



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 27, 2022 Advent Week I Year A

The Candle of Hope

Eschatology, 3rd of 6 Sundays



World AIDS Day Remembrance

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: Isaiah 2:1-5 1st Test. pg 631 in NRSV

Responsorial Psalm 122:1-9 in this bulletin

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 162

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 27

***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.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Ribbon.svg



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. Also, today, if you have a four candle Advent Wreath or a Yule log bring those to your table. Find a little branch of pine or something you can sprinkle it with, and another dish of water. We will use the branch and dish of water during a special blessing we will have today.



Lars Jacob for Ristesson Southerly Clubs donated this picture to the Public Domain.
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christmas_decor_2014_Sweden_\(1\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christmas_decor_2014_Sweden_(1).JPG)

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 celebrating the fifth Sunday in our 40th year of ministry.

Welcome to the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira, NY, and the world.

Dictionary.com: <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/woke>

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Romans 13:11 "Now is the time to WAKE from your SLEEP."

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, the definition of "woke" is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware. Source: Dictionary.com In Theological terms: Awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, supporting persons of all Religions and faiths and those with no faith or religion. See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more support of these ideas. Right Click Here: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

Today is November 27, 2022, Advent Week I, Year A
The Candle of Hope
Eschatology, 3rd of 6 Sundays



35th World AIDS Day December 1, 2022

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Ribbon.svg

The U.S. Government's theme for World AIDS Day 2022 is "Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End H.I.V." "First observed in 1988, World AIDS Day is a time to honor those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses across the globe and recommit to ending the H.I.V. epidemic." White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) (<https://www.hiv.gov/blog/onaps-harold-phillips-discusses-the-theme-of-world-aids-day-2022>) It has been 41 years since the first five cases of what later became known as AIDS was officially reported in June of 1981. (<https://www.hiv.gov/blog/world-aids-day-2021-ending-hiv-epidemic-equitable-access-everyone-s-voice>)

The virus was identified in 1984. Since then, "more than 35 million people have died of H.I.V. or AIDS-related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history." (<https://www.worldaidsday.org/about/>) (<https://www.worldaidsday.org/2022-campaign/>)

Today is the start of a new Liturgical Year, the beginning of Year A in the Sunday Readings Cycle. There will be changes in the Order of Worship as we will have the Advent Wreath on the four Sundays of Advent.

Who uses the Revised Common Lectionary of readings and follows the seasons of the church year?

- American Baptist Churches/U.S.A.
- Anglican Church of Canada
- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Reformed Church in North America
- Church of the Brethren
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
- Mennonite Church
- North American Lutheran Church
- Polish National Catholic Church
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Presbyterian Church in Canada
- Reformed Church in America
- The Episcopal Church
- The United Methodist Church
- Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship
- United Church of Canada
- United Church of Christ
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Read more information about the Common Lectionary:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/faq2.php>

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 284 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.

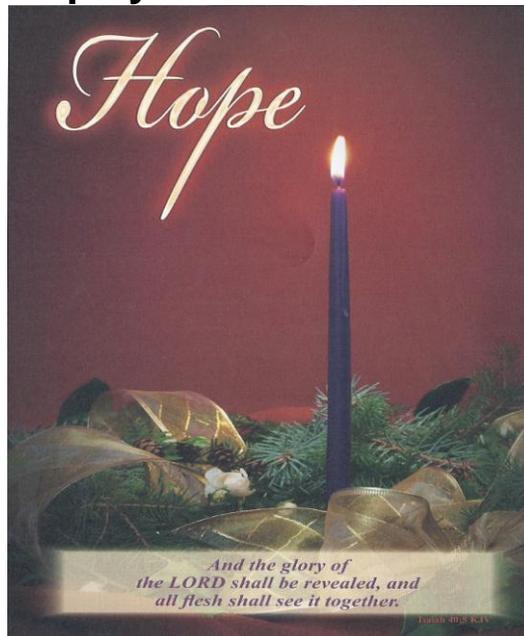
Pastor: We begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG Prepare Ye, The Way Of The Lord.

