

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

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

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

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 10-6-24 Pentecost Week 21, the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B  
We are celebrating World Communion Sunday and St. Francis of Assisi  
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: \*\*\* these readings were chosen for this event.

**First Reading:** Narrative on the San Damiano Cross and St. Francis

**Psalm:** The Canticle of the Creatures

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 1:3-11 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 191

**Gospel:** John 1:1-14 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 91

**\*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.**

10-6-24 Feast of St. Francis & World Communion Sun. Pent. Wk 21, 27th Sun. in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 2 of 47  
All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. Copyright credits and U.S. Copyright Fair Use statements are in the presented materials. We are making every effort to comply with all regulations. Please contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.



## 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. 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. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of Bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

**Leader-1:** Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



(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 15:7, the Scriptures

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

**Leader -2:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**Pastor:** Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

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

**Pastor:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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

**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.**

Today is October 6, 2024, Pentecost Week 21, the 27th of 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time Year B, meaning there are only eight Sundays, including today, before Advent, the start of the Church Year, on December 1. Take a moment to notice the decorations to celebrate the Fall Season. We step away from the traditional Liturgical Calendar colors until the first Sunday of Advent. In this way we participate in a practice that is not "liturgical" to acknowledge our participants who are from non-liturgical traditions. Today, we celebrate World Communion Sunday, which was first celebrated in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA (source:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/world-communion-sunday/#:~:text=World%20Communion%20Sunday%20originally%20called,Thompson%20Kerr%20served%20as%20pastor>). Today

10-6-24 Feast of St. Francis & World Communion Sun. Pent. Wk 21, 27th Sun. in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 5 of 47  
 we also celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the man who taught the church to welcome absolutely everyone. We have this artistic statue of St. Francis by our door to remind us that when coming in and going out, we should always welcome everyone, just as Christ has welcomed us, as we recite from Romans 15:7.



One goal of this church is to show everyone how to bring Christ to every area of our lives.

**Pastor:** With our whole heart, mind, and soul, 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: (MUSIC SUPPLEMENT) All Are Welcome.** Words and Music by Marty Haugen

Tune: © 1994, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Text: © 1994, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Onelicense Song #00004 GIA Edition 4166. Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

**SONG 1b All Creatures of Our God And King G&P 672**

Text: LM with additions; St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; Laudato sia Dio mio Signore; tr. by William H. Draper, 1855–1933, alt. Music: Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623. Glory and Praise Second Edition #672. Onelicense Song # 80362. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

## + The Candle Of Hope

Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to celebrate the Truth they promise us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

As we celebrate the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, we will listen to some of his stories here in our worship this morning.

### + First Reading

Francis was born on September 26, 1182. St Francis died at the Portiuncula, (more information here <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portiuncula>) Italy, late at night on October 3, 1226; some say it was early morning, October 4. His Feast Day is October 4, the day he entered Paradise..

Francis Bernardone was the son of a prosperous cloth merchant in the small mountain city of Assisi, Italy. He was loved by his parents and given material privileges, and he grew up idealistic, self-confident, and a leader among his teenage companions. He could always be counted on to join in the nightly fun and revelry in the streets of Assisi.

When he became a teen, it became apparent that God was calling Francis to a way of life different from that of his companions. All the families of privilege of Assisi would send their sons off to war as knights. Family pride among the wealthy of Assisi was a source of competition among families that often expanded generations. So, he became a knight, much to his father's pride. However, the glories of knighthood were soon dashed after becoming ill as a prisoner of war in neighboring Perugia and sent home to the shame of himself, his family, and the townspeople. Francis had a long period of illness and

10-6-24 Feast of St. Francis & World Communion Sun. Pent. Wk 21, 27th Sun. in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 7 of 47  
recovery, during which he looked for direction for his life.

After a time, he realized God was calling him to complete dedication. One day in the year 1205, when he was 23 years old while wandering through the fields, he came to a little chapel in ruins named San Damiano, which translates Saint Damian, possibly in honor of Saints Cosmas and Damian, third-century Arabian-born twin brothers who embraced Christianity and practiced medicine and surgery without a fee (source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saints\\_Cosmas\\_and\\_Damian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saints_Cosmas_and_Damian) ) or, since the building San Damiano was originally a Benedictine priory (<https://www.umbriatourism.it/en/-/the-church-of-san-damiano>) with records back to 1030, the church may be named after St. Peter Damian, a Benedictine who lived from 1007 - 1072 and was a Bishop and Doctor of the Church ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Damian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Damian)). Inside what remained of the chapel was the very Cross you see in the picture below. It is a work of art and is filled with symbolism. While praying, Francis clearly heard within himself Jesus saying, "Francis, rebuild my church." Sure of the command he and some of his friends set out to actually rebuild the chapel. The rebuilding effort and so many others joining in the effort led to a complete conversion and decision that his life was to be lived as one of God's "poor ones," sharing what he had with the lepers who were so numerous outside the City and touching people from all walks of life. Francis welcomed everyone.



