

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Today is 12-15-24 Advent WK 3, Year C

**Gaudete Sunday: Pride Sunday in the Winter
ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 5 OF 6**

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian Faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.
St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as
"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal
and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event: _

First Reading: Zeph. 3:14-18 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 877

Psalm: Canticle Is. 12:2-6 inside bulletin.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 198

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18 NRSV 2ND Testament page 60

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

12-15-24 CORRECTED Advent Week III Gaudete Sunday Pride Sunday in the Winter Year C Page 2 of 41
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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. To facilitate your full participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and Music Supplement available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. For people watching on the Internet, we recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#).

Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>.

You do not need an account on Skype to "enter as a guest" when prompted. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning, and welcome. (** Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.**) We invite you to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, Pride Sunday in the Winter here at Ray Of Hope Church. We have a seasonal short service within the service for each of the four weeks of Advent. Bring your Advent Wreath or Yule Log with four candles to your table at this time to light two candles later in the service.

Additionally, you may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. To participate in Communion, please also bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is



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

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.**)
Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

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

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

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

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

ALL: And also with you, praise the Lord.

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

June 1, 2024, was the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.

Today is December 15, 2024, the Third Sunday of the New Church Year,

12-15-24 CORRECTED Advent Week III Gaudete Sunday Pride Sunday in the Winter Year C Page 5 of 41 and the Third Sunday of Advent. Today's theme is Joy. Please take a moment to notice the rose and pink decorations announcing the deep and lasting Joy of the Lord for Gaudete - Rejoice - Pride Sunday in the Winter. We extend many thanks to Kaiden Benedict and the Chapel Assistance Committee, especially Wayne Harris, Glenn Rathbun, and Katrina Lourdiane for participating in this ministry where the art proclaims the Gospel.

The Church Calendar takes up the Theology of Eschatology for the six Sundays leading up to Christmas. Today is the fifth Sunday of Eschatology, the study of the final events, the End Times, as revealed in Scripture.

Ray Of Hope Church stands for the principles that all people are equal in God's Creation and that this congregation will always welcome and embrace everyone. Therefore, we support all persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression of one's state in life as holy and uniquely created by God as we endeavor to show everyone how to bring Christ to every area of our lives.

Pastor: With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise. Alleluia!



FIRST SONG: TEXT ONLY

G&P 304 Jesus, Come to Us. Words and music by David Haas.

Refrain: Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.

Jesus, be with us, for we need you.

Verse 1: Lord, we come before you, listen to our prayer.

Fill us all with hope and your love.

Refrain: Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.

Jesus, be with us, for we need you.

Verse 2: Lord, we come to praise you for your faithfulness through

12-15-24 CORRECTED Advent Week III Gaudete Sunday Pride Sunday in the Winter Year C Page 6 of 41
night. You will be with us, this we know.

Refrain: Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.
Jesus, be with us, for we need you.

Verse 3: Lord, you give us wonders, your glory to all.
We believe in you, come to us.

Refrain: Jesus, come to us, lead us to your light.
Jesus, be with us, for we need you.

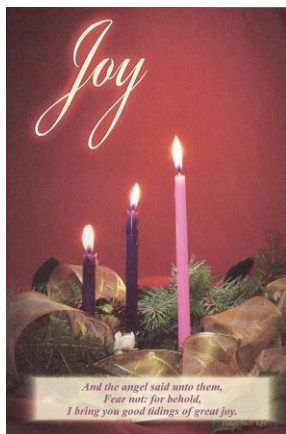
G&P 304 Jesus, Come to Us. Words and music by David Haas. © 1981, 1982, Oregon Catholic Press Onelicense Song #80428 Glory & Praise Second Edition #304 All rights reserved. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



Leader - 4: Please take a moment to look at the AIDS NAMES Memorial display board on the wall. Members of our Congregation made this posting board between 1983 and 1986 to honor the memory of friends and lovers who died of HIV and AIDS. It is interesting to look closely at the pieces of paper because many of the names are written in pencil. The

12-15-24 CORRECTED Advent Week III Gaudete Sunday Pride Sunday in the Winter Year C Page 7 of 41
names of some of the Ray Of Hope Church Founders are on this board and are the original posting papers. Glenn and Wayne lovingly restored the board for rededication and are bringing it back into use. Thank you. Anyone may add the names of their loved ones too.

+ The Advent Wreath Week III – the candle of Joy.



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 of winter night is transformed in the joyful Light of Christ.

ALL: Rejoice! Everybody Rejoice! God has called every person of every ethnicity, gender, orientation, and state in life into the eternal family of God. Behold what love the God of all creation has bestowed upon us by creating us to be God's family.

