



**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."  
(Isaiah 56:7)**

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-second year of  
Ministry.**

**MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples  
of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)**

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.  
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:  
"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God" (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 1-19-25, Epiphany WK 2  
The Baptism of the Lord and Civil Rights Sunday, Year C  
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:** Isaiah 42:1-7 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 670

**Psalm:** Psalm 29:1-10 responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Acts 10:34-38 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 129

**Gospel:** Luke 3:15-16, 21-23 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 60

**\*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 our 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.

Our St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, is a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, given 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 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. To facilitate your full participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and Music Supplement 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). For people watching on the Internet, we recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook

Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#). Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>.

You do not need an account on Skype to "enter as a guest" when prompted. 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, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) We invite you to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second half of this worship event. You need not be a member of this church or any church to receive Communion with us if you choose to. To the people watching on the Internet, to participate in Communion, please also bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



**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 choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

**Leader -2:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look 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:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship is with you. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**ALL: And also with you, praise the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Today is January 19, 2024; we are celebrating Epiphany Week 2, the Baptism of the Lord. Today is the Sunday we celebrate Civil Rights Sunday and honor the ministry life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Christmas text: The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. (Titus 2:11, 3:4)**

**We need an epiphany.** What is an epiphany in God-consciousness? With today's Gospel reading, we begin a series of readings **over the next few weeks where we study epiphanies** that happened in the adult life of Jesus of Nazareth that showed forth the truth that He is "God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God." (Quotation from the Nicene Creed 325 A.D.)

One way this theme combines with Civil Rights Sunday is that the Holy Spirit

continues to reveal epiphanies to us, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to be different, to stand up, and to be willing to be helpful so that change is possible. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. motivated thousands of people to live the acceptance of all that we will hear in today's readings. It is the same call we responded to in the year 2024, and we are being called into action as the majority of our Country has indeed voted for Project 2025 - knowingly or unknowingly. By coincidence, tomorrow is "day one," and it is on Dr. King's national holiday. Today's Sermon will explore the irony or unfortunate reality that the administration of Project 2025 will begin its work on Dr. King Day.

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

**June 1, 2024, was the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.**

**Pastor:** We begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

**ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.**



**FIRST SONG: G&P 561 Lift Every Voice and Sing. Text: James W.**

**Johnson Music: J. Rosamond Johnson.** Onelicense song# 85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition # 561 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

## **+ The Candle Of Hope**

**Leader - 2:** 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. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to celebrate the Truth they promise us. 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 and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 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. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 135.



Names(panel number) on Block # 135

- Richard Brauer (1)

- Tommy Spotts (2)
- Dean Sandmire (3)
- Barney Ward (4)
- Michael Adelman (5)
- Norman Armentraut (6)
- Gary Wilson (7)
- Ken James (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 promise of 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: Shine Jesus Shine.** Words and Music by Graham Kendrick. © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.). CCLI Song #30426. 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) At this time we prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in Word and Sacrament by confessing our sins to Christ in silent prayer.

(silent prayer)

**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 God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

L-3: Filled with the Holy Spirit, we are called into action and change to show forth the Christ of God. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-3: With Christ living in us, we are called to bring His presence to every person and every situation in life. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

L-3: The baptism of the Lord is when God was heard saying: "This is my beloved Son, and I am pleased with Him." This moment is central to our understanding that Jesus is Lord. For the times we have failed to share this good news openly, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor:** The Lord has heard our confession and has granted forgiveness, and so we declare together:

**ALL:** The faith community of Ray Of Hope Church openly declares the forgiveness of all your confessed sins in the Name of Jesus Christ. He forgives you, we forgive you, and God rejoices over your restoration in Christ. Amen.

**Leader - 3:** The Church now provides the service of praising God in



1-19-25 Corrected Epiphany Week 2 The Baptism of the Lord and Civil Rights Year C Page 9 of 37  
thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able as we sing "The Gloria." Look under your seats for a bell, and ring the bell just on the refrain throughout the song.

## **WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN**

### **"The Gloria"**

From "Music for Worship"

© Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B. Dedication :Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 1:

You are the One God,  
Sovereign of the Universe,  
Only Holy God, we worship You,  
we give You thanks,  
we praise You for Your great glory!

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 2:

Lord, Jesus Christ;  
The Only Begotten Son of God  
You are 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.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 3:

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 God.  
In the Holy Spirit, in the Holy unity of God.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 4:

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen.

