



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, April 7, 2024, Resurrection Week Two, Year B

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

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

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:** Acts 4:32-35 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 122

**Psalm:** 118 with responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** 1 John 5: 1-6 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 220

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31, 21:24,25 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Test. page 114, 116

\*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured, 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](http://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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm)) ([www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 April 7, 2024, The Second Sunday of the Resurrection Season. In Acts Chapter One, verses 1-4, we read the following;

<sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering<sup>[a]</sup> he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (NRSVUE

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1&version=NRSVUE> )

The Church provides us with a 40-day season of the resurrection to experience in real-time the number of days people experience the actual, physical Christ among them. Then, when you add the ten days following the Ascension of Christ into the heavens, we arrive at Pentecost, the day God gave the Holy Spirit, the promised Gift to the Church for the beginning of ministry; we have a 50-day Season called The Great Fifty Days. Continuing in the same place in Acts, Chapter One, starting at verse 4, we read:

<sup>4</sup> While staying<sup>[b]</sup> with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard

from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (NRSVUE

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1&version=NRSVUE> )

We are here to give God thanks and praise for these glorious events we have been educated in by the gifts of the Holy Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church to guard the deposit of faith, and the teaching power of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for Christ among us. (see 2Timothy 1:13-14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A13-14&version=NRSVUE>)(see John 1:14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A14&version=NRSVUE> )

## **FIRST SONG: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise G&P 399, verses 1,2,4**

Text: 87 87 D; Edward Caswall, 1814–1878. Music: St Basil's Hymnal, 1889. Contributor: HOLY ANTHEM Onlicense Song # 84068. 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. In a letter from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learn 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 # 108.



### Names on Block # 108

- Nordmeyer (1)
- Chuck Larrick (2)
- Tony Tripi (3)
- Laura Schaffer (4)
- Dr. William A. Sandberg (5)
- Tom van Strien (6)
- Bill O'Malley (7)
- Mark Mason (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 that those who feel left behind in the face of death 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: O Sons and Daughters G&P 379**

Text: O filii et filiae; Jean Tisserand, d.1494; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
Contributors: Richard Proulx; Onlicense # 92302 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278



## 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: "<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> 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:** At this time, 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:** Now, 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 corruption, weapons of destruction and display a growing disregard for human life; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**



**Leader -4:** All discrimination is 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" 7/25/17  
Handwritten: *Winds and Music Handwritten Liturgical Arts*  
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 *Handwritten Liturgical Arts by [unclear]*

*2. = 6/8*      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 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. = 6/8*      *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 thanks 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 un-i-ty of

*(TO REFRAIN)*

© 7/25/77-1/1/24 Gaudes! Liturgical Arts *R. B. Benson*

$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{6}{8}$       *Refrain*       $\frac{1}{2} \text{ 21/24}$

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 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, speak to us as we listen to the Sacred Scriptures read aloud. We ask the Holy Spirit to open our minds to understand what we hear so we may apply it in our lives and give honor and glory to God 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 Acts, chapter 4, verses 32-35. It is on page 122 in the front of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated edition. Here begins the reading:

### **The Believers Share Their Possessions**

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+4%3A32-35&version=NRSVUE>  
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## + Psalm

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Today, the Psalm is 118, with selected verses. The response is,  
"Give thanks to the Lord for everlasting love and goodness."

### **R. Give thanks to the Lord for everlasting love and goodness.**

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,  
"His steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say,  
"His steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say,  
"His steadfast love endures forever."

### **R. Give thanks to the Lord for everlasting love and goodness.**

<sup>13</sup> I was pushed hard,<sup>[b]</sup> so that I was falling,  
but the LORD helped me.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

### **R. Give thanks to the Lord for everlasting love and goodness.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.<sup>[c]</sup>

### **R. Give thanks to the Lord for everlasting love and goodness.**

[Read full chapter](#)

#### Footnotes

- a. [118.12](#) Gk: Heb *were extinguished*
- b. [118.13](#) Gk Syr Jerome: Heb *You pushed me hard*
- c. [118.24](#) Or *in him*
- d. [118.26](#) Or *Blessed in the name of the LORD is the one who comes*



e. [118.27](#) Meaning of Heb uncertain

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+118&version=NRSVUE>

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## + Second Reading

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is in the Book of the First Letter of John chapter 5, verses 1-6. The reading is on page 241 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

### Faith Conquers the World

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ<sup>[a]</sup> has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, **4** for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. **5** Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

### Testimony concerning the Son of God

**6** This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

#### Footnotes

a. [5.1](#) *Or the Messiah*

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

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

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

## We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is John, chapter 20, verses 19-31, and Chapter 21, verses 24 and 25, on pages 114 and 116 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.**

### Jesus Appears to the Disciples

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I

send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

## Jesus and Thomas

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

## The Purpose of This Book

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue<sup>[b]</sup> to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 21:24-25 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. <sup>25</sup> But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

**Footnotes**

- a. [20.24](#) *Gk Didymus*
- b. [20.31](#) *Or may come*
- c. [20.31](#) *Or the Christ*

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A19-31&version=NRSVUE>

Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21%3A24-25&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!



