The Service of the Resurrection and Celebration of the Life of

Robert C. Bacon

(April 7, 1933 to December 23, 2018) A Founder of









7:00 PM

Friday January 11, 2019

May Memorial Unitarian Universalists Building 800 E. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY

A Service of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, Pastor, Officiating



The Lamb of God

https://www.nathangreene.com

The Faithful Friend

14A faithful friend is a sure shelter, whoever finds one has found a rare treasure.

¹⁵A faithful friend is beyond price, there is no measuring their worth.

¹⁶A faithful friend is a life-saving medicine, the elixir of life, and those who respect and love God will find one.

¹⁷Those who love and respect God make true friends, and true friends create true friendships.

(From the Bible, the book of Sirach or Ecclesiasticus Chapter 6, verses 5-17 written between 200 and 175 B. C. E.)



Bells 1st ring. Please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

Bells 2nd ring.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Veronica Floyd, Ray Of Hope Moderator: We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community in Central New York and live on the Internet where everyone is welcome. Tonight, we are gathered to give God thanks and praise for our brother in Christ, Robert C. Bacon. Robb would certainly want you to know that you are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (NABRE)

Veronica: This is a very sacred moment when we share with each other the Divine Presence of God, the divine friendship we have in God; and we show gratitude to each person who has made the effort to come together to worship. Take a moment now to welcome and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God.

Pastor: We begin in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Pastor: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Lisa Frost, Ray Of Hope Council: Thank you all for coming here tonight as we give God thanks and praise for the time we have shared with Robb. As many of you know, Robb was one of the Founders of Ray Of Hope Church and according to the records we have received he was a formal member for 35 of the 36 years the congregation has continued in ministry. Worship was a priority for Robb, and he saw it as intrinsically linked to the GLBTQIS++ struggle for equal rights in all areas of our lives. He personally hosted the Syracuse Extension of Ray Of Hope Church in his home many times over the years right up to the very last Sunday he was healthy enough to do so..

Pastor: Robb believed everyone must have access to all the church has to offer. Our celebration also includes our grieving. Truly we have lost a giant, a pioneer, a leader, and a gentle warrior in our Syracuse community and in Robb's family. It is holy and good to grieve, and we extend our support to those who are hurting at this time. We are also here to celebrate with thanksgiving in our hearts. Offering all of our emotions in prayer, we begin now to worship God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23, 24)

ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.

First Song - Christ Be Our Light

 Longing for light, we wait in darkness Longing for truth, we turn to You.
 Make us Your own, Your holy people Light for the world to see.

REFRAIN:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.

 Longing for peace, our world is troubled Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

(Refrain)

 Longing for food, many are hungry Longing for water, many still thirst.
 Make us Your bread, broken for others Shared until all are fed.

(Refrain)

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us Your building, sheltering others Walls made of living stone.

(Refrain)

 Many the gifts, many the people Many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another Making Your kingdom come.

(Refrain)

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957, ©1993 Bernadette Farrell

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+ The Candle Of Hope

Michael Quinnell: Please be seated. At this time, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope as a witness to our looking forward to the return of Christ when He will raise the dead and instantly transform those who are waiting for Him and living at the time, giving to each one a new resurrection body for everlasting life. (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; etc.)

ALL: Jesus said: "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)

Cheryl Allen: It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to help us remember those who died of AIDS, especially since many who were very sick and dying were rejected by the churches, were very much alone, and needed spiritual guidance. We remember them at this time and pray for their families.

(Names are read at this time.)

We also remember in our hearts the names of our friends and family members who have passed; especially Robb Bacon. May the candle's flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13)

ALL: Amen

Second Song- For You Are My God

REFRAIN:

For you are my God; you alone are my joy. Defend me. O Lord.

 You give marvelous comrades to me: the faithful who dwell in Your land. Those who choose alien gods have chosen an alien band.

(Refrain)

2. You are my portion and cup; It is You that I claim for my prize. Your heritage is my delight, the lot you have given to me.

(Refrain)

 Glad are my heart and my soul; Securely my body will rest. For you will not leave me for dead, Nor lead your beloved astray.