Leader -3: O God of deep and profound Joy eternal, we open before you our hearts weighed down by the burdens of life. We open ourselves to receive the healing and acceptance that you give to all 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 we invite you to 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 -1: Together we say the following prayer out loud.

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

Leader -2: Please rise as you are able and sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel. **Ring the bells on the refrain.**

**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.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent; verses: 1, 3-6, para. In *Psalterolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7, tr. fr. *Hymnal*, 1940, alt. Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL, *Processionale*, 15th cent. French: adapt. by

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins, our failures.

Leader 3: Please be seated. (wait) Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ, being truly present among us, forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who is present in this room and our bodies, and receive His immediate forgiveness.

Pastor: Colossians 3:11b - 13 reads:

There is only Christ, who is all in all. ¹² Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³

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

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

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

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

Spoken:

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

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

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.**

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

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

PASTOR: Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

+ Opening Prayer

Leader-4: The Lord is with you, Alleluia!

ALL: And also with you, Alleluia!

Leader-4: Together, we lift up our hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader-4: We make this exhortation together:

ALL: Let us keep the Scriptures in mind and meditate upon them day and night, persevering in prayer, always on the watch. Let us beg the Lord to give us real knowledge of what we read and to show us not only how to understand it but how to put it into practice, so that we may deserve to obtain spiritual grace, enlightened by the law of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose power and glory will endure throughout the ages. Amen

Leader-4: Saint Origen, who lived from 185 – 254 A.D., wrote this prayer. His prayer is our prayer on this day. Please be seated now and listen with all your heart, soul, and mind as we open the Word of God.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

This morning's first reading is in the ~~Book of Zechariah, chapter 3, verses 14-18. The reading is not included in our 1989 NRSV pew edition Bible.~~

(*****Correction**, the Book of Zechariah is in the 1989 NRSV pew edition. This was an oversight during editing and was a copy, cut, and paste error. The reader was reading the text that was provided. **The correct citation is the Book of Zephaniah Chapter 3, verses 14-18, on page 877 in the first testament in the 1989 NRSV.** The mistake was mine, Brother Benedict, as I did not catch these sentences remaining from a previous bulletin. I apologize. *******)

I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

Shout for joy, fair Zion;

shout, Israel, be glad!

Rejoice with all your heart, fair Jerusalem!

¹⁵ YHWH has averted your punishment
and swept away your foes.

Israel, YHWH is among you as ruler;

never again need you fear disaster.

¹⁶ On that day this must be the message to Jerusalem:

Fear not, Zion, let not your hands hang limp in despair,

¹⁷ for YHWH your God is in your midst,

a warrior to keep you safe;

who will rejoice over you and be glad of it;

who will show you love once more,

and exult with songs of joy ¹⁸ and soothe those who are grieving.

At the appointed time

I will take away your cries of woe

and you will no longer endure reproach.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

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

Psalm: Canticle Is. 12:2-6 inside bulletin.

Today's Psalm reading is a Canticle in the Book of Isaiah, Chapter twelve, verses two through six, with a responsorial verse. Today's

R: Cry out with joy and gladness; the Lord is with you.

You are my deliverer, O God!

I trust you and am no longer afraid of you—

you are my strength and my refuge. You are my deliverer."

³ With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

R: Cry out with joy and gladness; the Lord is with you.

⁴ And on that Day you will say:

"Give thanks to YHWH,

invoke God's holy Name!

Make known among all the people what YHWH has done. Proclaim
that God's Name is exalted.

R: Cry out with joy and gladness; the Lord is with you.

⁵ Sing praises to YHWH, for God has triumphed.

Let this be known throughout the world!

⁶ Cry out, shout aloud, you who dwell in Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel dwells among us in
majesty!"

R: Cry out with joy and gladness; the Lord is with you.

Give praise to the Living God.

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

To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.

Both now, and for ever. Amen.

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+ Second Reading

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

The second reading is in the Book of Philippians chapter 4, verses 4-7. The reading is on page 196 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

⁴ Rejoice in the Savior always! I say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Savior is near. ⁶ Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. ⁷ Then God's own Peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

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+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church "Music for Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is on page 60 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 3, verses 10-18. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible.