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 <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> 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)

A few weeks ago, we read John 12:31-32 as part of our Gospel for the day.

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

After reading those verses on the Second Sunday of the Season of the

Resurrection, two thoughts stand out for me today. First, Jesus was lifted up on the Cross, giving Himself as the payment for the wholesale rebellion of the Human Race against God. Jesus, having been obedient even to death (see [Philippians 2:8](#)), now has the authority over both the living and the dead. Romans 14:9 reads, <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. John 12:31 said the ruler of this world will be driven out. How, then, are we struggling with sin and evil in the world? Where is this Resurrection victory? If Christ is so victorious, why is everything in such chaos? Why is there chaos in my daily life, at home, work, school, and honestly, within myself? All of these are very fair questions. Before getting into it, my second thought was that Jesus promised to draw everyone to Himself. Jesus is "Lord of the living.." however, many of the living do not seem to care about their "Lord."

After reading these observations and questions, I realized that life doesn't seem like a victory on its face when I look all around me, beginning with my interior thoughts to as far away as the Internet can take me. Things do not seem very holy.

Many people today have decided the empirical evidence (what you can see is the proof) suggests there is no God, the whole Jesus story is just that, a religious story, and even to quote Carl Marx, who in 1843 wrote "religion [...] is the opium of the people" a drug of sorts to help people deal with the reality of life, survival, and death. In response, one might have a religious panic and say things like; more incense, please; change the lighting, next slide, sing another song, let's have a procession with trumpets. Then, after we have religious exercises, we feel better and return to the dangerous world on the other side of these walls. Yes, I suppose that is religion if the only purpose is to have a religious event. In the case of religious event planning, one can get lost in the production preparations, performance, and the final take-home product of religion.

I enjoy religion and religious practices very much, but only as tools that put me in touch, in contact, with the reality of the living real presence of the Creative Life-Giver, Who holds all that is with an interconnection that is inescapable anywhere and everywhere in places seen and unseen. There is no escaping the Reality Creator.

The people who were eyewitnesses to the pregnancy Mary accepted, the birth, life, death, resurrection, and the ascension of the Christ, known to them in the man, Jesus, were so moved by the experience of being with Him they were compelled from within their own spirits to tell others, and be able to help them find the experience of the same Living Christ. Knowing someone when they are alive and in front of us is one thing. Knowing the person, and experiencing their presence even after their death is highly unusual, but this is exactly what God gave those people who lived with Jesus, and this is what God has in mind for everyone alive today.

It is my responsibility to use every tool of religion and any other assistance available to help people from all walks of life find their connection to God. My natural place in this religious community is as a facilitator. Just as those who knew and experienced Jesus in His human life were motivated by the Holy Spirit to do everything within their purview to pass on the direct experience to others through written and lived testimony, so were the Founders and Foundresses of Ray Of Hope Church determined to share their lived experience.

Against so many circumstances of life in the 1940's to 1983, when they really put their testimony into action, these fourteen people were determined to tell everyone they were experiencing the living presence of the Risen Christ Jesus. It is difficult to put ourselves in their position and understand their circumstances in the early 1980s when churches were officially excluding us and making official statements declaring God would only see and understand us as lost sinners. Finally, many religious leaders and people in general even used the AIDS epidemic as proof that God hated and was judging "homoSEXuals." Even in all that noise and fear, the people who started Ray Of Hope knew they were definitely experiencing Christ truly present, and He was calling them to witness to His presence in the Church and in society through social action. Romans 8:9, 10, and 11 is just but one place where the original Members and Friends found their theological roots in Scripture.

