



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Fortieth year of Ministry.

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

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for a time of refreshments and sharing.

Today is November 13, 2022 Pentecost 24, Yr. C

Eschatology, 1st of 6 Sundays

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-3 2nd Test. pg 890 in NRSV

** Chpt 4:1-6 are Chpt 3:19-24 in Hebrew (R.C. Lectionary)

Responsorial Psalm 98:5-9 in this bulletin

Second Reading: 2 Thes 3:6-13 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 207

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 85

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



CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1st St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) The bell is rung before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the world through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. Online visitors may email rayofhopechurch@aol.com to be added to our email list. Write "email list" in the Subject. Visitors in the chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box.

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

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

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

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



Bell's 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

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

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

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

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

ALL: Amen

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

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor:

Ray Of Hope Church began on 10/31/1983. We are now in our fortieth year of Ministry.

We are celebrating our 40th year of ministry.

Changes in the Order of Worship.

The readings scheduled for today launch us into the season where we review Eschatology, the study of the final events of modern times described in the Scriptures. This year, therefore, we will have six Sundays of Eschatology, counting today.

We stop and pray for all the people in the war still raging in Ukraine. We pray for an end to these hostilities that started approximately 270 days ago. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

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

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

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

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

Leader -5: The title is "Creation."

Praised are You, Adonai our God, ruler of the world,

All: Forming light, creating darkness, making peace, creating all.

Leader -5: All shall thank you, and all shall praise you,

All: and all shall proclaim: "There is no Holy like our God."

Leader – 5: God lovingly gives light to the earth and all who dwell there;

All: and in goodness renews the work of creation continually, day by day.

Leader- 5: How manifold are your works, Adonai;

All: in wisdom You made them all; the earth is full of Your creations.

(Siddur Kol Ami For Shabbat and Festivals, page 69

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

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

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

FIRST SONG:

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope in honor of the "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. **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: While lighting the Candle Of Hope, it is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS. Unfortunately, the churches rejected many sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who needed spiritual guidance.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Today we are reading the names on Block #54.

- Hank Sharp (1)
- David Maynard (2)
- Rock Hudson (3)
- Philip Dimitri Galas (4)
- Milton Criger (5)
- Larry Gurel (6)
- Jon Sims (7)
- Gray Vasse (8)

We remember them here and pray for their families.

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

ALL: Amen

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

SECOND SONG:



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting one another, and praising God in song, we now prepare our hearts to accept renewal when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. In preparation, we silently confess our sins to Christ and receive the forgiveness He promises to give us.
(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended anyone, and God, in any way. **Therefore**, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

L-4: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Loving God, you challenge us to be the people who long for and love your future promised return. The burdens of life can easily dim our resolve. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Christ Jesus, you have called us to be sisters and brothers in you. At times we find it challenging to extend unconditional acceptance to others. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

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

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

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

ALL: Amen.

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

Spoken:

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

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

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord of all,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

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

+ Opening Prayer

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

ALL: AMEN.

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

The first reading is the Second Book of Malachi, Chapter 4, verses one through three, if your Bible is based on the Hebrew Bible. The NRSV pew edition is based on the Hebrew and the reading is on page 890 in the first Testament. If your Bible is based on the Septuagint the reading is Chapter 3, verses nineteen through twenty-four. Here begins the reading:

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Psalm

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

The Psalm today is number 98, verses five through nine. Today's response is, " The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice."

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Let the sea and what fills it resound,
the world and those who dwell in it;
let the rivers clap their hands,
the mountains shout with them for joy.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to rule the earth,
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with equity.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

+ 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 the Second Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 3, verses six through thirteen on page 207 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

Warning against Idleness

⁶ Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

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

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

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Luke, chapter 21, verses five through nineteen on page 85 in the second testament of the NRSV 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 Luke.

ALL: **Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be in our (+) minds that we will understand it, on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

(The Destruction of the Temple Foretold)

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, ⁶"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

(Signs and Persecutions)

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. ⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the
 5 Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!
 9 You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our
 13 joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!
 17 For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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+ Sermon

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.
 The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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

Sermon Notes November 13, 2022

Luke 21: 7⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Matthew 24:3
New King James Version

The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

We are continuing in our 40th year. **ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 1 of 6**

Next Sunday, November 20 is the end of the Lectionary year, the Feast of Christ the

King.

The following Sunday, November 27 is the First Sunday of Advent Year A – purple. Our Pride Sunday in the Winter, Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday will be December 11. Gaudete Sunday will feel early this year.

