

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

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

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

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.
You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:

"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God" (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable.
We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in
our Joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is 11-10-24 Pentecost Week 26, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
Veterans Weekend

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: 1 Kings 17:10-16 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 324

Responsorial Psalm 146:7-10 inside this bulletin.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 224

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44 NRSV 2nd Testament page 49

*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The
NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are found in the front portion, and the 2nd
Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you, ask
someone around you to assist you. Thank you.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

Bell's 1st 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. 1st 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. 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 2nd 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.



The flower arrangement of the Cross was made and is a gift from Glenn Rathbun. Thank you, Glenn.

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 11-10-24, Pentecost Week 26, the 32nd of 34 Sundays in the Church year. Year B. The First Sunday of the New Church Year is December 1st.

We also honor our Veterans today and tomorrow, Monday, November 11, 2024, Veterans Day. The first celebration of Veterans Day was held in 1947, organized by World War II Veteran Raymond Weeks on Armistice Day, when the fighting of World War I ended at 11:00 a.m., on November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). In 1954, Congress passed the bill to change the name to Veterans Day, and President Eisenhower signed it, proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/vetday.pdf>)

The first reading and the Gospel reading focus on hope and promise. I will apply those to the political and religious days ahead. The second reading draws our attention to the role of Christ, Our High Priest, during the Church Age. I will primarily focus on this Doctrine (an unchangeable Truth revealed in Sacred Scripture) as it applies to us today.

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. Alleluia!



FIRST SONG: For You Are My God. G&P 612

For You Are My God

John Foley SJ

Refrain

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

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

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

3. Glad are my heart and my soul;
securely my body shall rest.
For you will not leave me for dead,
nor lead your beloved astray.

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

For You Are My God. G&P 612 Text based on Psalm 16. Text and music © 1970, John B. Foley, S.J. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. OCP

Octavo/Bonus Music. Onelicense Song #81275 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

+ The Candle Of Hope

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

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

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 132.





In Honor of Lost Veterans Block 5972 Panel #1

(source: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually:
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Second Song: Notebook #33 Joyful People, Come and Worship.
Text: June Norris

1) Joyful people, come and worship! Lift your happy hearts in song.
Giving praise for our church family, In God's house, where all belong.
Celebrating our uniqueness, Filled with love and pride today.
Forth we travel on faith's journey, We, who once had turned away.

2) And today we lift our voices; Of amazing love we sing,
Giving thanks and praise to Yahweh For the joy that love can bring!
Praising Jesus and the Spirit, Singing of amazing grace,
Here we see that same sweet Spirit On each sister's brother's face.

3) God, whose mercies know no boundaries; Hear our cries for liberty;
Broke the chains of fear that bound us, Lifted, loved, and set us freer!
Learning how to love each other, How to live and how to grow,
Children of God's new creation, Onward, upward, now we go!

Notebook #33 Joyful People, Come and Worship. Text: June Norris, ©1987, alt. with permission. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adpt. as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco. Licensed to Ray Of Hope Church for use in worship. Onelicense Song #121052 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. 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. ¹² Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³ Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have

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against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven
you. ¹⁴ Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together
and makes them perfect.

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

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

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

Leader - 3: The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able as we sing "The Gloria."

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

The Gloria

"Music for Worship"

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

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
4
peace to all peo - ple on earth — Glo - ry to God in the high - est —
8
We give you thanks — and praise. Al - le - lu - ia
10
We give you thanks — and praise.
12 **Verse 1**
You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly
16
Ho - ly God, we wor - ship You, we
18
give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo - ry!
21 **Refrain**
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo - ple on earth —
25
Glo - ry to God in the high - est — We give you thanks and

2

28

praise. Al-le-lu__ ia We give you thanks_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**

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

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

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

41

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

46 **Refrain**

Glo-ry to God in the high-est,___ and peace to all peo-ple on_ earth_

50

Glo - ry to God in the high - est___ We give you thanks_ and

53

praise. Al-le-lu__ ia We give you thanks_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**

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

61

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

66

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

71

Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on_ earth_

79

Glo-ry to God in the high-est_ We give you thanks_ and praise. Al-le-lu_ia

83

We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen

A_ men_ We

We give You thanks and praise!