Romans 8:9-11 <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit,<sup>[a]</sup> since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit<sup>[b]</sup> is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through<sup>[d]</sup> his Spirit that dwells in you. (NRSVUE



There are many Scripture verses where the Doctrine of the Trinity living within the willing believer is proven; however, time does not permit us to study them in this Sermon. It is interior motivation, interior awareness, and the interior emotional conversation where each person finds a connection to God. The Real Presence of the One God in Three Persons is the beginning of reality for all of us, for God gave each of us the Gift of Life. Our Founders and Foundresses formed an association to provide a physical place, with a group of actual people, where they could share their lived experiences of God in Christ, read the Sacred Scriptures together, experience the Teacher, the Comforter, the Guide in the Holy Spirit, pray for themselves and others, and invite everyone to the Sacred Holy Table of the Lord Jesus to receive His Real Presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Those who began this Church also realized that when they prayed with devotion and trust, God heard their prayers, and they became instruments of change. They created a sacred place in their weekly schedules. Though the physical meeting place continued to move all over Central New York State, they discovered that wherever they pitched their spiritual tent and opened the doors, others came to share the experience of the Living Christ with them.

Choice. Choice and intentional relationship-building are sacred to God and sacred to Jesus. Even on the night before he died, Jesus allowed Judas to betray Him with a kiss, and Jesus allowed Peter to deny Him three times. Jesus also knew who would fall asleep and who would accompany Him into the depths of the garden to pray. Jesus knew who would choose to accompany Him even to the foot of the Cross. Jesus allowed each person the power of Holy Choice so that each individual would choose to build their relationship with God through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Likewise, the world is in the condition it is in because Christ allows each individual to choose how they want to respond to the voice of God in the Church Age. Every day of our lives, we have the opportunity to choose to live more fully and be part of the Real Presence of Christ among us. We must be allowed to choose so that our relationship with Christ and the other Members of the Church will be authentic and genuine.

We readily see the fruits of choosing other paths than the opportunities Christ

lays out for us. The title "The Seven Deadly Sins" contains genuine truth, or choices that lead to spiritual and sometimes physical death. The opportunity for choosing will end either by our last breath or the last day of the Age of the Church. How God responds to those who choose to reject God even after meeting God in the hour of death is between each person and God alone.

In addition to prayer and study, the people of Ray Of Hope have always been deeply involved in social reform to help people everywhere reach the higher goals of universal love. In the interest of time, I will leave you with some significant Internet links to help you get up to speed with how the Lord's Name is being used in vain by politicians and governments. I ask you to read the stories associated with each link this week and pray for interior guidance and direction on how you can personally be involved in social reform and standing up for our Gospel principles.

## 1) Detroit's Catholic archbishop calls trans identity 'gender confusion' in letter

Niraj Warikoo

Detroit Free Press Published 6:07 a.m. ET March 28, 2024 | Updated 8:55 p.m. ET March 30, 2024

(<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2024/03/28/detroit-catholic-archbishop-letter-transgender-people/73067577007/>) reprinted in the Elmira Star-Gazette Tuesday, April 2, 2024 Page 4A, Volume 60 | No. 129. The story appeared in many forms of local media. The article is hopeful in hearing the voices of the laity speaking positively about their experiences with Trans family members. However, the article is clear where the world-wide Roman Church stands on the issue. The problems this article could cause with families is immeasurable. The Roman Church has no plans to alter the Teaching on this subject. many "Protestant" churches will simply take on the position of the Roman Church rather than stand up for a better Truth on this subject of Gender Identity. (My summary and opinion - Br. Benedict)

## 2) Anti-Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion legislation.

" A growing number of states have introduced legislation that would restrict or ban diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives at public colleges.

There are currently more than 30 bills across the country targeting DEI funding, practices, and promotion at schools."

Source includes interactive map.:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/news/anti-dei-legislation-tracker/>

Summary of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion laws assembled by the Upstate Medical University :

<https://www.upstate.edu/diversityinclusion/policies-and-procedures/eeo/fedstatelaw.php>

The Dignity For All Students Act of New York State

<https://www.nysed.gov/student-support-services/dignity-act-news>

note the sections on transgender health for students.

<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/student-support-services/creating-a-safe-supportive-and-affirming-school-environment-for-transgender-and-gender-expansive-students.pdf>

3) Project 2025 looks and sounds harmless on its face. However, when you read deep into the 920 page plan, you will see the plan limits and takes away rights essential to the LGBTQSIANE2ss+ Community and the full spectrum of D. E. I. concepts. (My summary and opinion: Br. B)

## Project 2025

[project2025.org](https://project2025.org)

### Description

Project 2025 is a collection of policy proposals to reshape the executive branch of the U.S. federal government in the event of a Republican victory in the 2024 U.S.

presidential election. [Wikipedia](#)

**Parent organization:** [The Heritage Foundation](#)

**Budget:** \$22 million

**Director:** [Paul Dans](#)

**Main organ:** [Mandate for Leadership](#)

**Purpose:** [Plan to reshape the U.S. federal government to support the agenda of Republican Party president](#)

<https://www.project2025.org/about/about-project-2025/>

Project 2025 Madate for Leadership:

[https://static.project2025.org/2025\\_MandateForLeadership\\_FULLL.pdf](https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULLL.pdf)

#### 4) Postmillennialism

Example: The 2024 Rescue America Tour " Together, we'll proclaim this nation for God once again!"

