

**"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 1-5-24 Nativity WK 2, 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:** Exodus 3:1-6 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 50 (selected for this event)

**Psalm** The Philipians Canticle

**Gospel Reading:** Gospel: Luke 2:21-40 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 58

**\*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.

Today is the Second of three Sundays of the Season of the Nativity, Christmas. Christmas is a Season in the Church, not just a single day.

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) (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!** Merry Christmas!

**ALL: Merry Christmas!**

**Pastor:** 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:** This is still the Season of Nativity, Christmas. In fact, this "season" is celebrated vastly differently around the world. There is a nice article on Wikipedia titled; "Little Christmas" that includes the following:

**Little Christmas** ([Irish](#): *Nollaig na mBan*, [lit.](#) 'Women's Christmas'), also known as **Old Christmas**, **Green Christmas**, or **Twelfth Night**,<sup>[1]</sup> is one of the traditional names

among [Irish Christians](#) and the [Amish](#) for 6 January, which is also known more widely as the [Feast of the Epiphany](#), celebrated after the conclusion of the [twelve days](#) of [Christmastide](#). It is the traditional end of the [Christmas season](#). ... Owing to differences in [liturgical](#) calendars, as early as the fourth century, the churches of the eastern [Roman Empire](#) were celebrating Christmas on 6 January, while those of the western Roman Empire were celebrating it on 25 December.<sup>[2]</sup> (Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little\\_Christmas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Christmas) )

Also in the Wikipedia article: Christmas \*\*recommend for further reading the whole article\*\* :

There are different hypotheses regarding the [date of Jesus's birth](#). In the early fourth century, the church fixed the date as December 25, the date of the [winter solstice](#) in the Roman Empire. It is nine months after [Annunciation](#) on March 25, also the Roman date of the spring equinox. Most Christians celebrate on December 25 in the [Gregorian calendar](#), which has been adopted almost universally in the [civil calendars](#) used in countries throughout the world. However, part of the [Eastern Christian Churches](#) celebrate Christmas on December 25 of the older [Julian calendar](#), which currently corresponds to January 7 in the Gregorian calendar. For Christians, celebrating that [God](#) came into the world in the [form of man](#) to [atone](#) for the [sins](#) of humanity is more important than knowing Jesus's exact birth date. (Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas> )

James F. White, in his book "Introduction to Christian Worship" indicates the earliest written mention of Christmas comes from a document written in 354 A.D., indicating dates as early as 336 A.D. the usage of December 25 for the celebration. (page 61, Third Edition, 2000 Abingdon Press: order here: [https://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Christian-Worship-Third-Expanded/dp/0687091098/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1467675042&sr=8-1&keywords=Introduction+To+Christian+Worship+by+James+F.+White](https://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Christian-Worship-Third-Expanded/dp/0687091098/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1467675042&sr=8-1&keywords=Introduction+To+Christian+Worship+by+James+F.+White)).

[https://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Christian-Worship-Third-Expanded/dp/0687091098/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1467675042&sr=8-1&keywords=Introduction+To+Christian+Worship+by+James+F.+White](https://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Christian-Worship-Third-Expanded/dp/0687091098/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1467675042&sr=8-1&keywords=Introduction+To+Christian+Worship+by+James+F.+White)).

HOLY NAME is our Feast today. Jesus was named eight days after his birth, according to today's Gospel reading. We will have plenty to say about the Holy Name as we progress through the worship today.

**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:** O Come, All Ye Faithful/Adeste Fideles G&P 311

Text: John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786. English tr. Frederick Oakley, 1802-1880, alt. Music: Adeste Fideles John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786. Setting by James Chepponis. Onelicense Song #G9194. Setting published in ©2017 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127. Organ Performance Copyright notice: Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer of this collection, has assigned his performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted. Update: MyMIDI Worship Resources is the agent. Used with permission.