This Tuesday evening, November 15 there will not be a Bible Enrichment scheduled.

This Thursday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. Jewish Center and Federation: Rabbi Mitelman: "Has Science Replaced God?"

Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment Pre-Adamic World, the Gap Theory, the Pre-Adamite World.

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."

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm>

Eschatology: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_eschatology

Christian eschatology is a major branch of study within Christian theology.

Eschatology, from two Greek words meaning "last" (ἔσχατος) and "study" (-λογία), is the study of 'end things', whether the end of an individual life, the end of the age, the end of the world and the nature of the Kingdom of God.

There are four dogmatic understandings of the one thousand year, or millennial, or Kingdom of Christ that denominations hold.

Remember, Dogmas are required beliefs that may change very slowly, even over hundreds of years. Dogmas are decided by the religious authority and are not dependent on being stated in the sacred writing, in our case, the Bible.

Four dogmatic understandings of the "kingdom of Christ."

- 1) Amillennial
- 2) Postmillennial
- 3) Premillennial

4) Spiritual

=====

Reminder: Ray Of Hope Church does not have a declared dogmatic position on eschatology. Each person is free to accept any understanding of eschatology. The position I have found to be the most logical and faithful to the Scriptures is Premillennial Eschatology. One very convincing factor in my acceptance of a premillennial view is this was taught from the beginning of the church until the middle of the fifth century. The reasons for abandoning the premillennial view had little to do with Scripture and were deeply bound up in politics.

In the 18th and 19th centuries a re-evaluation of eschatology led many theologians to a renewed commitment to the premillennial view of eschatology.

1) Amillennial

The a- in amillennialism negates the term; hence, amillennialism means there will not be a literal, future millennium. Amillennialists do not deny the literal return of Christ, but they reject a literal thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth. According to amillennialism, the kingdom of God is present in the church age, and at the consummation of the present age, the eternal state is inaugurated without any intervening millennium.⁸² For this reason some amillennialists suggest a term such as realized millennialism to indicate that they do not deny a millennium but believe it is fulfilled entirely in the present age.⁸³

Enns, Paul P. . The Moody Handbook of Theology (p. 409). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Amillennialists teach that the purpose of Christ's return is for "introducing the future age, the eternal state of things." ⁸⁷ This will be accomplished by the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment.

Enns, Paul P. . The Moody Handbook of Theology (p. 410). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

2) Postmillennial

Postmillennialism may be defined as "that view of the last things which holds that the Kingdom of God is now being extended in the world through the preaching of the Gospel and the saving work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of individuals, that the world eventually is to be

Christianized, and that the return of Christ is to occur at the close of a long period of righteousness and peace commonly called the 'Millennium.'" 99

Enns, Paul P. . The Moody Handbook of Theology (p. 413). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

The millennium.100 Postmillennialism adopts an optimistic view with respect to this present age, envisioning a golden age of progress in the church age that affects every dimension of life: economic, social, cultural, and political. Postmillennialism envisions a church triumphant, spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth with the result that "evil in all its many forms eventually will be reduced to negligible proportions, that Christian principles will be the rule, not the exception, and that Christ will return to a truly Christianized world." 101

Enns, Paul P. . The Moody Handbook of Theology (p. 413). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Extremist view: Dominion Theology, Christian Reconstructionism

Book: Dominion Theology, Blessing or Curse? ©1988 by J. Wayne House and Thomas D. Ice. Published by Multnomah Press Portland, Oregon 97229 (https://www.amazon.com/Dominion-Theology-Blessing-Christian-Reconstructionism/dp/0880702613/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=Dominion+Theology&qid=1606050333&sr=8-6) Pg. 73

"One of the most controversial elements of theonomy is the advocacy of re-establishing the Mosaic penal system. What should this mean? Most prominently, the death penalty for at least the following crimes: murder, gross negligence resulting in the death of another, rape, adultery, apostasy, homosexuality, bestiality, gross incorrigibility in children, idolatry, and perhaps sabbath-breaking.Another controversy is the issue of stoning..... First, stones are plentiful at almost no cost. Second, no single blow can be traced to any person, reducing feelings of guilt. Third, it displays collective responsibility for crime prevention. Fourth, executions should be public and personal. Fifth, it is symbolic of God's crushing the head of Satan, as prophesied in Genesis 3:5."