Text of the song: Prepare Ye, the way of the Lord.

+ The Advent Wreath Week 1 – the candle of Hope with the World AIDS Day Ribbon displayed.



Leader -3: Please be seated. Today we begin the Advent season, the beginning of a new year in the Church. We start over in the cycle of Sunday Scripture readings to listen anew to the living Word of God. Advent is a time of renewal, fresh beginnings, of ages old, present, and future.

ALL: This is also a season of longing, filled with expectation, excited by hope, sprinkled with potential and promise.

Leader -2: The evergreen on the wreath reminds us of the eternal promises of God's sustaining grace. God is faithful and will fulfill every promise made in Scripture. The four candles remind us of our place in time as we move forward in God's plan. Each candle has a name and a theme.



The first candle is purple and is named for Hope. On the first candle we also have the Red AIDS Ribbon for World AIDS Day.

The second candle is also purple and is named for Peace.

The third candle is rose color and is for Joy, it is when we shall celebrate Pride in the Winter, Gaudete Sunday, December 11, 2022. Gaudete is Latin for Rejoice.

The fourth candle is purple and is named for Love. On this, the 4th Sunday we will celebrate Holy Mother Mary and all Holy Women of Faith for a Mother's and Women's Day in the Winter.

Leader -1: Now, we will bless our Advent Wreath or Advent Yule Log with Holy Water. First, we dedicate and bless the water we are using. Please pick up the container with the water or touch the water, and pray silently as I pray out loud. (please wait) Dear God, we dedicate this water to you and ask you to make it Holy, setting it apart as an instrument of your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Sprinkle your Advent Wreath or your Advent Log now. If you have incense you may light it as a symbol of prayer rising before God.

Leader -4: In the book of Malachi, chapter one, verse 11, we read; "From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my Name, and a pure offering; for my Name is great among the nations, says the Lord of Hosts."

In the Gospel of Luke 1:8-11 Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was serving as priest before God. Zechariah entered "the sanctuary of the Lord and offered incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense."

In the Book of Revelation we see elders holding bowls of incense, "which are the prayers of the saints." (Revelation 5:8)

Incense is a symbol of our prayers rising up to the Lord.

ALL: "May our prayers rise before you, O Lord, as incense to the sky, the raising of our hands like an evening oblation." (Psalm 141:2)

Pastor: We pray aloud together now:

ALL: O Loving and Gracious God, we ask your Holy Spirit to bless these Advent decorations, to bless this holy season, and to bless us as we begin our journey with You anew. We dedicate ourselves and these next four weeks of Advent to you. We ask you to speak to us, guide us, and impassion our hearts with your Divine Love. We make these prayers in the Name of (*+*) God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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

Leader -2: Here we light the first candle. Please show it on your camera if you can. Thank you. (wait)

Leader -3: Thursday is December 1, World AIDS Day. Every Sunday, we light the Candle Of Hope at Ray Of Hope Church, and we read names from the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to ensure we remember those who lost their lives to the H.I.V. Virus. It just happens that the first candle on the Advent Wreath is also named Hope. So, as we sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel in just a moment, keep in mind all those who have gone before us, especially those who died of AIDS, and for the second year in a row we add those who have passed of COVID-19. We also remember everyone who has entered the divine protection of Christ through death, even this week. Scripture declares Jesus is Lord of the living and of the Dead (Romans 14:9). When Emmanuel comes to take us home, all who have died before that day will come with Him and receive their resurrection bodies.

Notice the Hymn is a promise to Israel, that is the House of Israel. We are the Church, we rejoice, yes, but we celebrate these promises to Israel. This is the "futurist" or Premillennial interpretation. Together we sing the first two verses of O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Word of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, Who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
Amen. Alleluia**

Leader -3: Together, we have begun our Advent 2022 journey.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: O Loving, Eternal, and Holy God, our hearts and minds are open to hearing these Scripture readings. May your Word cause action and change to 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 Book of Isaiah, Chapter 2, verses one through five. The reading is on page 631 in the first testament, in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

The Future House of God

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

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 122, verses one through nine, with a responsorial verse. The response today is Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Jerusalem, built as a city
with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Because of my brothers and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you!"
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will pray for your good.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

+ 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 Romans, chapter 13, verses eleven through fourteen. The reading is on page 162 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible.