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

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

¹⁰ When the people asked him, "What should we do?" ¹¹ John replied, "Let the one with two coats share with the one who has none. Let those who have food do the same." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to John, "Teacher, what are we to do?" ¹³ John answered them, "Exact nothing over and above your fixed amount." ¹⁴ Soldiers likewise asked, "What about us?" John told them, "Don't bully anyone. Don't accuse anyone falsely. Be content

12-15-24 CORRECTED Advent Week III Gaudete Sunday Pride Sunday in the Winter Year C Page 16 of 41
 with your pay." ¹⁵ The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all by saying, "I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. ¹⁷ A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ Using exhortations like this, John proclaimed the Good News to the people.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
 December 31, 1995

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

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+ Sermon: Br. Shawn Benedict

We are celebrating Gratitude, Appreciation, and Thankfulness for 41 years of ministry, welcoming all people to the free gift of salvation. We are now in our 42nd year of ministry.

REGARDING JOY:

=====

Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.
Philippians 4:4-7

(*****CORRECTION**: During this portion of the sermon I incorrectly identified English as a Romance language. It was brought my attention and I confirmed the information later on Sunday, 12-15-24, that English is considered a West Germanic language, not a Romance language. Reference: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language) I apologize for the error. *******)

1 Thess. 5:16 Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

16 *semper gaudete*

Always rejoice.

17 *sine intermissione orate*

Pray without ceasing.

18 *in omnibus gratias agite haec enim voluntas Dei est in Christo Iesu in omnibus vobis*

In all things give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you all.

(https://vulgate.org/nt/epistle/1thessalonians_5.htm)

John 15:10-12 (NRSV) ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 16:24 (NRSV)²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

Luke 6:22-23 ²² "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you,

12-15-24 CORRECTED Advent Week III Gaudete Sunday Pride Sunday in the Winter Year C Page 18 of 41
revile you, and defame you^[a] on account of the Son of Man.²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Romans 15:13¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and Peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1Peter 1:8-10⁸ Although you have not seen^[a] him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Galatians 5:22-25² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, Peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Many times I have said it is so obvious to me that God gave our community God's own personal insignia, the Rainbow, to fly as our symbol of who we are as a people. Today on this Pride Sunday in the Winter it is a great time to read that sermon / story again. This all became clear to me as I participated in the Pride Parade that featured the one mile long rainbow flag. It happened in 1994 at Stonewall 25. I told the story and put it on our web site in June, 2000. Since that time, Gilbert Baker, the designer / founder of the Pride Flag has passed away, dying on March 31, 2017. Perhaps this weekend as we celebrate Pride in the Winter you might go and read our updated page on the rainbow flag and pass it on to others too. Read it and see the new photos by [clicking here](#).

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Gospel: Today's Gospel is a continuation of last Sunday. Here, the ministry of the baptist, John, is one of repentance, which literally means to change direction. The verses in Luke claim John advised everyone to take care of the poor, share the resources, persons in business are told to be honest and fair, those who are soldiers are told not to bully and not use their power to accuse to get ahead falsely, and to the financially powerful he advised, among other things, that they be content. We recognize most of these evangelistic themes because they are as poignant today as they were during any age of the prophets. Sin is old-fashioned and still very prominent in every age. All of these themes are still with us.

When the people attending John's revivals started thinking he might be the Messiah he clarified that he was not. John explained he was preparing the way by calling on listeners to change their ways so they might level out the highs and lows of their own lives, the swaying from this idea to that idea over there, to coming into alignment with the Word. Then, John taught a new doctrine, saying the Messiah would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

This baptism of the Holy Spirit is the source of all we know about God in Christ during this age of the Church. The Holy Spirit is the life of the Church. The Holy Spirit teaches, guides, and empowers the Church to hear, understand, and apply God's will. In this age, the entire presence of God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier comes to live within the willing and flexible person.

The Holy Spirit is the source of all revelation, the unveiling of God to us. The Holy Spirit challenges the traditions of people and places. The Holy Spirit is outside our measurement of time and space and knows everything about everything. The Holy Spirit works within the people of the Church and shows us the will of Christ, who is the Chief Bishop of Souls (1 Peter 2:25). It is with the eyes of Christ we understand our place in the Church as Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. We are called to give witness that the Holy Spirit has surpassed the established rules and ways of church governments and many civil governments to require us to accept persons of all sexual orientations and gender expressions. This is why we celebrate our profound and deep joy on Gaudete Sunday, six months across the way of the year to the middle of Pride Month in June. On Joy Sunday in the Winter, we rejoice in who we are and renew our commitment to witness together in the difficult days ahead that God continues to create people just like us in the full range of sexual orientations and gender expressions.

:

Kristen Waggoner Alliance Defending Freedom - 1994

(<https://adflegal.org/profile/kristen-waggoner/>)

Uncloseted Media (<https://www.unclosetedmedia.com/about>)

Article: "House Passes Defense Bill Including Attack on Military Families' Transgender Youth" December 11, 2024 Source:

<https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/house-passes-defense-bill-including-attack-on-military-families-transgender-youth>

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ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 5 of 6

The Study of the Final Things, the Consummation of the Church Age.