(Source: [Crocifisso San Damiano](#)

[Assisi.jpg](#) Crocifisso di San Damiano nella basilica di Santa Chiara ad Assisi

[Dulceridentem](#) [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0](#) Crocifisso San Damiano Assisi.jpg Copy

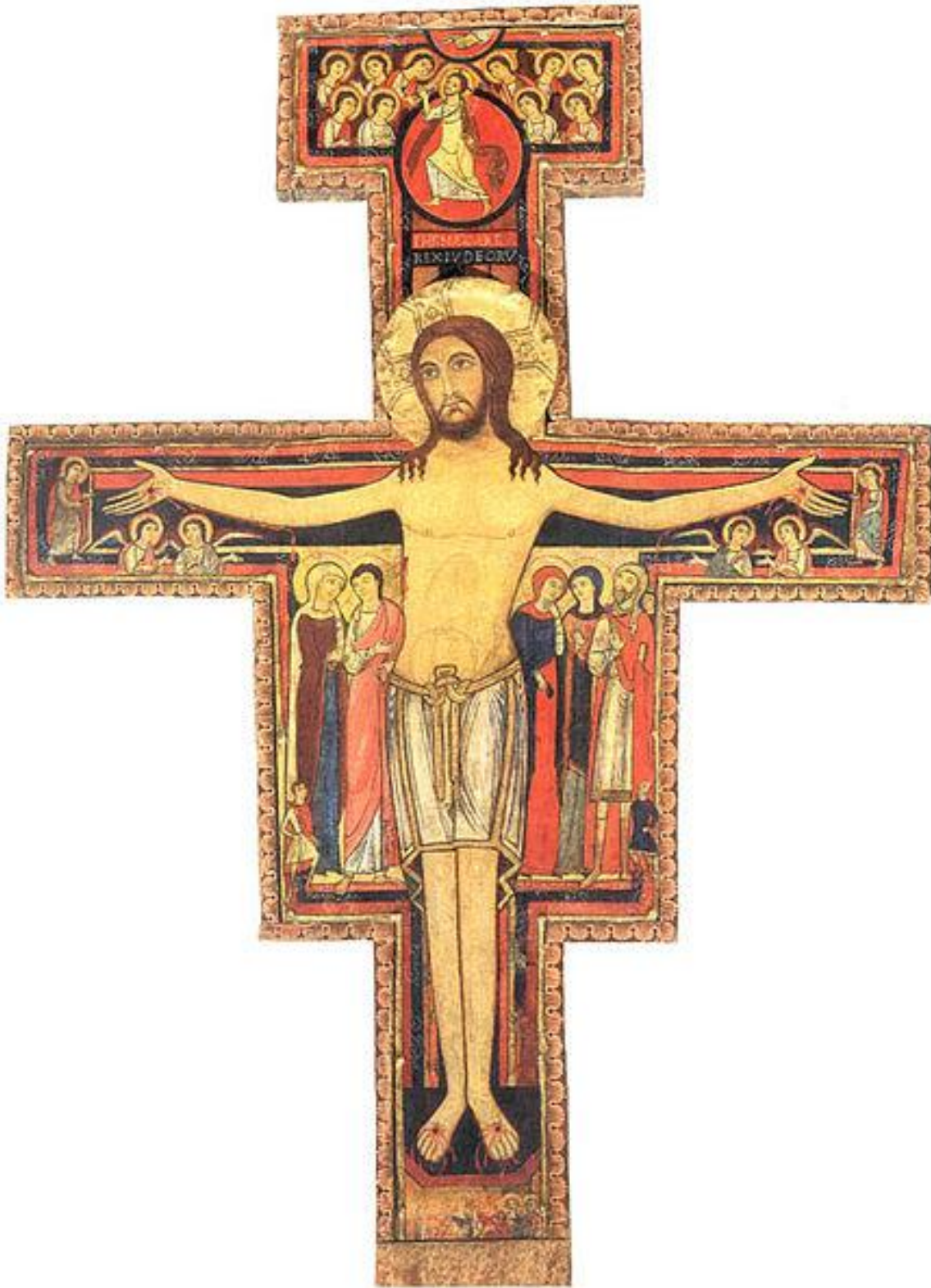
[[File:Crocifisso San Damiano Assisi.jpg|Crocifisso\_San\_Damiano\_Assisi]]Copy

August 25, 2022 3,470 x 4,339 image/jpeg, I, the copyright holder of this work, hereby publish it under the following license:



This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#) license.





[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cristo\\_de\\_san\\_Damian.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cristo_de_san_Damian.jpg) This is a faithful photographic reproduction of a two-dimensional, [public domain](#) work of art. The work of art itself is in the public domain for the following reason:



This work is in the [public domain](#) in its country of origin and other countries and areas where the [copyright term](#) is the author's **life plus 70 years or fewer**.

You must also include a [United States public domain tag](#) to indicate why this work is in the public domain in the United States.