Here begins the reading:

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to **wake from sleep**. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and

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put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us live honorably as in the day, not
in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and
licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on
the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to
gratify its desires.

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 Matthew, chapter 24, verses 36-44 on
page 27 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 Matthew.

**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 Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have **stayed awake** and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an **unexpected hour**.

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
 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

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 GLBTQISA2ss+ 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 27, 2022 Advent Week I

Theme: All of the promises made to Israel will be fulfilled. God's promises to Israel have not been canceled or transferred to the church, as some have theorized.

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>

Luke 21: 7 ⁷ 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 3 of 6**

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, Pastor Benedict, have found to be the most logical and faithful to the Scriptures is Premillennial Eschatology. I find it compelling that the church taught the premillennial view until the middle of the fifth century. The reasons for abandoning the premillennial approach had little to do with Scripture and were deeply bound up in politics.

Theologians re-evaluated eschatology during the 18th and 19th centuries and renewed their commitment to the premillennial position.

Dispensational premillennialism¹²⁹ can be identified through two basic features: (1) a distinction is made between God's program for Israel and His program for the church; (2) a consistently literal interpretation of the Scriptures is maintained.

Enns, Paul P. The Moody Handbook of Theology (p. 417). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

The church from the beginning was premillennial in belief. The Didache (c. A.D. 100), Clement of Rome (A.D. 96 or 97), the Shepherd of Hermas (A.D. 140–150), Ignatius of Antioch (A.D. 50–115?), Papias (A.D. 80–163), Justin Martyr (b. c. A.D. 100), Irenaeus (d. A.D. 200), Tertullian (A.D. 150–225), **and other sources indicate that the early church believed in the return of Jesus Christ to personally establish His earthly kingdom.**¹³⁰

Note 130 (Charles C. Ryrie, *The Basis of the Premillennial Faith* (Neptune, N.J.: Loizeaux, 1953), 17–26. This is an extremely valuable source in not only tracing the history of premillennialism but also explaining the hermeneutical principles and the biblical foundation of premillennialism in the unconditional covenants of the Old Testament.

Enns, Paul P. . The Moody Handbook of Theology (pp. 430-431). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.)

Enns, Paul P. . The Moody Handbook of Theology (pp. 417-418). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

The distinction between Israel and the church. The term Israel always refers to the physical posterity of Jacob; nowhere does it refer to the church.¹³² Although nondispensationalists frequently refer to the church as the "new Israel," there is no biblical warrant for doing so. Many passages indicate Israel was still regarded as a distinct entity after the birth of the church (Rom. 9:6; 1 Cor. 10:32). Israel was given unconditional promises (covenants) in the Old Testament that must be fulfilled with Israel in the millennial kingdom. The church, on the other hand, is a distinct New Testament entity born at Pentecost (1Cor. 12:13) and not existing in the Old Testament, nor prophesied in the Old Testament (Eph. 3:9). It exists from Pentecost (Acts 2) until the rapture (1 Thess. 4:13–18). Herein lies the reason for belief in the pretribulation rapture: the purpose of the tribulation is to judge unbelieving Gentiles and to discipline disobedient Israel (Jer. 30:7); the church does not have purpose or place in the tribulation.

4) Spiritual – Details do not matter. There may be a kingdom, there may not be one, perhaps it is in our hearts, in our good works, in our being together.

November 27, 2022 Readings

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5 : concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

"In the days to come...." has this happened yet?

Is the day or the time it will happen revealed?

Psalm 122 How do we go up now? How will we go up in the future?