No dogmatic position at Ray Of Hope Church

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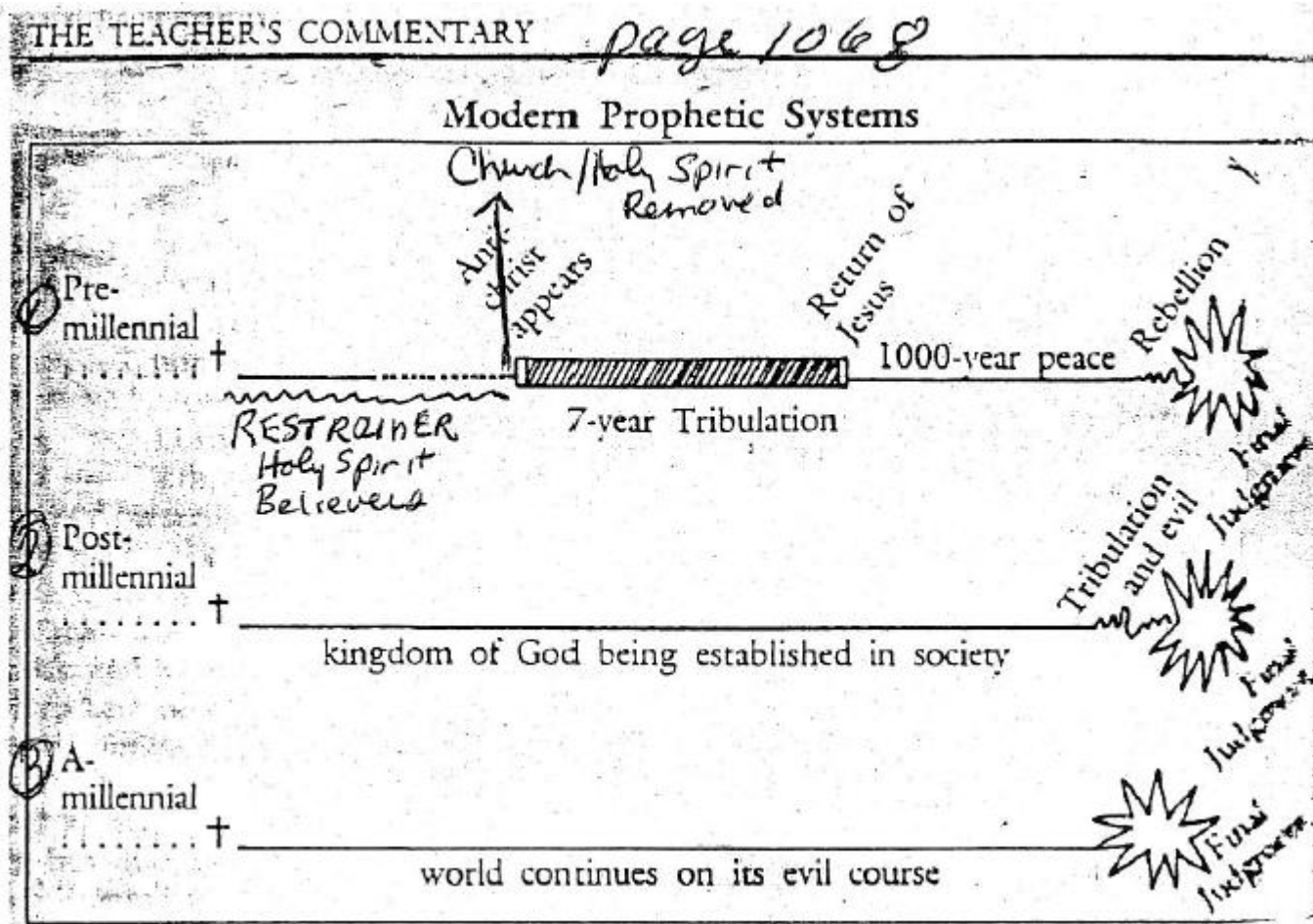
*** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord <https://walvoord.com/series/328>

Eschatology ultimately orders everything that is preached and taught in a consistent theology. The dogmatic position one takes on the last things provides a lens through which the entire teaching message will be filtered.

Preaching using the lectionary is completely filtered through the lens of how one views Eschatology.

