



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 December 11, 2022 Advent Week III Year A

Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday, Pride In The Winter

**gaudete in Domino semper iterum dico gaudete**

Eschatology, 5th 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:** Isaiah 35:1-10 1st Test. pg 663 in NRSV

**Responsorial Psalm** 33:1-5 and Philippians 4:4

**Second Reading:** James 5:7-11 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 231

**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-11 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 11

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



## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

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



## WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the world through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. To be added to our email list, email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and 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 on the wall.

We invite everyone to 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, if you have a four candle Advent Wreath or a Yule log, bring those to your table today. We will light the second candle during the worship 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. People 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. People watching on Skype find 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 and the Skype link are on our website's front page. Look for the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.



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

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

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

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

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor:**

**Ray Of Hope Church began on 10/31/1983.**

We are celebrating the seventh Sunday in our 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. Welcome to the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira, NY, and the world.

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

**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 the third Sunday of Advent, and the theme is Joy, Rejoice Sunday. We will explain this in the brief Advent Wreath service shortly.

However, speaking of peace, we stop and pray for all the people in the war still raging in Ukraine. We pray to end these hostilities that started approximately 298 days ago. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

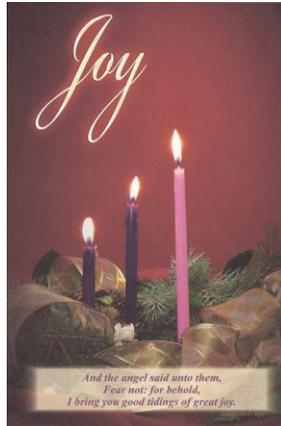
We are not here to practice a religion. One practices the piano or goes to football practice. We are here to participate in a multi-dimensional relationship with God and each other in ways far beyond our human comprehension.

**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.**



**Leader -2:** Please be seated. Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Gaude is Latin for Rejoice! Gaude, Gaude. The Alleluia Joy of God has set us free. Even the dark winter night transforms into the joyful Light of Christ.

**ALL: Rejoice! Everybody Rejoice! God is calling all people of every ethnicity, gender, orientation, and state in life into the eternal family of God. Embrace this love the God of all creation has bestowed upon us by creating us to be God's family.**

**Leader -3:** O God of eternal deep and profound Joy, we open our hearts weighed down by the burdens of life. We embrace the healing and acceptance you give to everyone who ask. Your healing is so refreshing and lovely.

**Leader -1:** With the lighting of this rose candle we begin the third week of our four-week Advent journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a new embrace of our potential.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** As you light your three Advent candles, show your Advent wreath or Advent log in your camera so we may all enjoy it. (\*wait to see candles in the camera\*) Thank you. You may return your camera to the normal position.

**Leader -2:** Together, we say the following prayer out loud.

**ALL:** Lord Jesus, you promised to give us your joy. You promised our joy would be complete when grounded in your love and peace. Empower us to carry your joy into every area of our lives, and to practice a radical Alleluia love that embraces everyone. With you, we can lift the burdens of those around us by sharing your eternal presence, compassion, peace, and profound joy. Please assist us in our mission of healing. We ask this in the name of (\*+\*) God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader -2:** Notice the Hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emanuel," is a promise to the House of Israel. We are the Church of Jesus, we do rejoice, but we celebrate the future fulfillment of these promises to Israel. This understanding is the "futurist" or Premillennial interpretation. Together we sing verses 5 and 6. Please rise as you are able.

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

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

**O come, O Day-spring from on high and cheer us by your drawing  
nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds on night, and death's dark shadow  
put to flight.**

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

**Amen, Alleluia.**

**Leader -3:** Together, we continue forward in peace, holy peace.

**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. We pray 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 35, verses one through ten. The reading is on page 663 in the first testament, in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

### **The Return of the Redeemed to Zion**

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the  
majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with  
terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and  
the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, **(Song: The Highway To  
Heaven)** and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people;

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and  
come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; **(Song: Therefore  
the Redeemed Of The Lord)**

they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**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 33, verses one through five, with a responsorial verse. The response today is the song "Rejoice in the Lord Always."