From "Music for Worship" © Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br.  
Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Dedication:  
Ray Of Hope Church  
Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.  
40th Anniversary

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

Words and Music  
Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
7/25/19-1/21/24  
Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

**Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and

4  
peace to all peo-ple on earth— Glo - ry to God in the high - est—

8  
We give you thanks— and praise. Al - le - lu - ia

10  
We give you thanks— and praise.

12 **Verse 1**

You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un-i-verse, On - ly

16  
Ho - ly God, we wor - ship You, we

18  
give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo-ry!

21 **Refrain**

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to all peo-ple on earth—

25  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est— We give you thanks and

2

28

praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**

Lord, Jes - us Christ;\_\_\_\_\_ The On - ly Be - got - ten

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; Have mer - cy on

41

us; You are sea-ted at the right hand of God; re - ceive our prayer.

46 **Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est,\_\_\_\_\_ and peace to all peo - ple on\_ earth\_

50

Glo - ry to God in the high - est\_\_\_\_\_ We give you thanks\_ and

53

praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**

For You a-lone are the Ho - ly One You a - lone are the Lord of all,

61

You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

66

Spi-rit in the glo - ry of God. In the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

71

Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on\_ earth\_

79

Glo-ry to God in the high-est\_ We give you thanks\_ and praise. Al-le-lu\_ia

83

We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen

A\_ men\_ We  
We give You thanks and praise!  
Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

give You thnks, We give You praise We give You thnaks and praise

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You men. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PASTOR:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader-4:** The Lord is with you, Alleluia!

**ALL: And also with you, Alleluia!**

**Leader-4:** Together, we lift up our hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Leader-4:** We make this exhortation together:

**ALL: Let us keep the Scriptures in mind and meditate upon them day and night, persevering in prayer, always on the watch. Let us beg the Lord to give us real knowledge of what we read and to show us not only how to understand it but how to put it into practice, so that we may deserve to obtain spiritual grace, enlightened by the law of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose power and glory will endure throughout the ages. Amen**

**Leader-4:** Saint Origen, who lived from 185 – 254 A.D., wrote this prayer. His prayer is our prayer on this day. Please be seated now and listen with all your heart, soul, and mind as we open the Word of God.



## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

+ First Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Our first reading is found in the Book of Isaiah, chapter 42, verses 1-7.

You will find this on page 670 in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

The Servant, a Light to the Nations

42 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### + Psalm

Reader: (If an introduction is necessary:) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_,  
and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The Psalm today is 29,  
verses 1 – 10. Our response today is, "The Lord's people will be blessed with holy  
peace."

**R. The Lord's people will be blessed with holy peace.**

Give to the LORD, you children of God,  
give to the LORD glory and praise,  
Give to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
adore the LORD in holy attire.

**R. The Lord's people will be blessed with holy peace.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,  
the LORD, over vast waters.  
The voice of the LORD is mighty;  
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

**R. The Lord's people will be blessed with holy peace.**



The God of glory thunders,  
and in the holy temple all say, "Glory!"  
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

**R. The Lord's people will be blessed with holy peace.**

**+ Second Reading**

Reader: Hello. (Introduction only if needed.) My name is \_\_\_\_\_  
and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is  
found in the Book of Acts, chapter 10, verses 34-38. You will find this on page  
129 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. Here begins  
the reading:

Gentiles Hear the Good News

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation (ethni) anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

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

## Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the

6 truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

11 Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

16 hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is on page 60 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 3, verses 15-16, 21-23.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**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.**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,  
<sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

# The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>23</sup> Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!  
**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - 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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### + Sermon NOTES

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**Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.**  
 The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSAIA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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

An **Epiphany in Holy Scripture** is an event where God reveals God's self in a pronounced and public way.

Epiphany – Week 2 The Baptism Of The Lord

First, we note that Jesus was baptized at about thirty years old, not as an infant or child.

Luke 3:23 reads <sup>23</sup>Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

I wish to know more about those 30 years than we do.

The Baptism of Jesus is a public ordination of the ministry of Jesus. The Trinity of God was revealed to the general public who were present.

The issue of the Jesus as the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit being part of the three person, one being, Trinity is at the heart of our faith.

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>23</sup> Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work.

Notice God is heard saying God is very pleased with Jesus. This is part of the first reading. In Isaiah 42:1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

Verse by verse.

Second Reading Acts 10:34-35 <sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation (ethni) anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God.

Turn to your neighbor and say ANYONE WHO! This means any, every, and all people who love God and listens to God of every sexual orientation, every ethnicity, and every gender expression, is acceptable to God.