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

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

89

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

PASTOR: Please be seated.

+ Opening Prayer

Leader-2: Please be seated. We are prepared and ready to hear the Holy

Scriptures for this Sunday worship gathering. Pray silently with me as I pray this opening prayer. (**wait a few seconds**) Come, Holy Spirit, and refresh us with a new understanding of the Holy Scriptures we are about to hear together. We ask this in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN. We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life, alleluia.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

This morning's first reading is in the Book of First Kings, chapter 17, verses 8-16. The reading is on page 324 in the first testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

⁸ Then the word of God came to him and said, ⁹ "Now go to Zarephath, a village of Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow there to supply you with food." ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When arrived at the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Could you bring me a little water in a jar for me to drink?" ¹¹ As she was going to get the water, he called out, "And please bring me a piece of bread." ¹² "As YHWH lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a couple of sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my child. We will eat it—and then we will die." ¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go home and do what you said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me; and then make something for yourself and for your child." ¹⁴ For this what YHWH, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day YHWH makes it rain on the land." ¹⁵ She went away and did what Elijah told her to do. And there was food every day for Elijah and for

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the woman and her family. ¹⁶ The jar of flour was not used up and the
jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of God spoken by
Elijah.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

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+ Psalm **** **If an introduction is needed.****** Hello. My name is
____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

Today's Psalm reading is number 146, verses seven through ten, with a
responsorial verse. Today's response is, "Praise the Lord, alleluia."

R: Praise the Lord, alleluia.

⁷It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is God who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

R: Praise the Lord, alleluia.

⁸ the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
⁹ the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

R: Praise the Lord, alleluia.

^{8c} It is the Lord who loves the just
^{9c} but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. Alleluia.

R: Praise the Lord, alleluia.

Give praise to the Living God.

To God's Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

**To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.
Both now, and for ever. Amen.**

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+ 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 in the

Book of Hebrews chapter 9, verses 24-28.

The reading is on page 224 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version Here begins the reading.

²⁴ For Christ didn't go into a holy place made by human hands, a copy of the real one. Christ went into heaven itself and now appears on our behalf in the presence of God. ²⁵ High priests of old went into the Most Holy Place every year with the blood of an animal. But Christ didn't make a self-offering more than that one time; ²⁶ otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer many times ever since the creation of the world. But now that the Consummation is upon us, Christ has appeared once and for all, to remove sin through self-sacrifice. ²⁷ It is appointed that everyone must die once and then be judged by God. ²⁸ In the same way, Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many, and then will appear a second time—not to deal with sin, but to save those who are waiting for Christ's appearing.

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 49 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 12, verses 38-44. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible.

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

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

³⁸ In his teaching, Jesus said, "Beware of the religious scholars who like to walk about in long robes, be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, ³⁹ and take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰ These are the ones who swallow the property of widows and offer lengthy prayers for the sake of appearance. They will be judged all the more severely." ⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the collection box and watched the people putting money in it, and many of the rich put in a great deal. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. ⁴³ Then Jesus called out to the disciples and said to them, "The truth is, this woman has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they have put in money from their surplus, but she has put in everything she possessed from the little she had—all she had to live on."

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 (p. 2755). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 673. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. 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

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: Br. Shawn Benedict

We are celebrating Gratitude, Appreciation, and Thankfulness for 41 years of ministry welcoming all people to the free gift of salvation.



PRIDE COUNTS AT VA (https://youtu.be/5RxQt_dSOaA)

<https://www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/index.asp>

LGBTQ+ Veterans

Hear VA staff talk about why Pride Counts at VA

VA is committed to creating a welcoming environment and improving healthcare for everyone, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Veterans. VA staff play a critical role in ensuring that LGBTQ+ Veterans receive the care they need and have earned in service to our country.