Romans 13 off with deeds of darkness ON WITH ARMOR OF LIGHT. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH. No one knows the time of the imminent return of Christ, nick-named "the rapture." However, we will know the exact time of Christ's return to the physical earth to set up His Kingdom "on Earth as it is in Heaven." How will we know?

Advent Week I Hope— Gospel: IT WILL HAPPEN, but the time is not revealed.

=====

2) Page 1742 summary THE DAY OF THE LORD Revelation 19:19

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).

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.

2 Timothy 4:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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SOCIAL ISSUES THIS WEEK.

Article: Russian Duma gives LGBTQ 'propaganda' bill final approval

<https://www.aol.com/news/russian-duma-gives-lgbtq-propaganda-143425099.html>

Respect for Marriage Act https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respect_for_Marriage_Act

“ If passed, RFMA would officially repeal DOMA and require the federal government to recognize same-sex and interracial marriages, codifying parts of both *Obergefell* and the 1967 ruling in *Loving v. Virginia*.^[1] “

“A motion of [cloture](#) passed 62–37 in the Senate on November 16, with an overwhelming majority of Senate "nays" originating from Republican Senators representing states in the [Great Plains](#) and [Southern United States](#).^[13] “

“The final version of the bill divided American religious groups opposed to same-sex marriage;^[16] it was supported by some [evangelical Christians](#) as a suitable compromise between the [rights of LGBT couples](#) and religious liberty,^[17] a position that was similarly taken by [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#),^[18] but was prominently opposed by the [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) and the [Southern Baptist Convention](#) due to [their views on sexuality](#).^[16]”

Respect for Marriage Act H.R.8404 117th Congress:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8404>

Same-sex marriage legislation divides conservatives ahead of vote next week <https://www.aol.com/news/same-sex-marriage-legislation-divides-190506182.html>

Please read both of these.

=====



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: God, we thank you for the advances in the field of Medicine. We thank you for the people who advocate for equal access to medical treatments. We thank you for all the people who work in the healthcare field. We thank you for the volunteers and professionals who have taken care of people with H.I.V. and AIDS through the years. So many healthcare professionals offered care and compassion even before we were certain doing so would not threaten their own lives. We ask your blessing on all healthcare workers. For these intentions, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages in Ukraine whose lives have been changed forever by the war raging for about 284 days. We ask God to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by losing loved ones to war and destroying 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 our Country, the United States of America. May liberty and freedom increase for all; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader -2: We ask your blessing on all people suffering from the effects of climate change, especially the loss of food sources and shelter. We particularly remember this week the millions of people in desert regions, especially in Africa, where there is very little water. Children and women dig deep caves and tunnels into the ground to search for water. That the leaders of the World would respond to the climate emergency; 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 – 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. In the chapel, use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event. In addition, there are donation envelopes available on the hospitality table by the door.

Internet participants 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 on 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.*)

In the chapel we are using the 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 at this time. 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.

+ 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 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 |

| **General Offering** for the week of November 13 TBA (some people give monthly |
| rather than weekly) Attendance 8 |

| **General Offering** for the week of November 20 \$68.00 (some people give monthly |
| rather than weekly) Attendance 9 |

| ****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.**



Electric Menorah <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Rite-Lite-JRN-400-LED-Menorah/190846247?fulfillmentIntent=Shipping>

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 29, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment Pre-Adamic World, the Gap Theory, the Pre-Adamite World. Science is not in conflict with the Bible. The Earth is millions of old and the Bible declares it so.



December 1 Thursday World AIDS Day.

December 1 Thursday 3:15 p.m. Budget planning workshop (Council Members)

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 - **PARTY**

December 13 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

December 15 Friday @ 3:15 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)** 7:00 PM service online

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

7:00 PM service online

December 27 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

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

7:00 PM service online

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

7:00 PM service online

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

7:00 PM service online

December 31 Saturday no service

January 1 Sunday Kwanzaa **day 7 Imani (Faith)** 7:00 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.

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

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

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

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization**, **survival**, and **sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent

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



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)