<https://www.2024flashpoint.live/>

#### 5) Presentation of Mr. Trump in Messianic terms.

NPR.ORG

A video making the rounds online depicts Trump as ...

NPR

<https://www.npr.org> › 2024/01/26 › a-video-making-th...

Jan 26, 2024 — A new video casts Donald Trump as a Messiah-like figure. NPR's Steve Inkseep unpacks its meaning with Robert P. Jones, president and founder ...

[Time Magazine:](#)

History Shows the Danger of Comparing Trump to Jesus

Time Magazine

<https://time.com> › History › Made by History

Mar 29, 2024 – It's important to remember why analogies to Jesus should stay out of the political realm. The results are always ugly.

**Search results on this subject:**

[https://www.google.com/search?q=Donald+Trump+as+messiah&rlz=1C1CHBD\\_enUS777US777&oq=Donald+Trump+as+messiah&gs\\_lcrp=EgZiaHJvbWUyBqgAEEUYOdIBCjExNjE2ajBqMTWoAgiwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=Donald+Trump+as+messiah&rlz=1C1CHBD_enUS777US777&oq=Donald+Trump+as+messiah&gs_lcrp=EgZiaHJvbWUyBqgAEEUYOdIBCjExNjE2ajBqMTWoAgiwAgE&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

6) The packet dropped off at our door yesterday at 9:30 a.m.  
Eschatology, Numerology, solar eclipse.

I invite you to choose to educate yourselves more deeply as we move through this election year, where religion is being tarnished, mangled, misused, and mismanaged for the toolbox of human politics. You are more equipped than you might realize to step up, speak out, and help educate others.

We are here because of those original fourteen people who clearly experienced the Risen Christ in their lives. They wanted to leave a living and vibrant witness to the fact that God loves all of us and God is responsible for the glorious spectrum of sexual orientation and gender expression. Speak up and speak out for God as you give witness to the fact that Christ is risen indeed and that He lives within our hearts.

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\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**+ The Prayers of the People**

**Leader – 4:** 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:** Bless His Holy Name Words and Music by Andrae Crouch Notebook #42 **CCLI SONG # 17566 COPYRIGHTS** ©1973 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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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:

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#### NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

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#### New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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**General Offering** for the week of March 17 \$30.00 Attendance 8 Sunday;  
Wednesday, March 13, Attendance 4

**General Offering** for the week of March 24 \$760.00 Holy Thursday March 28 special offering for Liturgical Supplies: \$30.00 Attendance 8 Sunday; Holy Thursday Attendance 6, Good Friday Attendance 13

**General Offering** for the week of March 31 \$1,045.00 Attendance 10 Vigil on Saturday; Wednesday, April 3, Attendance 4  
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

#### **\*\*Special Gifts\*\***

Kaiden Benedict donated \$400 to the Building Fund on April 2, thank you Kaiden. On March 25 we received a special gift from Matthew and Carol Papkov of Endicott, NY. Matt is a friend of April Struhm. Matt and Carol have participated on the Internet. We thank them both for their generous donation.

We are grateful for these gifts received this week.

#### **\*\*Recent Special Gifts\*\***

We received a letter dated March 6, 2024 from The Winston-Salem Foundation, North Carolina, signed by Shelia Virgil, Vice President, Development & Donor Services. In part, the letter reads as follows: "On the advice of Dr. Elwood Robinson, The Winston-Salem Foundation has awarded Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ a grant of \$500.00 from .. the.. Novant Community Benefit Fund....on February 28, 2024...please note the advisor's preferred designation is as follows: general support in honor of my sister-in-law Veronica Floyd." We are very grateful for this donation. Letters of thanks were sent out from our Treasurer, Ed Askins.

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](mailto: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

April 8, Monday, 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

April 9, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment.

April 10, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.



## 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:** : Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks by Donald Fishel. G&P

**389** Contributors: Donald Fishel Text: Donald Fishel, b.1950, © 1973, Word of God Music. Tune: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications Text: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications. Oneliscence Song # 71342 Ritual Song 581 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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



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](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.

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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](http://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)