(Refrain)

4. You show me the path for my life; In your presence the fullness of joy. To be at your right hand forever For me would be happiness always.

(Refrain)

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Pastor: We continue to give thanks and praise to God for the gift of salvation and the gift of faith by praying the Gloria together:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,

Only Holy God, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord of all, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Holy Unity of God. Amen.

+ Opening Prayer



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

Frank Ward: Our first reading is found in the Book of Isaiah Chapter 61, verses 1-3. These words were a personal calling for Robb, and he worked diligently to live up to them.

The Good News of Salvation

61 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
³ To console those who mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes,
The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

Frank: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Responsorial Psalm 23, led by Stan Bennett

ALL: Lord, you are my shepherd for ever and ever.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

ALL: Lord, you are my shepherd for ever and ever.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

ALL: Lord, you are my shepherd for ever and ever.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul.

- ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

ALL: Lord, you are my shepherd for ever and ever.

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Pastor: Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation **Gospel Acclamation**



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Pastor: The Risen Lord Jesus is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the Book of John, Chapter Fifteen, verses nine to seventeen.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

ALL: May the Word of God be in our minds (*+*) that we would understand it, on our lips (*+*) that we will speak it, and in our hearts (*+*) that we will love it.

Reader: Deborah B. Wood, Robb's Sister.

⁹ Jesus said; "As God has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept God's commandments and abide in God's love.

¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for their friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from God I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask God in My name God may give you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Acclamation





+ Sermon

John 11:35 Jesus wept.

John 15:14 I call you my Friends. Friendship lifted to the highest love.

1John 5:9-13 ⁹this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. "And this is the testimony: that <u>God has given us eternal life</u>, and this life is in His Son. "13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, <u>that you may know that you have eternal life</u>, and that you <u>may continue</u> to believe in the name of the Son of God. (NKJV)

John 5:24 Jesus said: The one who hears my word and believes in God who sent me, <u>has eternal life</u>, will never come under judgment and has passed from death to life already.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.



+ Intercessory Prayers

Michael: For peace in the world we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Cheryl: For liberty and justice for all we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Michael: For all who mourn that our mourning will be turned into holy joy we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Cheryl: In thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Robert C. Bacon and for all the good he brought into this world, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Michael: In silent prayer please add your own intentions at this time.

Veronica: Lord Jesus, we lift to you 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.

Veronica: Please rise as you are able as we conclude the Service of the Word with the Doxology.

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

Cheryl: The Service of the Word of God is complete. Let us joyfully set the Table of Christ Jesus as we begin the Service of the Holy Eucharist, the Sacred Meal of Christ.

Song: Glorify Thy Name

Father, we love You We worship and adore you Glorify your name in all the earth

Glorify your name Glorify your name Glorify your name in all the earth

Jesus, we love You We worship and adore You Glorify your name in all the earth

Glorify your name Glorify your name Glorify your name in all the earth

Spirit, we love You We worship and adore You Glorify your name in all the earth

Glorify your name Glorify your name in all the earth

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WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this bread, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 66:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48), the bread of the New Covenant, the Sacrament of the Eucharistic, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation, the Cup of Everlasting Life, the Cup of the New and Everlasting Covenant, the very Blood Of Christ.

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: The risen Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: Together, we lift up our hearts!

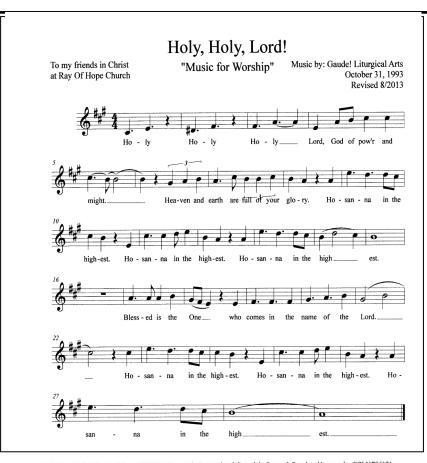
ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

Pastor: Together, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

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

Pastor: It is right that we would give you thanks and praise always and everywhere. Tonight we thank you for sustaining Robb Bacon in life and in death by the power of your holy presence. Now Robb rejoices with all the angels and the saints and especially with the founders, and the members of this very congregation he helped to start, and with his family and friends. May our voices blend with theirs as we join in their unending songs of declaring your holiness, that you alone are holy, holy, and holy.