[VA LGBTQ+ Health Program Patient Education, Resources, & Outreach Materials](#)

[LGBTQ+ Veteran Health Care Patient Education](#)

https://www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/VA_LGBT_Outreach.asp

[LGBTQ+ VCC Locator Tool](#) (

<https://www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/VAFacilities.asp>)

[LGBTQ+ Health Program TRANSGENDER DIRECTIVE](#)

(https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=6431)

=====

Be Visible in Your Support.

VA proudly observes
Transgender Day of
Visibility.



(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IS_IN6O0Zg)



**STATE OF NEW YORK
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Albany, New York

August 27, 2024

AMENDED CERTIFICATION

To the Boards of Elections of the State of New York:

Notice is hereby given, that as to the General Election to be held in this State on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the following proposal will be submitted to the people for their approval: Proposal Number One, an Amendment

**TEXT OF PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE, AN AMENDMENT
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY**

proposing an amendment to section 11 of article 1 of the constitution, in relation to equal protection

Section 1. Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That section 11 of article 1 of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

§ 11. a. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed [or], religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy, be subjected to any discrimination in [his or her] their civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state, pursuant to law.

~~November 6, 2024 (revised 3:50 p.m.)~~ Updated: Saturday, November 9, 2024

Dear Saints,

The Lord is with you!

Here is an update on my pastoral letter from November 6, 2024. As of this morning, Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., 89.6 percent of 161.42 million registered voters participated in the November 5th election.

Fortunately, 43.6 percent of registered voters in the USA 70,357,568 (47.9% of those who voted) did vote in line with the principles in our Statement of Purpose.

As of today, 46 percent of registered voters, 74,264,589 (50.5% of those who voted), won the election and rejected some of the principles aligned with our Statement of Purpose.

Additionally, 10.4 percent, or 16,797,843 registered voters, did not vote in this election, a large number of people who perhaps believe their vote does not count.

We are fortunate to be accompanied by 70.5 million people on "our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential" as we pray at the end of the Ray Of Hope Church Sunday Liturgy. We have 90 million people, approximately 91,062,432, or about 56.4 percent of registered voters, as our mission field, starting with our next-door or downstairs neighbors, co-workers, friends, and families. The heroic mission work is all around us. The harvest is plenty; the seeds are ready to be sown; some that were sown need a fresh drink of the water of the Holy Spirit, and some need some loving care. We know how to do this work, and we understand the message that is needed.

Remember, Scripture exhorts us to:

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-24)

In addition to the 70.5 million people who voted for equality and liberty for all people at the National level, we are very grateful for the passage of Proposal 1 in New York State, amending the New York State Constitution to expand antidiscrimination and equal protection rights to include ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive health care. Proposal 1 aligns the New York State Constitution more with the Ray Of Hope [Statement of Purpose](#).

The Church is to be present in the world until Christ returns. On the night of his betrayal, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Holy Father" (John 17:11)

"¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify^[] them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." (John 17:14-18)

Saints, we are called to be in the world. We know the world system is not motivated to give honor and glory to God, in Christ, and through the working of the Holy Spirit. The goals of the Republican Party, as expressed in Project 2025, and many words that the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect have publically spoken in the last two months have won the support of 50.5% of those who voted on November 5, 2024.

I have warned for all the twenty-eight years that you have elected me to serve as your Appointed Pastor, that Postmillennial Theology in its new form that began to take shape in the 1930s but crystallized in the mid-1970s, known today as Reconstructionist postmillennialism, Christian Theonomy, Christian Nationalism, Dominion Theology, Christian Reconstructionism (see: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmillennialism>), and most recently the NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Apostolic_Reformation), with its Seven Mountain Mandate (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Mountain_Mandate) would eventually prevail as it has in this election, and will now be used to attempt to govern our Country. Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson is a prominent participant and leader in this movement. Judges and even Supreme Court Judges participate in the postmillennial movement (as identified by one or all of the names listed above). The laypeople and clergy in this "Conservative" Theological/political movement are well-educated in its principles. They have won this election, period.