3) Premillennial – Church Age is before the Millennial Reign Of Christ.

4) Spiritual – Details do not matter. There may be a kingdom, there may not be one,

First Reading Malachi Chapter 4: 1-6

1103 MALACHI, 3

19 For lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble, And the day that is coming will set them on fire, leaving them neither root nor branch, says the LORD of hosts.^x

20 But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays; And you will gambol like calves out of the stall

21 and tread down the wicked;^y They will become ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day I take action, says the LORD of hosts.

22 Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I enjoined upon him on Horeb, The statutes and ordinances for all Israel.^z

23 Lo, I will send you Elijah,* the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day,

24 To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers,^a Lest I come and strike the land with doom.

Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the LORD comes, the great and terrible day.*

15 Now we count the arrogant happy evildoers not only prosper, but when they put God to the test they escape.

The Reward of the Faithful

16 Then those who revered the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD took note and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who revered the LORD and thought on his name. 17 They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them.

18 Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

The Great Day of the LORD

4^o See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. 3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

4 Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 Lo, I will send you the prophet E-I'jah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.^p

^mOr right offerings to the LORD
ⁿHeb devourer ^oCh 4.1-6 are Ch 3.19-24 in Heb ^pOr a ban of utter destruction

1) Page 1290 of your Scofield III Bibles the outline reads: "The Coming Day of the Lord and the Return of Christ, 4:1-6." This is a premillennial, literal understanding of this reading. Notice the chain reference to the left; "Day (of the Lord) 4:1. The summary is at Revelation 19:19

4:1

e Day (of the
LORD): 3:17-4:6;
Matt. 24:29. (Ps.
2:9; Rev. 19:19,
note)

Between the ^crighteous and the
wicked,
Between one who serves ^dGod
And one who does not serve
Him.

*VI. The Coming Day of the LORD
and the Return of Christ, 4:1-6*

4 "FOR behold, the day is
^ecoming,
Burning like an oven,
And all the proud, yes, all who
do wickedly will be stubble. •

19:19 THE DAY OF THE LORD, SUMMARY

The Day of the LORD is that period of time when God openly intervenes in the affairs of men—in judgment and in blessing. See Joel 1:15, *note*. It will begin with the translation of the Church and will terminate with the cleansing of the heavens and the earth preparatory to the bringing into being of the new heavens and the new earth.

The order of events appears to be:

(1) the rapture of the Church just preceding the beginning of the Day of the LORD (1 Thess. 4:13–17);

(2) the fulfillment of Daniel's seventieth week (Dan. 9:27), the latter half of which is the great tribulation (Matt. 24:21; see Rev. 7:14, *note*);

(3) the return of the Lord in glory to establish the millennial kingdom (Matt. 24:29–30);

(4) the destruction of the beast, the false prophet, and their armies, which is the "great and awesome" aspect of the day (Rev. 19:11–21);

(5) the judgment of individual Gentiles according to their treatment of Christ's brethren, the Jewish people (Zech. 14:1–9; Matt. 25:31–46) and the judgment of Israel (Ezek. 20:34–38);

(6) the millennial reign of Christ on earth (Rev. 20:4–6);

(7) the satanic revolt and its judgment (Rev. 20:7–10);

(8) the resurrection and final judgment of the wicked (Rev. 20:11–15);

(9) the destruction of the present earth and heaven by fire preparatory for the future "day of God" (2 Pet. 3:10–12); and

(10) the creation of the new heavens and the new earth (Is. 65:17–19; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1).

3) Page 1290 outline: *"Elijah to come again before the day of the day of the Lord (cp. Rev. 11:3-6)*

Notice also the notes to the right at **4:5** Matt 11:10-14; 17:11-13 and the note at **4:6** Luke 1:17

4:5

*Elijah to come again before
the day of the LORD (cp. Rev. 11:3-6)*

5 Behold, I will send you ⁱElijah
the prophet 4:6
Before the coming of the great j-Luke 1:17
and dreadful day of the
LORD.

6 And he will /turn
The hearts of the fathers to the
children,
And the hearts of the children
to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike the earth
with a curse.”

*3:17 Literally *special treasure*

Matthew 11:10-14
New King James Version

¹⁰ For this is *he* of whom it is written:
'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.'
¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has
not risen one **greater than John the Baptist**; but he who is **least in**
the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² And from the days of
John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence
and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the prophets and the law
prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to receive *it*, **he**
is Elijah who is to come.