**Refrain:** Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute, play your songs.

### REFRAIN

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
play loudly, with all your skill.

For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all God's work is done in truth.

### REFRAIN

The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with love.

Praise God the Christ and Ho-ly Spirit  
both now and for-ever A-MEN.

## + 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 James, chapter 5, verses seven through eleven. The reading is on page 231 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**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 11, verses two through eleven on page 11 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.**

[ *A New Prophet Like Moses* ] "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear..." (Deut. 18:15 NKJV)

## Messengers from John the Baptist

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah was doing, John sent word by John's disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask of Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>

Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

### Jesus Praises John the Baptist

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

<sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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 LGBTQIA2SS+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQIA2SS+ 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 December 11, 2022 Advent Week III

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<sup>7</sup> 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**

<sup>3</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> year. **ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 4 of 6**

Eschatology: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian\\_eschatology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_eschatology)

Four dogmatic understandings of the "kingdom of Christ."

- 1) Amillennial
- 2) Postmillennial
- 3) Premillennial
- 4) Spiritual Metaphorical, Allegorical, sometimes called Realized Eschatology

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Reminder: Ray Of Hope Church does not have a declared dogmatic position on eschatology. Each person is free to accept any understanding of eschatology. I, Pastor Benedict, find the Premillennial school of eschatology to be the most logical and faithful to the Scriptures. 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 developed a renewed commitment to the premillennial academic position.

One very important aspect of the futurist school of interpretation is seeing a distinct plan for the People of Israel, the Jews, another for the Church, and yet another for the gentile - nonbelieving population.

Last Sunday, we noted three people addressed in Scripture, especially in Eschatology: The Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church.

1 Corinthians 10:31 and 32 Do everything to give glory to God. Give no offense either to the Jews, the Gentiles, or to the Church.

All are saved: the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church. Isaiah 49:6

The Lord says:

<sup>6</sup> 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'

The first reading, Isaiah 35:1-10 continues with more descriptions of the future Messianic Kingdom. Two well-known songs are there. Jesus partially fulfilled these prophecies but inaugurated His Church until he returns to establish His Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

The Psalm: while we wait we sing to the Lord and rejoice.

Second Reading: James 5:7-11; another song: "Patience People." Farmers know all about waiting. James 5: <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged."

Gospel Matthew 11 in verses 7-11: <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

<sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The words, "soft robes" is the Greek Word malakos (Strong's #3120) and appears in the Second Testament many times to indicate words such as delicate, gentle, refined, etc. See Boswell, John. Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality. University of

December 11, 2022 Advent Week III Year A page:  
Chicago 1980 on page 107. The other appearance is 1 Corinthians 6:9 where it has  
been stretched and pulled to fit so many different interpretations.

**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.

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

<sup>8</sup> 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.**

**Respect for Marriage Act H.R.8404 117<sup>th</sup> Congress:**

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

Here are the reasons I, Br. Shawn Benedict, I personally support  
polyamorous marriages. 1) In terms of "religious freedom" clearly  
polyamorous relationships are part of many religions worldwide, and even  
some denominations of religions here in the U.S.A., including Mormonism.  
2) We still need a family structure that fits the bisexual orientation. Forcing  
bisexual people to choose one gender to be with does not acknowledge their  
sexual orientation as valid. At best, if one partner is heterosexual and the  
other is bisexual, there must be three people. More likely is an arrangement  
of four people where most are bisexual. The way around this law as defining  
marriage between two persons is to form a religious house where the private  
life of those who live there is personal. The formation of a religious house is  
the concept used in many poly-marriage communities among the Mormons.  
The television series "Sister Wives" explores the day-to-day life of one such  
family here in the U.S. A. All relationships are complicated and require  
work. In my opinion we need to recognize all gender and sexual orientations  
among adults and realize this will require more than two persons.

