



**Ray Of Hope**

**Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."**

(Isaiah 56:7)

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-ninth year of Ministry.**

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,  
make disciples of every person everywhere.

(Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel 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 a time of refreshments and sharing.

Today is October 30, 2022 21<sup>st</sup> All Saints, Yr. C

39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 40<sup>th</sup> Year begins.

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."***

**Scripture Readings for this worship event:**

**\*\*These readings were chosen for this celebration.**

**First Reading:** Wisdom 11:22-12:2 not in NRSV

**Responsorial Psalm** 145 selected verses inside this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:19-22 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 193

**Gospel:** Luke 19:1-10 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 82

\*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 of the Bible and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you just ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.



## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.**

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As the bell rings, please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) The bell is rung 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 \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. We welcome you 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. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. Those watching us online to be added to our email list, send us an email to [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com). Write "email list" in the Subject. Visitors in the chapel if you would like to be added to our email list there are forms at the hospitality table. Fill out a slip of paper and place it into the offerings/donations box.

You may participate in some parts or all of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

At Ray Of Hope Church, we assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page and song numbers, and using a psalm response verse.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Today, those participating through the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You do not need to be a Member of this church or any church to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. We celebrate the Lord's open table, where everyone is welcome. Those celebrating at home, please prepare the following items at this time and bring them to your table; 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin. We will use these items for Holy Communion during the second half of the worship service.

**Leader-1:** The bulletin with the worship order is available in multiple ways. If you are watching on Facebook Live, look for the "Featured Link" in the window. Click on the icon, and the bulletin will appear in a second window. You can flip or slide between the Order of Worship bulletin and the webcast. For people watching on Skype, there is a link in the chat window, "Order of Worship." Right-click on it and choose to open it in a new window or new tab. The Order of Worship bulletin is also on our website's front page. Look for the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION for the links to Skype and the Order of Worship bulletin. [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com) Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.



**Bell's 2<sup>nd</sup> ring to announce the start of the worship event.**

**Leader – 2:** We are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

**Leader -1:** Please welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. \*\*During COVID, we may wave into the camera across the Internet.

**Pastor:** We begin in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Pastor:** Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor:**

**Ray Of Hope Church began on 10/31/1983. We are now in our Thirty-ninth year of Ministry.**

The 40<sup>th</sup> year begins today.  
Changes in the Order of Worship.

We stop and pray for all the people in the war still raging in Ukraine. We pray for an end to these hostilities that started 256 days ago. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

We are not here to practice a religion. One practices the piano or goes to football practice. We are here to participate in a multi-dimensional relationship in ways far beyond our human comprehension.

**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.**

**Leader -5:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. I invite you to rise as you are able for this call to worship prayer written by Rabbi Dr. Oren Z. Steinitz of Congregation Kol Ami Synagogue in West Elmira, NY.

**Leader -5:** The title is "Blessed is the One"  
Blessed is the One who spoke and the world came to be.

**All: Blessed is the Source.**

**Leader -5:** Blessed is the Source of Creation.

**All: Blessed is the One whose word is deed.**

**Leader - 5:** Blessed is the One whose thought is fact.

**All: Blessed is the One whose compassion covers the earth.**

**Leader- 5:** Blessed is the One whose compassion covers all creatures.

**All: Blessed is the One who removes darkness and brings light.**

**Leader- 5:** Blessed is the One who lives forever.

**All: Blessed is God's Name.**

(Siddur Kol Ami For Shabbat and Festivals, page 58

© Dr. Oren Z. Steinitz, Rabbi. 2018-5778 Elmira, NY)

**Leader -5:** Blessed be the Holy Name of God from this time on and evermore.

**All: From the sun's rising to its setting, may God's Name be praised! We bless you God, both now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**FIRST SONG:**

**+ The Candle Of Hope**

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. Now, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope in honor of the "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

**ALL: Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."** (John 11:25, 26)

**Leader -2:** While lighting the Candle Of Hope, it is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS. Unfortunately, the churches rejected many sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who needed spiritual guidance.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Today we are reading the names on Block #52.

- Peter Callaghan (1)
- Court (2)
- Mike Reardon (3)
- Michael Jay Levy (4)
- Jim "A-Teena" (5)
- Michael Spurlock (6)
- Sal Territo (7)
- John Schubat (8)

We remember them here and pray for their families.