## SAN DAMIANO CRUCIFIX THE CROSS THATY SPOKE TO SAINT FRANCIS

The large figure of Christ dominates the painting. Light seems to shine forth from within his living and glorified person, emphasized by red and black. Christ stands upright with his eyes open, looking out at the world; He has already overcome suffering and death. Instead of a crown of thorns, he wears a halo of glory. He still has bleeding wounds which pour out his redeeming blood on the angels and saints. Above, Christ is risen in front of the open empty tomb. In his left hand is the cross and his right hand points to the Father. God's right hand welcomes the Son, surrounded by saints. At Jesus' right side is Mary with her right hand pointed at the beloved disciple, John. At Jesus' left are Mary Magdalene and Mary of Clopas. To their right is the centurion looking at Jesus with his hand raised, saying "Truly, this was the Son of God." Over the centurion's shoulder could be his son who was healed by Christ. At Mary's feet is the soldier who pierced the side of Christ. At the feet of the centurion is the sponge carrier. Beneath the hands of Jesus are pairs of angels with their hands lifted in lively discussion. They stand in front of the open tomb announcing the resurrection and ascension of the Lord. The two persons at the extreme right and left could be either angels or women who have run to the empty tomb.

Br. Benedict: One thing I see in this work of art that I have been aware of since coming to Ray Of Hope is all of the figures in this representation of angles, saints in Heaven, and all the people around Jesus are portrayed as ethnic Caucasians. While this would not have been anything other than an artist unconsciously reflecting their own internalized image of people, today, we might reconsider how we would paint such a dynamic work as this. Today we would show the range of skin colors and ethnic representations in the saints in Heaven or even in the Angels. Also, Jesus would likely have been a person with skin darker than what was commonly seen in Italy, where this artwork was painted.

"Over the years, you will surely have come across this very special and iconic crucifix, known throughout the world as the **Saint Damiano Cross**. The original one is the large Romanesque rood

cross that hung in the abandoned chapel near Assisi, hometown of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. This Cross is now **over 800 years old** and is about six feet tall and four feet wide. It was painted on linen that was glued to walnut wood. **The artist's identity is unknown**, but the Cross has become well known due to its association with **Saint Francis of Assisi**. The Poor Clares preserved it for seven centuries at San Giorgio. No one knows who painted the Cross. It is now kept in the Basilica of Santa Chiara in Assisi,

"SOURCE: ([https://savellireligious.com/blogs/blog/the-san-damiano-cross-and-its-profound-meaning?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=3326886f7&\\_ss=r&\\_gl=1\\*12c6ufp\\*\\_up\\*MQ..&gclid=CjwKCAjwx4O4BhAnEiwA42SbVDrlZkDhK6wVko\\_NIZ97-CZ88m86hO4f9ofRGkJV6F9E4MY5FhhNchoCBP0QA\\_vD\\_BwE](https://savellireligious.com/blogs/blog/the-san-damiano-cross-and-its-profound-meaning?_pos=1&_sid=3326886f7&_ss=r&_gl=1*12c6ufp*_up*MQ..&gclid=CjwKCAjwx4O4BhAnEiwA42SbVDrlZkDhK6wVko_NIZ97-CZ88m86hO4f9ofRGkJV6F9E4MY5FhhNchoCBP0QA_vD_BwE) )

He would have loved our World Communion celebration because Francis was disturbed by the prominent divisions in his day. The most significant ones being the wealthy and the working poor. The Church was divided between East and West for over 100 years when he was an adult. If he were alive today, he would welcome a celebration such as World Communion Sunday, where the Western Church could set aside her 33,000 + denominations for a day and recognize that the Body Of Christ extends to all points on the Earth. Today, we have new sad divisions that are evening threatening the well-being of some of our denominations. We can look to Francis and hear his voice calling us to set aside our divisions and focus on the worship of God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### **Leader -2:**

**Second Song: (NOTEBOOK #40) I Believe In Jesus. Words and Music by Marc Nelson**

© 1987 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing. CCLI Song #61282 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



### **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Leader 3:** Please be seated. (**wait**) So far, we assembled, greeted one

another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ, being truly present among us, forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. At this time, in silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, 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, with 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.)

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Featuring Lisa Frost, Brother, and Kaiden Benedict.

**Holy Water**. Words and Music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash ©2019 Angie Feel Good Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Bay19 (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Scott Cash Publishing Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) We The Kingdom Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song #7136448 Additional Karaoke Accompaniment Holy Water Karaoke Version Originally Performed by We the Kingdom. Performed by Singer's Best. Written by Andre Bergthold, Edmond Martin Cash, Edmond Martin Cash Jr, Frances Rae Cash, Scott Rae Cash, Scott Mctyeire Cash Source: Paris Music. Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**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."

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

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

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

**Refrain**

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

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

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

10  
We give you thanks — and praise.

12 **Verse 1**

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

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

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

21 **Refrain**

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

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

2

28



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

31 **Verse 2**



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

34



Son of God, You are Lord God,

36



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

41



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

46 **Refrain**



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

50



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

53



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

56 **Verse 3**



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

61



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

66



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

71



Ho - ly un - i - ty of God\_\_\_\_\_

75 Refrain



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

79




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

83




We give you thanks and praise.