Matthew 17:11-13 **See below:**
New King James Version

¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is
coming ^[a]first and will restore all things. ¹² But I say to you that
Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him
whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to
suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He
spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:17

New King James Version

¹⁷ He will also go before Him in **the spirit and power of Elijah**, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Matthew 16:27-17:13

New King James Version

²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. ²⁸ Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount

17 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and **Elijah** appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, ^[a]let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for **Elijah**."

⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" ⁶ And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." ⁸ When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

¹⁰ And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that **Elijah must come first**?"

¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, **Elijah is coming** ^[b]**first and will restore all things.** ¹² But I say to you that **Elijah has come already**, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of **John the Baptist.**

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Are we eagerly waiting for Jesus? Are we waiting for the tooth fairy, easter bunny, santa claus, a visiting dignitary, the love of my life, the perfect job.... what are we waiting for and eagerly looking forward to?



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

Leader – 3: Oh God, thank you for giving us another week of ministry and service. In thanksgiving, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: We give you thanks and praise for the changing times and seasons we enjoy; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war. We ask God to

heal and strengthen the people traumatized by the destruction of their homes, schools, and towns. For these intentions, we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Leader – 4: We thank you for this election cycle in which people participated with dignity, honesty, and reasonably; we pray to the Lord.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader -2: We ask your blessing on all people suffering from climate change's effects, especially the loss of sources of food and shelter. We pray to the Lord.

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

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

Leader – 3: We bless you, Almighty God, for all the people who have come through the doors of Ray Of Hope Church. We give you thanks

for each person and organization that hosted our Congregation before we occupied our building in 2003. We thank you for every person who has labored in any way for this ministry. As we continue in the 40th year of ministry, we ask for your grace and guidance to remain faithful to this unique work of the Gospel; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

ALL: Amen



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

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

****** Leader:**

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

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

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

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

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

SONG:

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

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Kaiden: Please gently hold the communion kit in your hands for the next two prayers. Those at home with bread please lift it now.

(*The Pastor may invite someone to say this prayer out loud.*)

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Kaiden: Please set down your bread. In the chapel, please continue to hold your communion kit.

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.

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
10 high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high est.
16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
22 Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho -
27 san - na in the high est.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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

ALL: Further, Jesus also said: "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these because I am going to God. I will do

whatever you ask in my name so that God may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." (John 14:12-14)

Cheryl: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that 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**

Cheryl: You may relax your arms and hands.

Pastor: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29,36) Behold Jesus truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this Cup though they die shall live forever. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

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



The Reception of Holy Communion

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Leader-1: Push down on the tab of your kits. Open the first seal and remove the bread. Please lift the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation, and together we will say our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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

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

Leader-1: We are not going to open the seal on the cup just yet. Please lift now the cup of salvation, and together we will say:

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

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

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith

Leader-2: We proclaim our faith together.

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

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

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

Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

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

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to You. Al - migh - ty
5 God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia
11 A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

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+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Veronica Floyd: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Veronica Floyd: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

SONG:

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

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

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

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

General Offering for the week of October 23 \$168.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6
General Offering for the week of October 30 \$1043.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6
General Offering for the week of November 6 \$ 873.14 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7
****Special Gifts recently given.****
We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 15, NO BIBLE ENRICHMENT SCHEDULED

November 17 Thursday 7:30 p.m. Jewish Center and Federation: Rabbi Mitelman: "Has Science Replaced God?"

November 18 Friday 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting– Budget planning

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

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

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

December 1 Thursday World AIDS Day.

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

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

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

December 13 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY December 25 NATIVITY

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

December 26 Monday Hanukkah ends at sunset.

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

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

8:45 PM service online

December 27 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

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

8:45 PM service online

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

8:45 PM service online

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

8:45 PM service online

December 31 Saturday no service

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

January 8 Sunday Epiphany



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: Amen

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

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

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

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

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

=====

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

*** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five

years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or **RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.
We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING** church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.
WE ARE YOU!
THIS is the church where **YOU** belong.
Ray Of Hope Church is the church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.
Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)



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

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

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

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is really present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this

Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

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

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

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

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

mottos, when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien; "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

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

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .
Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.
Syracuse Worship- looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information
[Click Here](#).

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery.
Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15
PM. [Click Here](#).

**** to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374***

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our web site;

http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. All of our regular services will be blended with live participation in the chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the world,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the world around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

Visit us on line:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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