There is one city in the U.S.A. that respects poly-relationships.

Here is an article about this city: ([https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2020/07/massachusetts-city-begins-legally-recognizing-polyamorous-relationships/?utm\\_source=LGBTQ+Nation+Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=1ddf7eadc5-](https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2020/07/massachusetts-city-begins-legally-recognizing-polyamorous-relationships/?utm_source=LGBTQ+Nation+Subscribers&utm_campaign=1ddf7eadc5-20200706_LGBTQ_Nation_Daily_Brief&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c4eab596bd-1ddf7eadc5-432140072)

[20200706\\_LGBTQ\\_Nation\\_Daily\\_Brief&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c4eab596bd-1ddf7eadc5-432140072](https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2020/07/massachusetts-city-begins-legally-recognizing-polyamorous-relationships/?utm_source=LGBTQ+Nation+Subscribers&utm_campaign=1ddf7eadc5-20200706_LGBTQ_Nation_Daily_Brief&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c4eab596bd-1ddf7eadc5-432140072) )

**[NPR REPORTS: Bills targeting trans youth are growing more common — and radically reshaping lives](https://www.npr.org/2022/11/28/1138396067/transgender-youth-bills-trans-sports)**

November 28, 2022 5:00 AM ET Koko Nakajima and Connie Hanzhang Jin (<https://www.npr.org/2022/11/28/1138396067/transgender-youth-bills-trans-sports>)

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## **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 – 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 291 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.

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

**Leader -2:** Gathered together, we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every Religion known to humanity. We pray that religious

December 11, 2022 Advent Week III Year A page:

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

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

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

**Leader-1:** Jesus **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 spirt, 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:

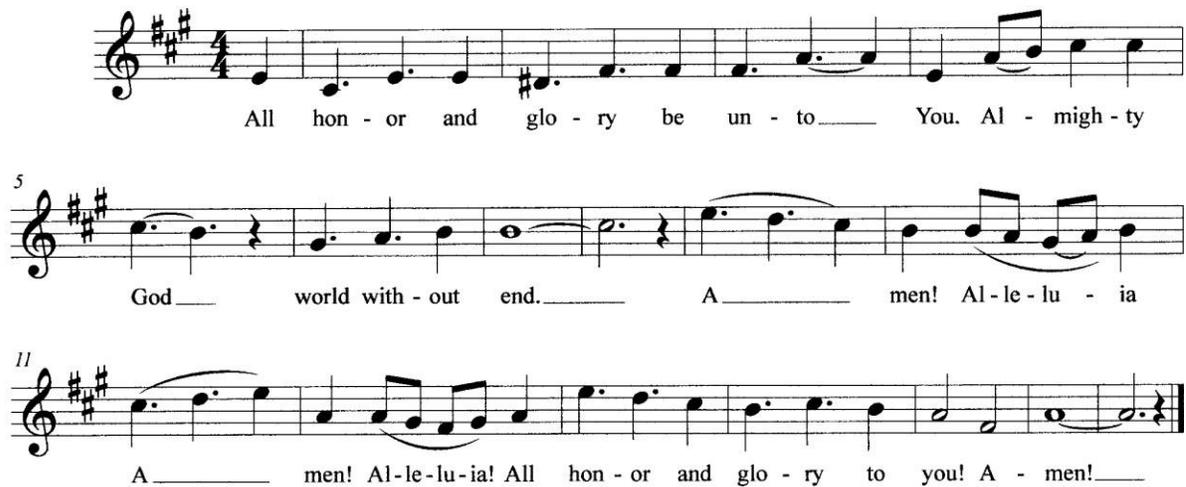
**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

**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 November 13 \$68.00 (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

**General Offering** for the week of November 27 \$1,573.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of December 4 \$468.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

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

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



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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **OUR CALENDAR**

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

December 11, 2022 Advent Week III Year A page:  
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

### **Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our web site;  
[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors\\_At\\_Events.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. All of our regular services will be blended with live participation in the chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To 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.

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Visit us on line:

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

Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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