85 Verse 4: Amen



A\_\_\_\_\_ men\_ We



We give You thanks and praise!



Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We



4

87

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

89

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

**PASTOR:** Please be seated.

**+ Second Reading**

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

The second reading is Ephesians, chapter one, verses 3 through 11. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 191 in the Second Testament. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading.

<sup>3</sup> Praised be the Maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! <sup>4</sup> Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; <sup>5</sup> God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children—such was God's pleasure and will—<sup>6</sup> that everyone might praise the glory of God's grace which was freely bestowed on us in God's beloved, Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favor <sup>8</sup> given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup> God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be carried out in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things—in heaven and on earth—together in Christ. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God—and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel—we were predestined <sup>12</sup> to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ. <sup>13</sup> In Christ you too were chosen. When you heard the Good News of salvation, the word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the pledge of our inheritance, the deposit paid against the full redemption of a people who are God's own—to the praise of God's glory.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 3093-3094). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. **Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 3093-3094 Kindle Edition). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. The Inclusive Bible. Page 760. 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.)

## **+Psalm / Canticle**

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

### **The Canticle of Creatures**

**All: Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,**

**Leader - 1:** Yours are the praises, the glory,  
and the honor and all blessing.  
To You alone, Most High, do they belong  
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

**All: Praised be you, my Lord,**

**Leader - 2:** with all Your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day,  
and through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful  
and radiant with great splendor;  
and bears a likeness of You, Most High one.

**All: Praised be You, my Lord,**

**Leader - 3:** through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven, You formed them  
clear and precious and beautiful.

**All: Praised be You, my Lord,**

**Leader - 3:** through Brother Wind,

and through the air, cloudy and serene,  
and every kind of weather  
through which you give sustenance to your creatures.

**All: Praised be You, my Lord,**

**Leader - 4:** through Sister water,  
who is very useful and humble  
and precious and chaste.

**All: Praised be You, my Lord,**

**Leader - 4:** through Brother fire,  
through whom You light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful  
and robust and strong.

**All: Praised be You, my Lord,**

**Leader - 5:** through our Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains and governs us,  
and who produces various fruit  
with colored flowers and herbs.

**All: Praised be You, my Lord,**

**Leader - 5:** through those who give pardon for Your love,  
and bear infirmity and tribulation.  
Blessed those who endure in peace,  
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

**All: Praised be You, my Lord,**

**Leader - 1:** through our Sister Bodily Death,  
from whom no one living can escape.  
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.  
Blessed are those whom death

will find in Your most holy will,  
for the second death shall do them no harm.

**All: Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks  
and serve Him with great humility.**

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

**Leader - 3:** Francis loved the Gospel. He once told the brothers and sisters following his example that the only rule of life they needed was the Gospel. Francis openly taught and discussed the Gospel with anyone of any class or status in life. He saw in the reading of the Gospel Christ becoming truly present to everyone. In fact, he was definitely known to go out and preach to the animals in the forest. They loved to hear him, and many people witnessed the animals coming together when he called them. Francis looked forward to the restoration of the Earth when we will have more open and unrestrained communion with all Creation and, yes, including the animals. So, as we hear the Gospel now, let us receive it with burning hearts resolved to follow Christ with a radical yes. Here at Ray Of Hope, we sing an acclamation before and after reading 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!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

**Reader:** The Gospel reading is John, Chapter One, verses 1 - 14. The NRSV1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on pages 91. I will read The Inclusive Bible Translation.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Reader:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John.

**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.**

1:1 IN THE BEGINNING  
there was the Word;  
the Word was in God's presence,  
and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> The Word was present to God  
from the beginning.

<sup>3</sup> Through the Word  
all things came into being,  
and apart from the Word  
nothing came into being  
that has come into being.

<sup>4</sup> In the Word was life,  
and that life was humanity's light—  
<sup>5</sup> a Light that shines in the darkness,  
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

<sup>6</sup> Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, <sup>7</sup> who  
came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his  
testimony everyone might believe.

<sup>8</sup> He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the  
Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind.

<sup>9</sup> The Word was coming into the world— <sup>10</sup> was in the world—  
and though the world  
was made through the Word,  
the world didn't recognize it.

<sup>11</sup> Though the Word came to its own realm,  
the Word's own people didn't accept it.

<sup>12</sup> Yet any who did accept the Word,  
who believed in that Name,  
were empowered to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not  
of natural descent,  
nor urge of flesh  
nor human will—  
but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh  
and stayed for a little while among us;

we saw the Word's glory—  
the favor and position a parent gives an only child—  
filled with grace,  
filled with truth.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2847-2848 Kindle Edition). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. The Inclusive Bible. Page 697. 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.)