The baptism of the Lord is the start of the public ministry to everyone of every ethnicity and human race. The only race there is, and we have our pivot for Civil Rights Sunday. The baptism of Jesus was his hour of call to action.

Honestly, it troubles me that the incoming Presidential Administration is being inaugurated on the Dr. Martin Luther King Federal Holiday. So, I looked up why this is happening, and guess what? The two events on the same day are a coincidence according to an article published by NPR titled, "Trump's inauguration falls on MLK Day. That overlap is pretty rare." by Rachel Treisman, published on January 17, 2025 at 12:07 p.m. Click here to read the article <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/17/nx-s1-5265276/trump-inauguration-mlk-day-overlap>

The short answer is that Inauguration Day was established after the passage of the 20th Amendment in 1933. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president inaugurated on January 20. Dr. Martin Luther King Day is set on the third Monday in January, and the two events sometimes overlap. This Monday, January 20, will be only the third time the two days have overlapped, as happened with Former President Clinton in 1997 and Obama in 2013. The overlap will not occur again until 2053.

Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment.

(Source: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment) .

)

**Civil Rights Sunday is our call to action.**

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

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**Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:**



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

**Veronica:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful for all the people over these last forty-one years of ministry who have given help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in this new year of 2025. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen." Your giving has been exemplary and extraordinary; may God bless you.

We are an independent organization founded and funded by anyone who appreciates what we offer. Your support is one way to give God thanks and praise for this unique ministry for all people. There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information, including our street address. We always say, "Give what you can, but never give your last."

**OFFERTORY SONG:** Thank You Lord. Words: Public Domain, Music Public Domain. Arranged by Stephen Key © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. Gather Fourth Edition #694 Onelicense #95004 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**Leader - 3:** (\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We thank you for those who can give financially and with their skills, prayers, talents, and other ways. We bless you for those who could not give at this time and pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen.

(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 or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your Bread. For those at home, pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

**Brother Benedict:** Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your cup.

**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: (An improvised prayer is said here.)**

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 - 3:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts 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 - 1:** 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.

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**+ The Lord's Prayer**

**Kaiden:** 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**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



### **The Reception of Holy Communion**

**Pastor:** Please raise the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of praise and pray together:

**ALL: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.**

**Leader - 2:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

**ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed.** 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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**Kaiden:** Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. Receive now the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gift of God for the People of God. Receive these gifts of love to strengthen your resolve to serve others and God and to fortify your Salvation. 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, and will be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

**Veronica:** 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.

## **+ Sign Of Peace**

**Leader-1:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Leader-1:** 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-1:** 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**

**Jesus Name Above All Names words and Music by** Naida Hearn

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

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**New Revised Standard Version – 1989**

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## Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2024

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of December was \$849.50. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$4,058.90. This included special donations of \$400.00 towards Brothers' self-employment tax and a \$200 special donation towards the internet reimbursement. Also, the undeposited funds of \$77.67 from November were deposited in December. Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 5 weeks was paid equaling \$2,475.00 Verizon \$62.38, Paypal charges of \$70.01 and a reimbursement of \$200 to Brother for the Internet came out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$2,178.68.

**The Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,209.64. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$700.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$59.08, electric \$679.15,( this higher amount was to catch us up on the budget balance) gas bill \$253.00, liability insurance \$291.18, a purchase of communion kits for \$30.99 and the water bill of \$92.53. Ending balance of this fund was \$903.71.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$720.63. The undeposited funds of \$500.00 from the end of November were deposited in December bring the ending balance on the account to \$1,220.63

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance \$443.65. There was no activity on this account for the month of December, so ending balance is \$443.65.

As of today 1/16/2025 bank account balances are as follows:

General Fund: \$1,710.13, Building Fund: \$827.36, Building Improvement Fund: \$1,670.63 and the Savings (Council) Account: \$526.99 (which includes January Self Employment tax of \$83.34 which is set aside for January 2026). Bills due: CCLI invoice is due for \$387.00 (One license was paid January 2nd \$198.00) and I have a bill for the Elmira sewer tax for \$36.20. As an information only note..... The credit card balance from the latest statement is \$2,476.09. We spent \$433.44 last year on interest on this card.

At the end of 2024 our income exceeded our expenses by \$1,973.60. The members of the council wish to thank the congregation for their generous donations.