**SECOND SONG:** Glory & Praise #317

**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing  
MENDELSSOHN**

**1. Hark! the herald angels sing:  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Refrain  
Hark! the herald angels sing,**

**"Glory to the newborn King."**

**2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.** Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831-19156. Glory & Praise Second Edition #317 Onelicense Song #83988. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127. Organ Performance Copyright notice: Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer of this collection, has assigned his performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted. Update: MyMIDI Worship Resources is the agent. Used with permission.

**THIRD SONG: Glory & Praise #329**

**Emmanuel.** Words and Music by Tim Manion Text: Tim Manion Music: Tim Manion; Keyboard acc. by Dan Schutte, b. 1947 Text and Music © 1977, Timothy J. Manion. Published by OCP. All Rights Reserved. G&P Second Edition 329 Onelicense Song#83405 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.



**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

**+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins, our failures.**

**Leader 3:** Please be seated. (wait) Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides

another service: Christ, being truly present among us and forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who is present in this room and our bodies, and receive His immediate forgiveness.

**Pastor: Colossians 3:11b - 13 reads:**

There is only Christ, who is all in all. <sup>12</sup> Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>

Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. <sup>14</sup> Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 3115 Kindle Edition). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. The Inclusive Bible. Page 765. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

**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 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 thanks, We give You praise We give You thanks 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:** \*\*\*\* **If an introduction is needed:**\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The first reading is the Book of Exodus, Chapter 3, verses 1-6 and 13-15, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 50 in the First Testament.

**3** Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb,<sup>[a]</sup> the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." **4** When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said,

"Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

### The Divine Name Revealed

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." <sup>[a]</sup> He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD,<sup>[b]</sup> the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!  
**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

#### Footnotes

a. <sup>3.1</sup> Gk: Heb reads *to the mountain of God, to Horeb*

#### Footnotes

a. <sup>3.14</sup> Or *I AM WHAT I AM* or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE*

b. <sup>3.15</sup> The word "LORD" when spelled with capital letters stands for the divine name, *YHWH*, which is here connected with the verb *hayah*, "to be"

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1-6&version=NRSVUE>  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A13-15&version=NRSVUE>

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**+ Psalm:** **Reader:** \*\*\*\* **If an introduction is needed:**\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Today, we will recite The Philippians Canticle, Philippians chapter 2, verses six to eleven. Together we pray:



**Though He was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at.**

**Rather, He emptied Himself and took the form of a common servant,  
being born in the likeness of men.**

**He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!**

**Because of this,  
God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above every other name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend**

**(optional\*\*genuflect or bow\*\*)**

**in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:**

**JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**

**Praise God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit,  
both now and forever. Amen.**

## **+ 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 Luke, chapter 2:21-40, in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 58 in the Second Testament.

**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.**

### Jesus Is Named

<sup>21</sup> When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child,<sup>[a]</sup> and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

## Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>[b]</sup> <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon <sup>[c]</sup> came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon <sup>[d]</sup> took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
 according to your word,  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the gentiles  
 and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child <sup>[e]</sup> to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

## The Return to Nazareth

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

**Read full chapter**

**Footnotes**

- a. [2.21](#) Gk him
- b. [2.26](#) Or the Lord's Christ
- c. [2.27](#) Gk In the Spirit, he
- d. [2.28](#) Gk he
- e. [2.38](#) Gk him

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2%3A21-40&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 LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQIA2S+ 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**

**+ Sermon**

Luke 2:39 **The Return to Nazareth**

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

\*\*\*\* Remember this, next Sunday, when we talk about the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family. They will be in Nazareth, not in Bethlehem, in a manger.