As your Pastor, I will increase my efforts to educate you in a more healthy and honest Theology and give you the tools to inform those who have fallen victim to the idea that being nice, honest, and secular is where leadership will prevail against the current dominant system.

It is Christ's will that we are in the world but not of the world, and we must follow His example and leadership on how to do that.

In closing, the Scriptures exhort us:

⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10)

This morning, we are very grateful Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. is here, present, and ready to serve. Take time to appreciate each other and to be thankful for each person who steps up and stands tall for this Gospel of Christ we have been called to proclaim. You are a wonderful, special, generous, and faithful Congregation of Christ Jesus, Our Lord. The Lord is with you, and we will stand up and be counted with Jesus for the Love of God and equality for all.

See you at the Table of the Lord.

Brother Benedict, Appointed Pastor,

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. (11-6-24, 11-9-24)

FURTHER READING

[Prop 1 explained, in painstaking detail](#)

[If you still have any questions about the state Equal Rights Amendment, we've hopefully got you covered.](#)

[\(https://www.cityandstateny.com/policy/2024/10/prop-1-explained-painstaking-detail/400663/ \)](https://www.cityandstateny.com/policy/2024/10/prop-1-explained-painstaking-detail/400663/)

In both the first reading and the Gospel reading we discern the Doctrine that when we are poor in spirit, not haughty, but giving and trusting in God's presence; we will always be sustained by the eternal creating strength of God. Though the widow could see she barely had enough flour and oil to feed herself and her son, she obeyed the voice of God made known through the Prophet Elijah and made bread for her guest. What happened then? God continued to provide for all of them for many days.

1 Kings 17 ¹⁵ She went away and did what Elijah told her to do. And there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ The jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of God spoken by Elijah.

Likewise, when Jesus saw a poor elderly trusting in God by giving her gift, though she had nothing extra, he saw her heart, he saw her spirit, he saw her deep love and trust that God would provide.

Mark 12: ⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the collection box and watched the people putting money in it, and many of the rich put in a great deal. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. ⁴³ Then Jesus called out to the disciples and said to them, "The truth is, this woman has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they have put in money from their surplus, but she has put in everything she possessed from the little she had—all she had to live on."

Book of Hebrews chapter 9, verses 24-28.

The reading is on page 224 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version Here begins the reading.

²⁴ For Christ didn't go into a holy place made by human hands, a copy of the real one. Christ went into heaven itself and now appears on our behalf in the presence of God. ²⁵ High priests of old went into the Most Holy Place every year with the blood of an animal. But Christ didn't make a self-offering more than that one time; ²⁶

otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer many times ever since the creation of the world. But now that the Consummation is upon us, Christ has appeared **once and for all, to remove sin** through self-sacrifice. ²⁷ It is appointed that **everyone must die once and then be judged by God.** ²⁸ In the same way, Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many, and then will appear a second time—not to deal with sin, but to save those who are waiting for Christ's appearing.

We have what little we have by the Grace and will of God. We are inspired to invest ourselves to the spread of the message of God's radical welcome to all people by the love we experience with God.

In the Gloria we pray: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. This second reading tells us the first appearing of Christ was to "take away the sin of the world." The second appearing of Christ will be to save those who are waiting for His appearing. This event is known as the Blessed Hope, or First Resurrection, and nicknamed the rapture from the Latin version of the verse.

*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE: Hurricanes, floods, war, disease and healing, prayers for Annie and Gary -car accident, Josef Post for healing and guidance, who else should we pray for?

Lisa: 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. (<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Worship.htm>)

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: NOTEBOOK #93 Lord I Lift Your Name On High. Words and Music by Rick Founds

Verse

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

Chorus

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I Lift Your Name On High. Words and Music by Rick Founds

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Leader - 3: (**You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We 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.