*380 W. First St.  
Elmira, NY 14901*



#### **NOTICE OF FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Members and Friends of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ will be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2025. The schedule for the day is as follows:

**10:30 a.m. – Worship (please be on SKYPE by 10:15 for this)**  
**12:30 – Online Fellowship time / meal and desserts at Elmira Chapel**  
**1:30 p.m. – Annual Membership Meeting**

Please review the attached documents before the Annual Meeting date. Watch your email for a few more reports which we will discuss at the meeting as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

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

NOTES OF THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR GENEROSITY GIVEN TO THE LORD THROUGH RAY OF HOPE

**General Offering** for the week of December 29 \$1045.00 Attendance 14 on Sunday

**General Offering** for the week of January 5 \$600.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday  
Wednesday, January 7, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of January 12 \$400.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, January 14, Attendance 6

**\*\* Special Gifts this week and recently\*\***

Thank you, Katrina for assisting in the Monastery with cleaning, cooking, running errands, spending many hours assisting with typing and clerical skills.

Thank you, Wayne and Glenn for paper products, coffee, and desserts.

Thank you, Lisa for the \$100.00 donation to the SE Tax line. Thank you, Ian for the \$500.00 donation to the SE Tax line. \*\* If we cross the \$1,000.00 amount, the funds stay in the account, on the line for the SE Tax, for the following budget year. \*\* Thank you, Kaiden for the \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you, Christina and Ian for the \$450.00 to the Building Improvement Fund.

\*\*\*\*\*TOTAL of all donations for the week of December 29 to January 4 is \$2,495.00, AND there is already \$150.00 received for next week. \*\*\*\* MANY, MANY, THANKS to EVERYONE and may all our efforts glorify God and assist the spread of the Gospel.

Thank you to all the people who are cooking, baking, and sharing treats during the Nativity Season.

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU AGAIN TO THE CHAPEL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE FOR OUTSTANDING WORK ON THE DECORATIONS: Chairperson - Kaiden Benedict, committee helpers: Wayne Harris, Glenn Rathbun, and Katrina Lourdiane. Also, thank you to Glenn and Wayne for the new wreath.**

Week of December 22-29 Brother Benedict donated \$700.00 to the Building Fund.

Everyone expresses gratitude to our Church Council Members: Christina McLaughlin - Acting Moderator, Veronica Floyd - Clerk, and Ed Askins - Treasurer for the many hours they each volunteer doing the behind the scenes administrative duties for the Church.. We do appreciate our Council Officers.

Thank you to Wayne and Glenn for donating paper products for social times, and supplies for the restroom. Your donations are greatly appreciated. This is the second time in a month Wayne and Glenn have donated paper products. Thank you.



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

Sunday, January 19, **Dr. Martin Luther King and Civil Rights Sunday AND The Baptism Of The Lord** \*\*Annual Reports available.\*\*

January 20, Monday, No events are scheduled for this date.

January 21, Tuesday, Bible Enrichment 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

January 22, Wednesday Noon Mass

### **SUNDAY JANUARY 26 Mother Mariane Cope and ANNUAL MEETING**

Discuss pot luck after service shared meal.

Monday, January 27, 2025 at Noon, The Third Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Annual Prayers At Noon Together on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day will be held on both in-person and online, and online. The prayers are three psalms, a Scripture reading, and a closing prayer. Psalms will be sung congregationally and led by Pastor Br. Shawn Benedict of Ray Of Hope Church.

January 28, Tuesday, Bible Enrichment 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

January 29, Wednesday Noon Mass

Thursday, February 20, 2025 Council Meeting

**MARCH 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP** will be presented by the Elmira Area Clergy with up to ten churches participating. It will be hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church 256 S. Walnut St., Elmira, NY 7:00 p.m. Details will follow in singing in the choir, and serving in the worship event. Please plan to be in attendance.

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 7, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads

Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)

Inquiries Class #4 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

**??? APRIL COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE GREAT VIGIL MEMBERSHIP SO, APRIL 10????**

**APRIL 13**, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m. HOLY WEEK

**APRIL 17**, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 18**, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 p.m.

**APRIL 19**, 2023 GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OUR EASTER EVENT  
MEMBERSHIP

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 8, Sunday Pentecost



## We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Leader - 2:** We bless 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.**

## ENDING SONG

**Precious Lord Take My Hand. Thomas Andrew Dorsey**© Words: 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1983 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI Song #7205306. Glory and Praise 2nd Edition, #478 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Featuring Lisa B. Frost playing the Violin.

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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, the way it used to be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.  
daily, 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 to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our  
regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and  
Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#)..  
Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [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)

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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)