( The source of the following chart is <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas> )

**Listing**

Church or section	Date	Calendar	Gregorian date	Note
<a href="#">Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem</a>	January 6	Julian calendar	January 19	Correspondence between Julian January 6 and Gregorian January 19 holds until 2100; in the following century the difference will be one day more. <sup>[citation needed]</sup>
<a href="#">Armenian Apostolic Church</a> , <a href="#">Armenian Catholic Church</a> , <a href="#">Armenian Evangelical Church</a>	January 6	Gregorian calendar	January 6	<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
Some <a href="#">Anabaptists</a> , such as the <a href="#">Amish</a> <sup>[6]</sup>	December 25	Julian calendar	January 6	<a href="#">Old Christmas</a>
<a href="#">Eastern Orthodox Church</a> jurisdictions, including those of <a href="#">Constantinople</a> , <a href="#">Bulgaria</a> , <a href="#">Greece</a> , <a href="#">Romania</a> , <a href="#">Antioch</a> , <a href="#">Alexandria</a> , <a href="#">Albania</a> , <a href="#">Cyprus</a> , <a href="#">Finland</a> , and the <a href="#">Orthodox Church in America</a>	December 25	<a href="#">Revised Julian calendar</a>	December 25	Revised Julian calendar usage started in the early 20th century <sup>[citation needed]</sup>

<p>Other Eastern Orthodox: <a href="#">Russia</a>, <a href="#">Georgia</a>, <a href="#">Ukraine</a>, <a href="#">Macedonia</a>, <a href="#">Belarus</a>, Moldova, Montenegro, <a href="#">Serbia</a> and <a href="#">Jerusalem</a>.</p> <p>Also, some <a href="#">Byzantine Rite Catholics</a> and <a href="#">Byzantine Rite Lutherans</a>.</p>	<p>December 25</p>	<p>Julian calendar</p>	<p>January 7</p>	<p>Correspondence between Julian December 25 and Gregorian January 7 of the following year holds until 2100; from 2101 to 2199 the difference will be one day more. <sup>[citation needed]</sup></p>
<p><a href="#">Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Koiak</a> 29 or 28 (corresponding to Julian December 25)</p>	<p><a href="#">Coptic calendar</a></p>	<p>January 7</p>	<p>After the Coptic insertion of a leap day in what for the Julian calendar is August (September in Gregorian), Christmas is celebrated on Koiak 28 in order to maintain the exact interval of nine 30-day months and 5 days of the child's gestation. <sup>[citation needed]</sup></p>
<p><a href="#">Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church</a> (sole date), <a href="#">Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church</a> (sole date), and <a href="#">P'ent'ay (Ethiopian-Eritrean Evangelical) Churches</a> (primary date)</p>	<p><a href="#">Tahsas</a> 29 or 28 (corresponding to Julian December 25)</p>	<p><a href="#">Ethiopian Calendar</a></p>	<p>January 7</p>	<p>After the Ethiopian and Eritrean insertion of a leap day in what for the Julian calendar is August (September in Gregorian), Christmas is celebrated on Tahsas 28 in order to maintain the exact interval of nine 30-day months and 5 days of the child's gestation. <sup>[211]</sup></p> <p>Most Protestants (<a href="#">P'ent'ay</a>/Evangelicals) in the diaspora have the option of choosing the <a href="#">Ethiopian calendar</a> (<a href="#">Tahsas</a> 29/January 7) or the <a href="#">Gregorian calendar</a> (December 25) for religious holidays, with this option being used when the corresponding <a href="#">eastern celebration</a> is not a public holiday in the <a href="#">western world</a> (with most diaspora Protestants celebrating both days). <sup>[citation needed]</sup></p>
<p>Most <a href="#">Western Christian Churches</a>, most <a href="#">Eastern Catholic churches</a> and civil calendars</p>	<p>December 25</p>	<p>Gregorian calendar</p>	<p>December 25</p>	<p><sup>[citation needed]</sup></p>

=====Veronica's ==Holy Name==Sunday=====

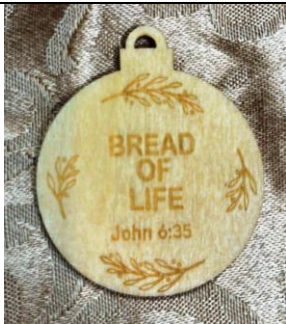


<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.