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
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.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Leader - 3: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the Bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this Bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and

commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for our physical and spiritual well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

Leader - 1: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

WORDS OF INSTITUTION SONG: Remember Me. Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Kaiden: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who Art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily
Bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales



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: Alleluia composed by Jerry Sinclair

- 1) Alleluia
- 2) Lord, we praise you.
- 3) Lord, we thank you.
- 4) Alleluia

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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

General Offering for the week of October 20 \$295.00 Attendance 19 on Sunday
Wednesday, October 23, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of October 27 \$840.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday
Wednesday, October 30, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of November 3 \$1,300.00 Attendance 19 on Sunday
Wednesday, October 6, Attendance 6

**** Special Gifts this week****

****Recent Special Gifts****

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

Kaiden Benedict made a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you.

Br. Benedict made a \$640.00 to the Building Fund. Thank you.

Thanks is overdue for a TV/Monitor Katrina donated for our use. It is currently in the Frasier Room.
Thank you, Katrina.

Thank you Travis Askins for repairing our access elevator gate and making it safe again. We
appreciate your talent.

Thank you, Ed Askins for your donation to the Building Fund of \$40.00

Veronica's Family: Denise Robinson, Diane Housley, Tejuana McMillian, Tami Whatley and
Veronica Floyd donated \$325.00 to the Building Improvement Fund. Thank you, all of you.

Thank you, Katrina, for welcoming Kaiden, Brother, and Christina into your home for nearly half of
the week when it was so cold as we waited for the boiler to be fixed. It was very kind of you to
welcome us and to share with us your talents at cooking.

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

An Anonymous Donation of \$200.00 was made for the boiler repairs. Thank you, Donor.

An Anonymous Donation of \$500.00 was made for the boiler repairs. Thank you, Donor.

Thank you Katrina and Kaiden, for the deep cleaning on Saturday.

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.

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

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

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 and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

Sunday, November 10, Worship 10:30 a.m. Veterans Day Weekend

November 11, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

November 12, Tuesday NAACP meets, therefore the Bible Enrichment 7:15 - 8:45 p.m.

November 13, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

Sunday, November 17, Worship 10:30 a.m.

November 18, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

November 19, Tuesday NAACP meets so Bible Enrichment 7:15 - 8:45 p.m.

November 20, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES

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 Wk 4 Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter, Mary, - purple

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

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 MASS????** 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 WORSHIP???????????

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 7, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith
Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads
Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)
Inquiries Class #4 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible
Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

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

APRIL 13, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 AM HOLY WEEK
APRIL 17, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 PM
APRIL 18, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 PM
APRIL 19, 2023 GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OUR EASTER EVENT MEMBERSHIP

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day
June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday
June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira
June 8, Sunday Pentecost
June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning
June 15, Sunday, Father's Day and 29th Ordination Anniversary
June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)
June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY

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

Update 11/09/2024

Praise Report:

Dear Friends and Members, it is with praise and thanksgiving to God that I can report to you that the boiler has been repaired and ALL the invoices have been paid for the repair!! The total amount paid for four invoices billed was \$5,960.75 which came out of the building improvement account. Thanks to your generosity in making this possible. This was an emergency repair in which we had to use a majority of the money we had in the account. The initial purpose of the account was to set aside funds for painting and repairing the external siding on the building and we will need to replenish the account to make these needed repairs in the Spring.

Please keep this in mind future donations will definitely be needed. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you for your past donations and we thank you in advance for future donations.

On behalf of the council,

Veronica Floyd, Clerk of Ray Of Hope Church, Inc.
380 W. 1st St.
Elmira, NY 14901
rayofhopechurch@aol.com
www.rayofhopechurch.com

Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2024.

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of the month of September, 2024 was \$265.34. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$3,008.50. Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 4 week was paid, Verizon \$62.13. Children's Choir reimbursement to the building fund was done of \$200.00, Cyrus bill for annual web hosting of \$450.00 and Paypal charges of \$15.44 came out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$1,016.27. Undeposited funds went into this account 10/3 of 122.66.