**Leader -2:** At this time, we remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. May the candle's flame remind everyone of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:  
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

## SECOND SONG:



### WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

#### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting one another, and praising God in song, we now prepare our hearts to accept renewal when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. In preparation, we silently confess our sins to Christ and receive the forgiveness He promises to give us.  
(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 anyone, and God, in any way. **Therefore**, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

L-4: Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Loving God, you call us to give witness to the truth that You created us with a full spectrum of gender and sexual orientations. Help us have the courage to share these truths with others. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Christ Jesus, we are called to celebrate the gifts and talents of all people in every culture and ethnic family. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

L-4: Holy Spirit, you give us wisdom and understanding. Please help us understand the Scriptures and to have the courage to share them with others. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be united in God's Kingdom without the loss of anyone. May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

**Spoken:**

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

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

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

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord of all,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the  
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

### + Opening Prayer

**Leader 5:** O Loving, Eternal, and Holy God, bless us with wisdom and understanding as we listen to these Scripture readings. May hearing God's Word equip us for many more years of ministry. We ask this through Christ, our Lord;

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Leader 5:** Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

**ALL: We read the Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.**



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

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

The first reading is in the Book of Wisdom, Chapter 11, verse 22 through Chapter 12, verse 2. This reading is not in the NRSV Bible pew edition. This reading is in the New American Bible Revised Edition. Here begins the reading:

Before the LORD the whole universe is as a grain from a balance  
or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth.  
But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things;  
and you overlook people's sins that they may repent.  
For you love all things that are  
and loathe nothing that you have made;  
for what you hated, you would not have fashioned.  
And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it;

October 30, 2022 Feast Of All Saints 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year C page: 10  
or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you?  
But you spare all things, because they are yours,  
O LORD and lover of souls,  
for your imperishable spirit is in all things!  
Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little,  
warn them and remind them of the sins they are committing,  
that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O  
LORD!

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### + Psalm

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

The Psalm today is number 145, with selected verses in the New American Bible Revised Edition translation. Today's response is, " I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God."

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

I will extol you, O my God and King,  
and I will bless your name forever and ever.  
Every day will I bless you,  
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and holy in all his works.

The LORD lifts up all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

## + Second Reading

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

The second reading is the Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verses nineteen through twenty-two.

You may find the reading on page 213 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are 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. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

**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 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 on page 82 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19, verses 1 through 10.

**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 and Zacchaeus**

**19** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup> A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup> So Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and

October 30, 2022 Feast Of All Saints 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year C page: 13  
 come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So Zacchaeus hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup> All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me**

Sermon Notes October 30, 2022

We begin our 40<sup>th</sup> year.

Book of Wisdom: verse by verse.

Psalm: My only possible response is to bless and thank you. LGBTQSIA+

Ephesians 2:19-22 Verse by verse The LGBTQSIA2ss+ community are in the household of the saints of God.

Gospel Last Sunday the religious and the humble "tax collector." This week "He goes to the house of sinners!" Jesus has gone to the house of the LGBTQSIA2ss+ Community. We didn't go to Jesus, He comes to us.



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Leader – 3:** Having heard the Word Of God, we bring our prayers to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today we will offer communal prayers. Our response will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader – 3:** We give you thanks and praise for all the ways we experience your presence and assistance in our lives; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** We give you thanks and praise for the beauty of Fall and all the colors we enjoy; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We continue to pray for the children whose lives have been changed forever by war. We ask God to heal and strengthen the children traumatized by the destruction of their homes, schools, and towns. For these intentions, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We thank you for the possibility of peace, and we pray that world leaders will work toward peace; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We pray for this election cycle that people participate in the process honestly and fairly; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader -2:** Gathered together, we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every Religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for freedom, equality, and respect for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers and those with no faith or formal Religion. We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader- 2:** We pray for those driven from faith because of the misuse of Religion. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included in the worship community. We hope all people grow to realize that they, too, are God's living light. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. We pray to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** We bless you, Almighty God, for all the people who have come through the doors of Ray Of Hope in the last 39 years. We give you thanks for each person and organization that hosted Ray Of Hope Church before we occupied our building in 2003. We thank you for every person who has labored in any way for this ministry. As we begin the 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry we ask for your grace and guidance that we would continue to be faithful to this unique work of the Gospel, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 4:** We invite you to add your petitions in silent prayer.  
**(silent prayer)**

**Leader –4:** We pray to the Lord for these silent prayers.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you in intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**



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

## **+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.**

### **\*\*\*\* Leader:**

At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. You may use the donation box next to the door in the chapel. In addition, donation envelopes are available on the hospitality table by the door. Drop your offering/donation into the box before, during, or after this worship event.

People on the Internet may use the [PayPal link](#) in your bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. Additionally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

Also, we now prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. Ideally, you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*)

Each of you in the chapel will find a small communion set at your seat. Shake the kit gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup.

(\* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set. A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. \*)

## **SONG:**

**Leader -2:** (\*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.\*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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



## **WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Kaiden:** Please gently hold the communion kit in your hands for the next two prayers. Those at home with bread please lift it now. (\*The Pastor may invite someone to say this prayer out loud.\*)

**Pastor:** 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. In the chapel please continue to hold your communion kit.

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.

**Pastor:** Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. (\*The Pastor may invite someone to say this prayer out loud.\*)

**Pastor:** 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.**

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

**Pastor:** Truly present and risen among us; the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

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

**Pastor:** As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

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

**Pastor:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, almighty and eternal God. You are praised in the company of all the Faithful from every time and every place. We thank you for every person who has shared in this ministry over these last 39 years. We thank you for our Founders and Foundresses, those visionaries who dared to step up and truly make a church where everyone is welcome when AIDS was causing a great deal of fear even in the churches. By the way they lived their lives you offer us an example. By our Communion with them now in Paradise you give us companionship. By their intercession, we experience a sure support, so that, encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run as victors in the race before us and win with them the imperishable Crown of Glory, through Christ our Lord. (Based upon the New Roman Missal (prayer book) Eucharistic Prayer #66, Preface I Of Saints (page 598))

May our voices be one with all the Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join in their unending hymns of praise.