### The Future Glory of the Survivors in Zion

<sup>2</sup> On that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel.



<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

<sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

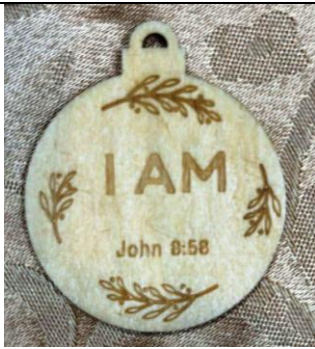
<sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."



<sup>19</sup> So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone;

	<p><sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob."</p>
	<p><sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."</p>
	<p><sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.</p>
	<p><sup>24</sup> and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."</p>





John 8:58 <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

Exodus 3:13-15

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."



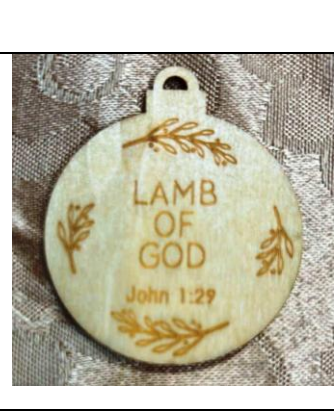
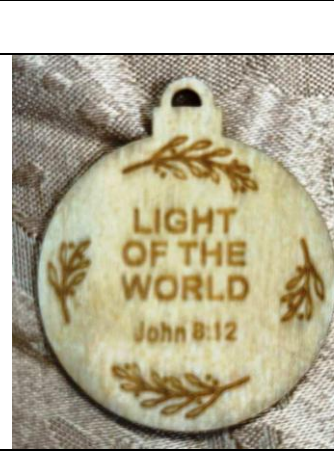
[a] He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, [b] the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':




This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations.



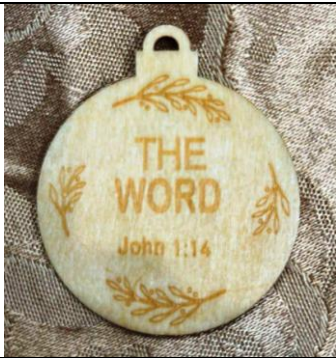
Matthew 1:23 "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."

Isaiah 7:14 <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. [a] (NKJV)

	<p>Matthew 1:21  <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name <sup>[a]</sup>JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."</p>
	<p>Revelation 19:16 <sup>16</sup> And He has on <i>His</i> robe and on His thigh a name written:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.</p>
	<p><b>The Lamb of God</b></p> <p><sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"</p>
	<p><b>John 8:12 Jesus the Light of the World</b></p> <p><sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."</p>

	<p>1 Timothy 2:5</p> <p><sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,</p>
	<p>Isaiah 9:6</p> <p><sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.</p>
	<p>Isaiah 60:16</p> <p><sup>16</sup> You shall suck the milk of nations; you shall suck the breasts of kings, and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.</p>
	<p>Revelation 22:16</p> <p><sup>16</sup> "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."</p>

	<p>Luke 2:11  <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord.</p>
	<p>Matthew 12:18          "Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,              my beloved, with whom my soul is well          pleased.          I will put my Spirit upon him,              and he will proclaim justice to the gentiles.</p>
	<p>Luke 1:35  <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[a]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God.</p>
	<p>John 14:6  <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.</p>
	



John 1:14  
<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>[a]</sup> full of grace and truth.



Isaiah 9:6  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

=====

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

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**Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:** President Carter.  
Hurricanes, floods, war, disease, and healing; who else should we pray for?



(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."



### The Reception of Holy Communion

## **OFFERTORY SONG TEXT ONLY: He Is Exalted. Words and Music by Twila Paris NOTEBOOK # 62**

Verse

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

I will praise Him

He is exalted forever exalted

And I will praise His name

Chorus

He is the Lord

Forever His truth shall reign

Heaven and earth

Rejoice in His holy name

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

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**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 those who give 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.