## 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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

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!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121


**+ Sermon: Br. Shawn Benedict**



**Lisa Frost:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. The church has an old standard, *lex orandi, lex credendi*, which means that "the law of prayer is the law of faith" or "that which we pray is that which we believe." Our prayer, our worship is the key to understanding what God has revealed for us to accept as Eternal Truth. Our Congregation serves the general public by providing qualified leadership, an organization accountable to its members, teachings based on ancient ecumenical consensus, the presentation of worship experiences, the physical building space for worship and education in spirituality, and our presence on the Internet platforms. All are welcome to avail themselves of our services of worship. 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."

Also, at this time, we will set our altars and communion tables at home and in the Chapel. Those viewing at home, please turn to the highlighted text on page three of this bulletin to review the instructions for items needed for Holy Communion. In the Chapel here, everyone may assist in setting the Table of the Lord together. We begin now.

**Offertory Song: He's Worthy. Words and Music by Sandra Crouch © 1985**

Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Sanabella Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). All rights reserved. CCLI Song#11191 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

**Leader - 3:** (**\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.**) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts you have received to support this ministry. We bless you for those who can give financially, with their skills, prayers, and many other ways. We bless you for those who could not give 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.**

**St. Francis and the Eucharist** Francis recognized the Body Of Christ in every person. He realized that all of us are inseparable from the living God, the Body Of Christ in the world. Again, he saw no divisions or distinctions in the Body of Christ. In fact, as already noted, he called the church back to celebration of all of Creation.

Women followed Francis from the very beginning. The leader of the women was Clare of Assisi. Clare was the first woman to write a Rule for monasteries that the Pope approved. Clare started the Order of Poor Ladies, which followed strict poverty, and after her death, in her honor, the women renamed it the Order of Saint Clare, today commonly known as The Poor Clares. There are Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and Independent houses of The Poor Clares today, numbering about 30,000 women worldwide.



( Fresco of Saint Clare and sisters of her order, church of [San](#)

[Damiano, Assisi](#) photograph by [Gunnar Bach Pedersen](#) - Self-photographed [Permission details](#)

This is a faithful photographic reproduction of a two-dimensional, [public domain](#) work of art.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clare\\_of\\_Assisi#/media/File:SDamiano-Clara\\_og\\_s%C3%B8stre.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clare_of_Assisi#/media/File:SDamiano-Clara_og_s%C3%B8stre.jpg) 

Clare had an extraordinary devotion to Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Communion. One night, when invaders were climbing the walls of the convent intending to violate the women, Clare ran to the place where the Holy Communion bread was stored. She placed it in the vessel to show it as seen on the screen, and she walked on the top of the convent walls where the men were climbing up the side. All of them were supernaturally pushed to the ground by the Holy Spirit. For this reason, artists often depict Clare of Assisi holding the monstrance, the vessel to show the Holy Bread as seen on the screen. Clare and Francis truly believed Jesus to be present always and everywhere but especially when the church shared the blessed wine and bread on a day just as beautiful as this day of World Communion.



## **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.

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

### **+ 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



## 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:**

No song was actually sung.

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. Copyright credits and US Copyright Fair Use statements are found throughout the presented materials. Every effort is being made to comply with all regulations. Please contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.

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

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ. Copyright Information "Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

**New Revised Standard Version – 1989**

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Up to 500 verses of the RSV or NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission...Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

The Inclusive Bible. 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.

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

**General Offering** for the week of September 15 \$550.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday  
Wednesday, September 18, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of September 22 \$358.06 Attendance 9 on Sunday  
Wednesday, September 25, Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of September 29 \$1,150.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday  
Wednesday, October 2, Attendance 5  
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

**Special Thanks to everyone who cooked and helped set up and clean up for our Semi-Annual Meeting\*\***

Andrea Warren for help setting up the computers.

Kaiden Benedict for help setting up the chapel Sunday Morning and helping people get organized.

Gary and Annie for the amazing Goulash main dish.

Katrina Lourdiane for the delicious salad.

Steve Fox for the apple drizzle cake

Lisa Frost for the flavored coffee, \*\*Order coffee from Lisa for Christmas Gifts!!!!

Ian McLaughlin for washing the dishes before and after the dinner

Kaiden Benedict general set up of the chapel decorations for the Baptism and help through the entire day.

Christina McLaughlin help setting up and cleaning up and hospitality.

THIS WEEK special thanks to Katrina for typing the Revised By-Laws

THIS WEEK special thanks to Kaiden for redecorating the chapel and extra help with hospitality and cleaning.

THIS WEEK special thanks to Christina for extra help with cleaning and watching the safety of the building.

**\*\*In Addition to the General Offering, we received the following Special Gifts.\*\***

Ian made a \$200.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund (boiler and painting). Thank you.

Ian and Christina made a \$450.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund (boiler and painting). Thank you.

Kaiden Benedict made a \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you.

Phillipa and Ed Askins made a \$500.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund (boiler and painting). Thank you.

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

Rev. Evan and Mrs. Kate Hansen made a \$500.00 donation to the boiler repair. Thank you both very much. Ray Of Hope Church appreciates your friendship.