Building Fund opening balance was \$1,341.34. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$700.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00 and transferred in \$200 from the General Fund. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$62.01, electric \$233.92, gas bill \$253.00, transferred \$450.00 for Cyrus as stated above and the original check of \$200.00 for the Children's Choir was written from this account. I also transferred \$200.00 into savings to save for the liability insurance bill that will be due the beginning of December. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,242.41.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$2,452.49. Donations to this account for this month were as follows: Ian and Christina \$436.50 the beginning of September, Lisa Frost \$1,000.00, Ed & Phyl Askins \$500.00 and Evan & Kate Hansen \$500.00. The ending balance on this account is \$4,888.99. Undeposited funds went into this account on 10/3 of \$627.34 from Ian and Christina.

Savings (Council) Account opening balance \$43.65. I transferred in \$200.00 from the building to cover the upcoming liability insurance payment, so the ending balance in this account is \$243.65.

These balances do equal the ending bank balances.

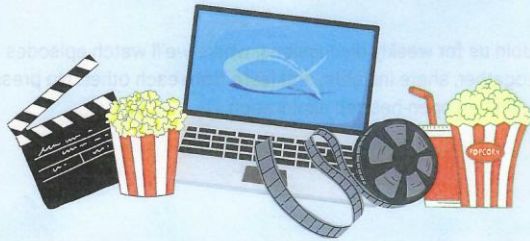
This report was given at the October 22 meeting of the Council by Mr. Edward Askins, Council Treasurer.

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.

Join Geneva Presbytery
in Worship
1:30 PM, Tue. Nov. 19, 2024

The Swing Street Sextet



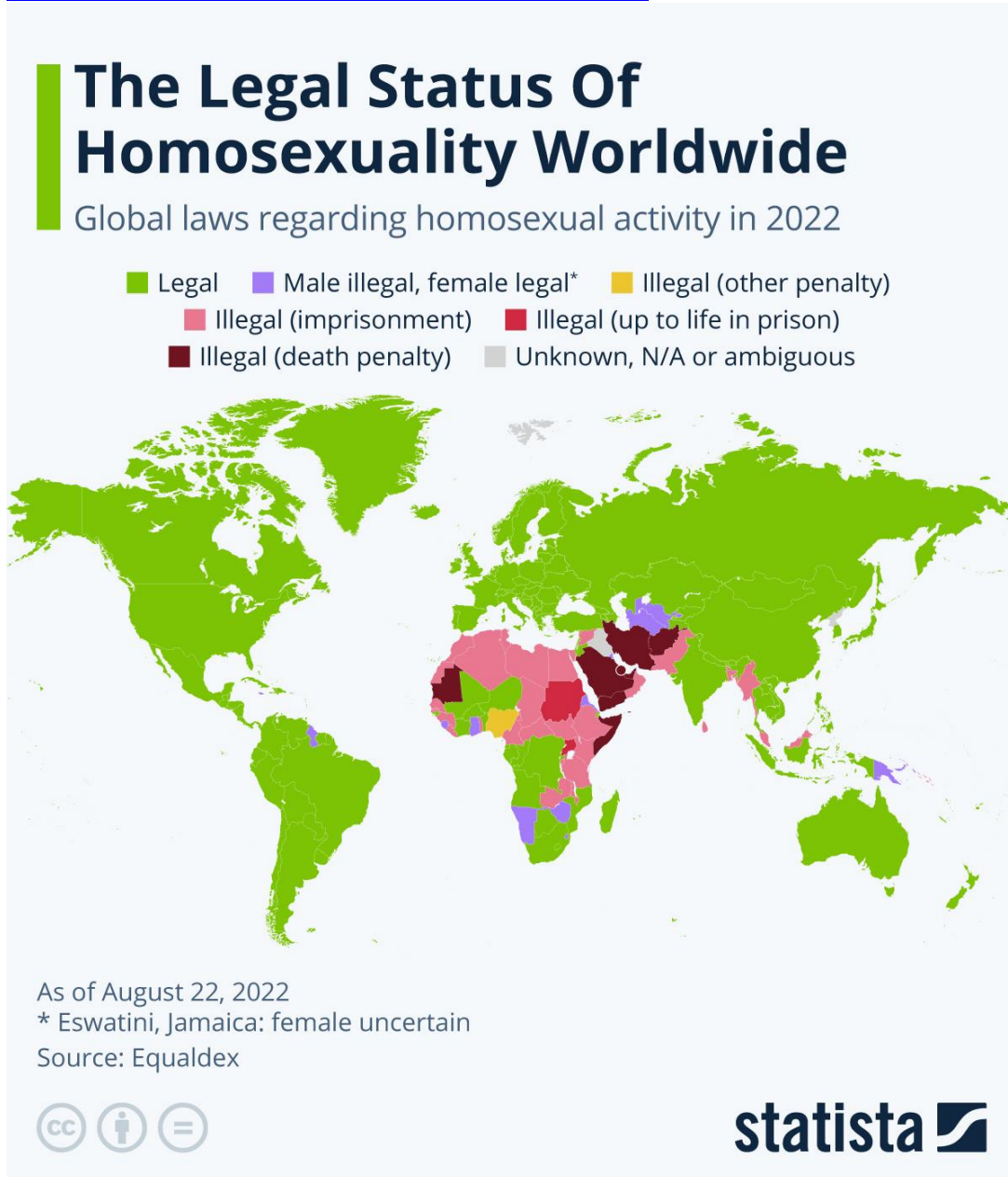
The First Presbyterian
Church of Elmira
presents a joy filled
exuberant service of
worship and praise.