## 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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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### + We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

**Leader-1:** Jesus said: "..truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:19-21)

**ALL:** Further, Jesus also said: "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to God. I will do whatever you ask in my name so that God may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." (John 14:12-14)

**Cheryl:** Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time, I 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

**Cheryl:** You may relax your arms and hands.

**Pastor:** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29,36) Behold Jesus 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 shall live forever. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

**ALL:** Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)



### The Reception of Holy Communion

## + The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

**Pastor:** Push down on the tab of your kits. Open the first seal and remove the bread. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of

Christ, the Bread of Salvation, and together we will say our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

**ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.**

(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)

**Pastor:** You may now receive the Bread of Life, the Body of Christ. The Gift of God for the People of God.

We are not going to open the seal on the cup just yet. Please lift now the cup of salvation, and together we will say:

**ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)

**Pastor:** Open your kit and receive the Cup of Salvation, the Blood of Christ. The Gift of God for the People of God.

**Pastor:** I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith**

**Pastor:** We proclaim our faith together.

**ALL:** Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.  
You are the Savior of the world.

## **PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

**Leader-3:** Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together...

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I 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, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

## **+ The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader -4:** Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

### + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Together we pray:

**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to \_\_\_\_ You. Al - migh - ty

5  
God \_\_\_\_ world with - out end. \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11  
A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! \_\_\_\_

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### + Sign Of Peace

**Veronica Floyd:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.  
**ALL:** And also with you.

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.

**SONG:**

**A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

**A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:** Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Pastor:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

**ALL: Amen**

**ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen** (Romans 15:13)

**Leader-4:** We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.**

**SONG:**

**General Offering** for the week of October 2 \$968.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of October 9 \$228.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of October 19 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of October 23 \$168.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

**\*\*Special Gifts recently given.\*\***

**We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OUR CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 30 WE CELEBRATE the 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the start of the 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. All Saints.**

Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment scheduled.

November 18 Friday Council Meeting – Budget planning

**November 20, 2022**, Sunday @3:30 pm Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship Service by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition. Congregation Kol Ami 1008 W. Water St. Elmira, NY 14905

November 27 **Advent WK I** – Hope The Candle Of Hope

November 29 Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

**December 1** Thursday World AIDS Day.

December 4 Sunday **Advent WK II** – Peace

December 6 Tuesday St. Nicholas Day Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

December 11 **Advent WK III Gaudete** Joy Sunday Pride in the Winter

December 13 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

December 16 Friday @ 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

December 18 Sunday **Advent WK IV** Love Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter.

Hanukkah Starts at sundown **Day 1** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 19 Monday Hanukkah **Day 2** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 20 Tuesday Hanukkah **Day 3** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 20 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment

December 21 Wednesday Hanukkah **Day 4** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 22 Thursday Hanukkah **Day 5** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 23 Friday Hanukkah **Day 6** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 24 Saturday Hanukkah **Day 7** 5:00 p.m.,. service of light

**SUNDAY December 25 NATIVITY**

Hanukkah **Day 8** 5:00 p.m. service of light

December 26 Monday Hanukkah ends at sunset.

December 26 Monday Kwanzaa **day 1 Umoja (Unity)** 8:45 PM service online

December 27 Tuesday Kwanzaa **day 2 Kujichagulia (Self determination)**

8:45 PM service online

December 27 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

December 28 Wednesday Kwanzaa **day 3 Ujima (Collective work & responsibility)**

8:45 PM service online

December 29 Thursday Kwanzaa **day 4 Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)**

8:45 PM service online

December 30 Friday Kwanzaa **day 5&6 Nia (Purpose) & Kuumba (Creativity)**

8:45 PM service online

December 31 Saturday no service

January 1 Sunday Kwanzaa **day 7 Imani (Faith)** 8:45 PM service online

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqisia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud, and a larger project day for removal of carpet and replacement with new carpet. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

\*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord

<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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."

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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

=====Who can receive the Holy Spirit=====

**Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.**

Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

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## **WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?**

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church, to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is really present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that would exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

I have thought about this extensively and have decided to take these words "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the church to give, and bring, the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to teach people about this gift. I have stated in other places, **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people

live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central in that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in us, through us, and with us; made known in the breaking of the Bread of Life and drinking of the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole world.

We begin by inviting those who are on the fringe of Society, those who have been pushed aside, those who are poor, who are not accepted, who are sick, who need God's help in special ways. We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone who has been told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to all persons who have ever been told "no you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or as we like to say as one of our mottos, when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien; "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018 by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here.](#)

See this in a PDF format from our website and share it with others or download it to your computer / device. [Right Click Here.](#)

## 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 web site;

[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 at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. All of our regular services will be blended with live participation in the chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened.

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 on line:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#).  
Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs)

—————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)