Lisa Frost made a \$1,000.00 donation to the Building Improvement Fund (boiler and painting). Thank you, Lisa.

Brother made a \$700.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you, Brother.

Kaiden made a \$50.00 special offering for our participation in sponsoring The Matsiko World Orphan Choir.

Kaiden Benedict made a \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you, Kaiden.

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject box.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

\*\* See the Q.R. Code on the last page. \*\*

Sunday, October 6, Worship 10:30 a.m. World Communion Sunday and Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi - the Saint who welcomed everyone, and celebrated all the gifts of Creation in worship.

October 7, Monday 3:30 – 5:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

October 8, Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00 PM NAACP MEETING

October 8, Tuesday 7:15- 8:45 PM Bible Enrichment - continuing Bible Translations and Angels

October 9, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

(\*October 12, Saturday 4:30- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
The Chosen - see flyer below.)

Sunday, October 13, Worship 10:30 a.m. Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 13, Sunday at 2:00 PM **The Abrahamic Walk** presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition

October 14, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

October 15, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment - continuing Bible Translations and Angels

October 16, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

(\*October 19, Saturday 4:30- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
The Chosen - see flyer below.)

Sunday, October 20, Worship 10:30 a.m.

October 21, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

October 22, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment - continuing Bible Translations and Angels

October 23, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

October 24, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING

DATE TO BE SET FOR OUR NATIVITY CELEBRATION CHRISTMAS

DATE TO BE SET FOR KWANZAA

DATE TO BE SET FOR ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 2025

(\*October 26, Saturday 4:30- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
The Chosen - see flyer below.)

Sunday, October 27, Worship 10:30 a.m.

October 28, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

October 29, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment - continuing Bible Translations and Angels

October 30, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

(\*November 2, Saturday 4:30- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
The Chosen - see flyer below.)

Sunday, November 3, Worship 10:30 a.m. FEAST OF ALL SAINTS & 41st Anniversary of the founding of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. The start of our 42nd year of ministry.

November 4, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

November 5, Tuesday Election Night, no scheduled events.

November 6, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

(\*November 9, Saturday 4:30- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
The Chosen - see flyer below.)

**PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES**

November 21, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 6:30 - 8:00 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 1 of 4**

Sunday, December 1, Advent Week 1 World AIDS Day, the Candle of Hope. - purple

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 3 6:30 - 8:00 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 2 of 4**

Sunday, December 8, Advent Week 2 The Candle of Peace, praying for world peace. - purple

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 7:15 - 8:45 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 3 of 4**

Sunday, December 15, Advent Week 3 **GAUDETE REJOICE SUNDAY PRIDE PARTY IN THE WINTER. PINK DAY! GIFT EXCHANGE AND DINNER TOGETHER - PINK CANDLE**

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 6:30 - 8:00 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 4 of 4**

**December 19, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING** Council final recommendation for new By-Laws, and recommendation for 2025 Budget

Sunday, December 22, Advent Week 4 Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter, Mary, - purple

December 23, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

December 24, Tuesday no scheduled events.

**December 25, Wednesday, NOON MASS???????**

December 25, Wednesday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 1 of 8 live on Facebook

December 26, Thursday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 2 of 8 live on Facebook

December 27, Friday 5:00 PM 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 3 of 8 live on Facebook

December 28, Saturday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 4 of 8 live on Facebook

**December 29, Sunday CHRISTMAS AT RAY OF HOPE?????????**

December 30, Monday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 5 of 8 live on Facebook

December 31, Tuesday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 6 of 8 live on Facebook

January 1, Wednesday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 7 of 8 live on Facebook

January 2, Thursday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 8 of 8 live on Facebook

Sunday, January 5, Orthodox Christmas EPIPHANY?????????

Sunday, January 12, The Baptism Of The Lord ???????

Sunday, January 19, Dr. Martin Luther King and Civil Rights Sunday

**January 23, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING** **COUNCIL Votes on new By-Laws and 2025 Budget**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 26 ANNUAL MEETING AND PASSING NEW By-Laws 2025**

**MARCH 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY**

Inquiries Class #1 Tuesday March 11, 2025 7:15 - 8:45 Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #2 Tuesday March 18, 2025 6:30 - 8:00 Worship and Common Threads

Inquiries Class #3 Tuesday March 25, 2025 6:30 - 8:00 Polity and Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)

Inquiries Class #4 Tuesday April 1, 2025 6:30 - 8:00 Human Sexuality and the Bible

Inquiries Class #5 Tuesday April 8, 2025 6:30 - 8:00 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

DATE TO BE SET FOR OUR NATIVITY CELEBRATION CHRISTMAS

DATE TO BE SET FOR KWANZAA

DATE TO BE SET FOR ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 2025

**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GIFT DONATION. FROM VERONICA FLOYD, CLERK**

Dear Friends and Members,

On a recent Monday afternoon the Carbon Monoxide Alarms rang on the first floor of the church and monastery. It turns out the broken bolt and old seal (apparently one was not replaced in the last kit replacement) on the existing boiler were allowing Carbon Monoxide to leak out of the boiler and upstairs through the floor and walls. The boiler is shut off and the system is taken off line because it is leaking Carbon Monoxide. The heat to the entire building is off until the Heat Exchanger Kit is installed.