**+ 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

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## 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! \_\_\_\_

**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** **Holy and Anointed One.** Words and Music by John Barnett.

**Verse 1**

Jesus, Jesus.  
Holy and Anointed One,  
Jesus.

**Verse 2**

Jesus, Jesus.  
Risen and Exalted One,  
Jesus.

**Chorus**

Your name is like honey on my lips.  
Your Spirit like water to my soul.  
Your Word is a lamp unto my feet.  
Jesus, I love You, I love You.

**Ending**

Jesus, Jesus.

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#### New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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### **THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2024, given by Ed Askins, Treasurer, at the December 19, 2024 of the Church Council.**

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of November was \$401.88. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$2,592.31. This included undeposited funds of \$77.67 which hit the bank early December. Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 4 week was paid equaling \$1980.00, Verizon \$62.38 and Paypal charges of \$24.64 came out of this account.

After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$849.50.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,134.08. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$450.00. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$58.51, electric \$590.92, gas bill \$253.00, and the water bill of \$112.01. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,209.64.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$6,231.38. Donations to this account for this month were Ian and Christina \$450.00 at the beginning of the month and \$500.00 at the end of the month. The \$500.00 did not hit the bank until early December, so that is part of the Undeposited funds on the balance sheet. I paid Isaac's Heating and Air Conditioning \$5,960.75 for the boiler repair. The ending balance on this account is \$720.63.

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

**General Offering** for the week of November 24 \$360.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, November 27, Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of December 1 \$1,625.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday  
Wednesday, November 27, Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of December 8 \$1,475.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday  
Wednesday, December 11, Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of December 15 \$100.00 Attendance 15 on Sunday  
Wednesday, December 18, Attendance 11

**General Offering** for the week of December 22 \$00.00 Attendance 14 on Sunday

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

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

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.

Everyone is very grateful for all the cooking talents that have been recently shared. 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 5, **Holy Name Sunday**

January 6, Monday By-Laws work will likely continue 3 - 4:30

January 7, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00

January 8, Wednesday Noon Mass

January 9, Thursday, Presidential Funeral.

Sunday, January 12, **EPIPHANY - Orthodox Christmas**(on or near 1-7-25)

January 13, Monday By-Laws work will likely continue 3 - 4:30

January 14, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00

January 15 Wednesday Noon Mass

**January 16, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING COUNCIL Votes on new By-Laws and 2025 Budget**

January 17, Friday Annual Reports to Veronica

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 ANNUAL MEETING AND PASSING NEW By-Laws 2025 ????**

**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.**

**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 PM. 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 AM HOLY WEEK**

**APRIL 17, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 PM**

**APRIL 18**, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 PM

**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

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 15, Sunday, Father's Day and 29th Ordination Anniversary

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



### 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.

**LAST SONG:** Jesus Name Above All Names words and music by Naida Hearn

**Verse 1**

Jesus, name above all names,  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us.  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.

**Verse 2**

Jesus, loving Shepherd,  
Vine of the branches, Son of God.  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,  
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

**Verse 3**

Praise him, Lord above all lords,  
King above all kings, God's only Son.  
The Prince of Peace, who by his Spirit  
Comes to live in us, Master and Friend.

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

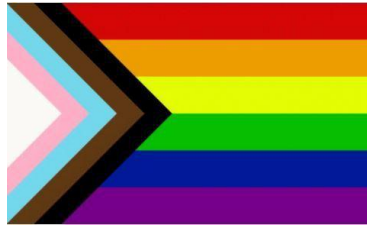
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The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

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 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .  
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.  
**Syracuse Worship-** looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information  
[Click Here](#).

**Bible Enrichment-** Tuesday 6:30–8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery.  
Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15  
PM [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 AM to 11:59 PM 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)