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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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 Spiritual well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Pastor: I invite you to pray to God with me as we recall our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

Pastor: And for the cup:

ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Pastor: Together we now proclaim in song the Mystery of Faith:

ALL: Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us and is risen from the dead. He is our saving Lord. He is joy for all ages.

+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.

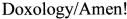
Pastor (or other person designated): While we are gathered here together, we ask your blessing on all religious leaders. Enlighten Pope Francis, all bishops, district and conference leaders, the rabbis, the Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been hurt or cast aside by the misuse of religion. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

+ Final Doxology

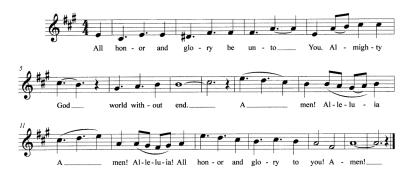
Pastor: Together we pray:

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.



To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993



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- + The Lord's Prayer
- + Sign Of Peace
- + Priestly Prayer For All People

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Behold Jesus truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who promised whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this Cup will have everlasting life and will be raised up on the last day. This is the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Happy are those who partake of this Table of the Lord.

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

Veronica: Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

When you come forward, the person serving you will say; "The Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ for you." Respond with "Amen" or "Alleluia" or some other acclamation of appreciation or faith. Then take a piece of the bread and dip it into the cup and serve yourself. If you

are here with family or friends, you may come to Holy Communion together and serve each other. Please wait after you receive Holy Communion because the person serving you will pray with you before you return to your seat.

Serving Holy Communion this evening will be Servants Of The Eucharist Lisa Frost and Cheryl Allen.

We sing during Holy Communion and maintain our worship. Let us begin. The Table of Christ is served.

Be Not Afraid

 You shall cross the barren desert, But you shall not die of thirst. You shall wander far in safety, Though you do not know the way. You shall speak your words in foreign lands, And all will understand, You shall see the face of God and live.

REFRAIN:

Be not afraid, I go before you always, Come follow Me, And I will give you rest.

- 2. If you pass through raging waters In the sea, you shall not drown. If you walk amidst the burning flames, You shall not be harmed. If you stand before the pow'r of hell And death is at your side, Know that I am with you, through it all (Refrain)
- Blessed are your poor,
 For the Kingdom shall be theirs.
 Blest are you that weep and mourn,
 For one day you shall laugh.
 And if wicked ones insult and hate you, all because of Me,
 Blessed, blessed are you!
 (Refrain)

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(There'll Be) Peace In The Valley For Me

REFRAIN:

There will be peace in the valley for me some day, there will be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord I pray, there'll be no sadness, no sorrow, no trouble I'll see, there will be peace in the valley for me.

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+ Eulogy

Deborah B. Wood, Robb's Sister David E. M. Wood, Robb's Nephew Stan Bennett, Friend of the family Elise Baker, Friend of Robb

Open Microphone

Conclusion: Katherine B. Wood, Robb's Niece.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Risen Lord Jesus is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

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

(Romans 15:13)

Pastor: Go forth in peace and love glorifying the Lord by your life!

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn: How Great Thou Art

 O LORD my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed:

REFRAIN:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

- When through the woods and forest glades I wander And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze: (Refrain)
- And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die - I scarce can take it in: That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin: (Refrain)
- 4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then shall I bow in humble adoration, And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art! (Refrain)

by Stuart K Hine, ©1949, 1953 Stuart Hine Trust CIO.

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Please join us after the service for a reception in the fellowship hall

Gifts may be made in memory of Robb to:

Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. c/o Lisa Frost, Treasurer 380 W. 1st St. Elmira, NY 14901.

You may also may also make a memorial donation by using the PayPal link on the church website

www.rayofhopechurch.com

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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 on line:

Our website: www.rayofhopechurch.com
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 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all...

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 quot-

"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)