We have received an estimate from Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning of \$3,230.79 to cover the parts and time it takes two technicians to do the exchange which is approximately 6 hours. This is the initial estimate for phase 1 of repairs needed. The second estimate to add a larger pump to solve the problem of getting the heat upstairs and to the back corners of the building has been received in the amount of \$1,712.83. Therefore the total amount to get the boiler functional and the pump installed is \$4,943.62.

The Council met on Thursday, September 26th and approved the plans to get this urgent emergency repair completed. We are so thankful for all donations received thus far for this repair. There is still a need for donations to help with this as we will need to quickly replenish the funds that will be required from the Building Improvement Fund.

As you may know, we have been saving to get the external building painted and eliminate any potential fines for not being up to code. This current emergency repair will deplete that savings.

So again, we thank all of you for your past generosity and for any financial assistance you can give at this time towards the boiler repair and external painting of the building.

The goal is to get the parts ordered and repair scheduled before we need the boiler to be operational with the declining temperatures as well as the building painted.

Thank you in advance for your support. Any amount given will be of great support.

On behalf of the Council,  
Veronica Floyd, Clerk of Ray Of Hope Church, Inc.

**The Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2024**; presented September 26, 2024.

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of the month was \$1,043.91. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$1,368.50. There were 2 people who deposited their August donations in July, so this figure is lower than normal by about \$800.00 Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week was paid, Verizon \$62.13, a reimbursement to me for the wine and grape juice kits of \$91.44 and Paypal charge comes out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$265.34.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,357.42. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00. I transferred back in from Savings \$662.33 also. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$61.42, electric \$233.92 (which has increased \$100 per month), gas bill \$253.00, water bill \$82.79, Fire Inspection fee of \$60.00, Isaac's Plumbing and Heating \$364.95 and I paid the Liability Insurance bill of \$662.33. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,341.34.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$2,452.49. We had no activity on this account during August. Ian & Christina's donation was done on Paypal September 1<sup>st</sup>, so that will be on next month's report. So the ending balance on this account is \$2,452.29.

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance \$705.33. I transferred \$662.33 to the building fund to cover the liability insurance payment, so the ending balance in this account is \$43.65.

These balances do equal the ending bank balances.

This report was presented at the September 26, 2024 Council Meeting by Mr. Edward Askins, Council Treasurer.



# SHOW TIME ELMIRA

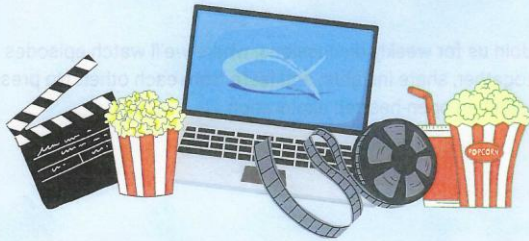
PRESENTS

## The CHOSEN

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church of Elmira  
1054 W. Clinton St. Elmira, NY 14905  
**Dates:** Saturday afternoons, Oct 5 - Nov 23  
**Time:** 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Get ready to dive into the epic saga of "The Chosen" with our first screening on Saturday, October 5th at 4:30 PM! Join us every Saturday at this time to catch all of Season One, ending on November 23rd. That's 8 chances to get together to enjoy, explore and discuss this fantastic, ground-breaking series.

Gather your friends and family and mark your calendars for this unforgettable adventure of friendship and faith.  
Can't wait to see you there!



The First Presbyterian Church  
North Presbyterian Church  
And Elmira Community Leaders

*are embarking on an exciting journey together,  
and we'd love for you to join us!*

### What?

We're diving into the acclaimed series "The Chosen." This groundbreaking show beautifully portrays the life of Jesus and those around Him.

But here's the best part:  
it's not just for one faith—it's for everyone.

### Why?

Because we believe that stories have the power to unite us.

Whether you're a person of faith, curious about spirituality, or simply appreciate compelling narratives, "The Chosen" invites us all to explore universal themes like forgiveness, friendship, and transformation.

### How?

Join us for weekly discussions, where we'll watch episodes together, share insights, and learn from each other. No pressure, —just an open-hearted exploration.