Come, worship, be
energized and refreshed
for your many acts of
service.

1054 West Clinton St.
Elmira NY 14905
607 734-1614

With gratitude to Corky and Lynn Klinko for
their generous contributions of music.

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!

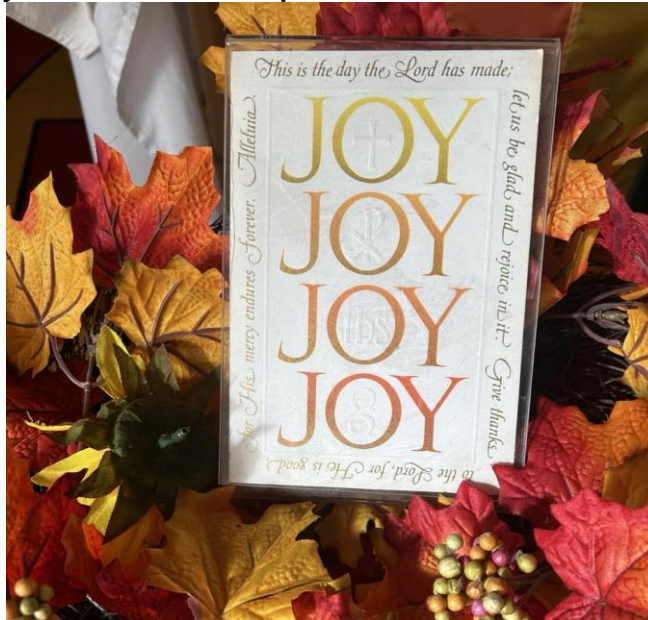
ALL: And also with you!

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

11-10-24 Pent. Wk 26, 32nd Sunday Ordinary Time Veterans Weekend. Yr. B Page 43 of 48
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: G&P 542

Here I Am, Lord. Words and Music by Dan Schutte

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin

My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.

Whom shall I send?

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP.
All rights reserved. G&P 542 **Here I Am, Lord. Words and Music by Dan Schutte.** Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and Music ©1981, OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song #80670 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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."



11-10-24 Pent. Wk 26, 32nd Sunday Ordinary Time Veterans Weekend. Yr. B Page 46 of 48
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. 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

—————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)

