The movie **Cabrini**, Regal Cinemas and other theaters. The release of the movie coincides with International Women's Day: <https://www.angel.com/watch/cabrini/episode/5fd84450-f6df-4caa-8abd-e7d2efd812e4> "Cabrini, you would have made an excellent man." (Mayor of New York City)

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 9:00 p.m. President Biden gives the State of the Union Address. For information on how to watch the address [RIGHT CLICK HERE](#).

Sunday, March 10, 2024 **Laetare Rejoice** Sunday in **Lent Week 4 of 5** Women's History II **2nd announcement: Special Congregational Meeting immediately after worship, March 17, 2024.

March 11, 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 12, Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. Council workshop to discuss monthly reporting.
March 12, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #7** Sexuality and the Bible.

March 13, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. **Lent Week 4 of 5**

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.

March 27, Wednesday, Noon 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. The Vigil Of The Resurrection Of Christ.

No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024

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



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: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Text: CM; Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898, alt. Music: The Whole Psalmes in Foure Partes, 1563, alt. Contributors: ST. FLAVIAN Onelicense Song# 84254 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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Organist: Clyde McLennan, organist, producer of "good quality accompaniments for congregational singing available at no cost. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted. For permission to use them for any other purposes, please contact manager@hymnary.org."

(<https://www.smallchurchmusic.com/About-New.php>)

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."



2-3-24 Lent Week 3, Women's History Month Week 1, Year B Page 34 of 38

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)