# Abraham Path Walk

12<sup>th</sup> Annual event, sponsored by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC)



## People of Faith Walking Together for greater understanding and compassion

This year we walk together in the public sphere in downtown Elmira. This one-mile walk brings interfaith partners together and is based on the story of Abraham, a prophet common to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 2:00 PM**

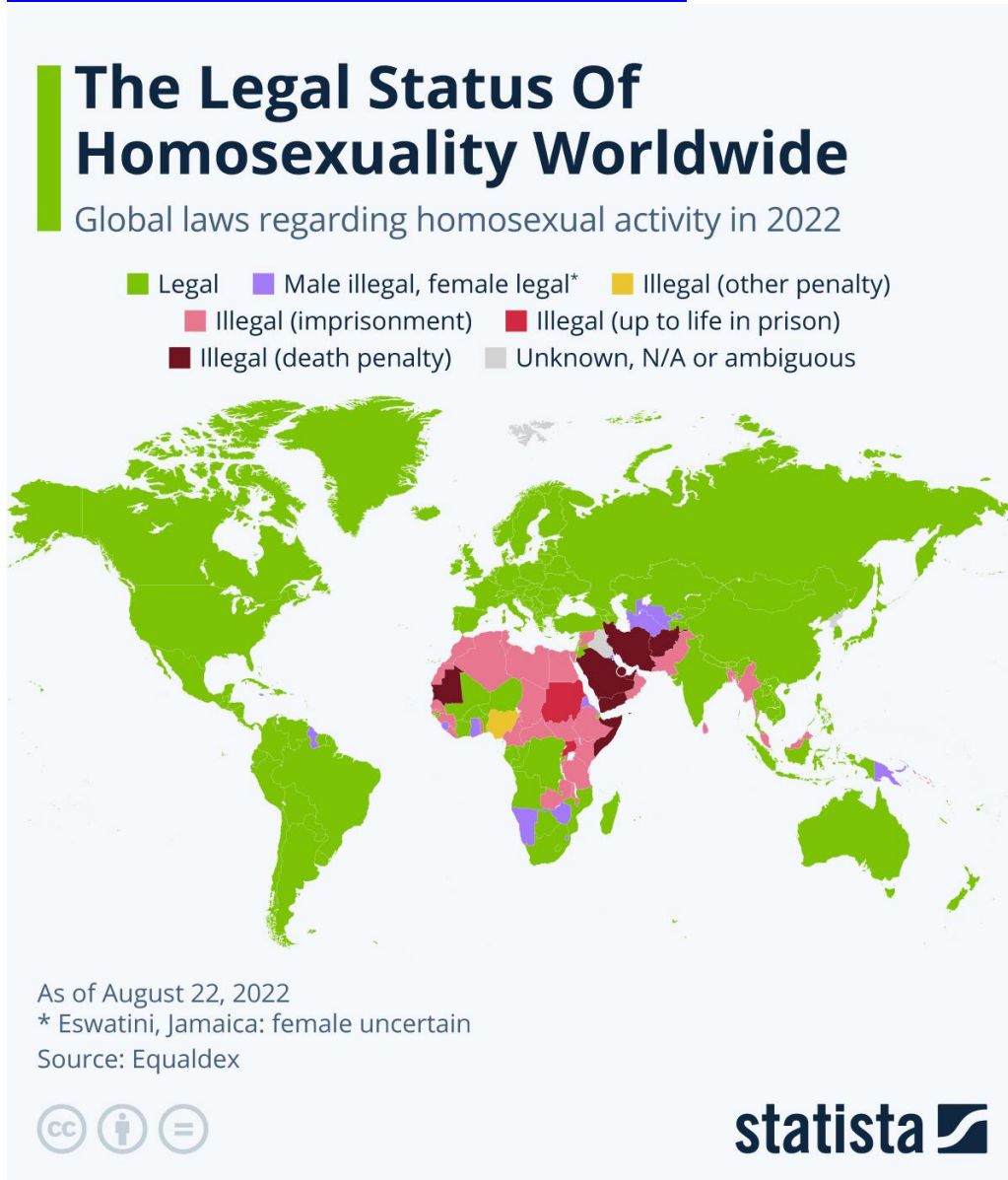
- Begin in the parking lot of *The Park Church* (208 W. Gray Street, Elmira)
- Walk with someone of another faith community to the *Elmira City Hall*, *Chemung County Courthouse* and then back to *Wisner Park*
- Then drive to the *IAFL Islamic Center of the Finger Lakes* (499 Hickory Grove Rd. Horseheads) for a reception and STIC Annual Meeting.
- If you're not interested in walking, come to the reception and annual meeting at IAFL at 3:30 p.m.

For more information go to <http://www.sticinterfaith.org> or contact:  
Imam Zaman Marwat, 607-562-3869, [sufizaman@yahoo.com](mailto:sufizaman@yahoo.com)  
Debra Todd, 607-734-0908, [dctodd321@gmail.com](mailto:dctodd321@gmail.com)

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

website: <https://www.statista.com/chart/4310/global-laws-against-homosexuality-visualised/>  
<https://cdn.statcdn.com/Infographic/images/normal/4310.jpeg>



**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

10-6-24 Feast St. Francis & World Communion Sun. Pent. Wk 21, 27th Sun. in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 44 of 47  
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: Holy and Anointed One.** Words and Music by John Barnett. © 1988 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing, Administrators - Integrity Music. CCLI Song #1643 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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.

---

Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#). Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs)

—————Scripture verses to share with others:—————

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

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

John 5:24 Those who hear my Word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