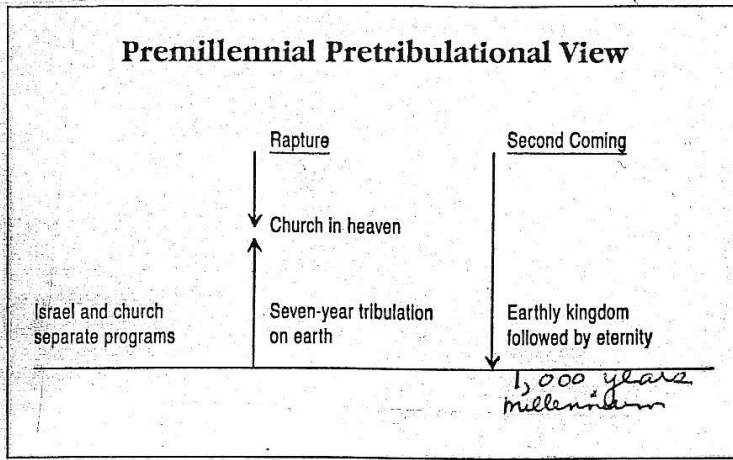
Denominations are committed, very strictly, to the chosen eschatological dogmatic position.

Reminder: Ray Of Hope Church has no declared dogmatic position on eschatology.



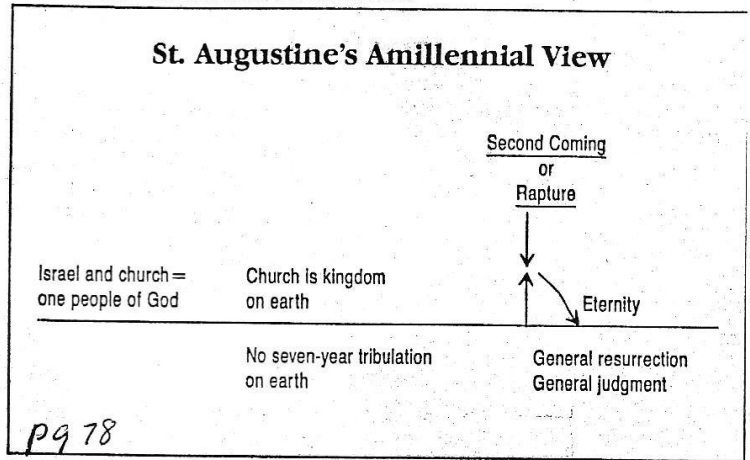
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pg 63

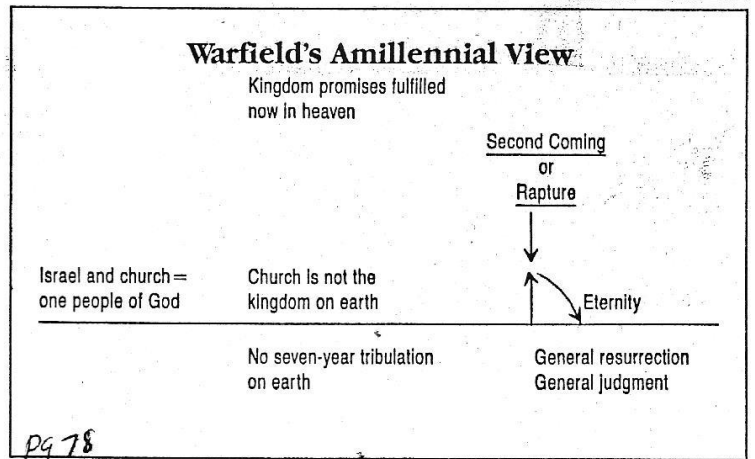
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pg 78

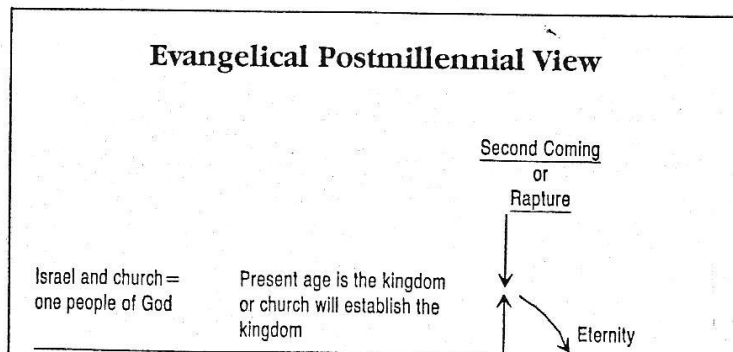
*Last Days Handbook
Robert P. Lightner, Ph.D.*

C



pg 78

D



+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 3: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: We thank God for brave people who established churches like ours in the United States of America's turbulent times in the late 1960s. They were moving in the Spirit of prophecy, believing their start would continue. We ask God to help us understand the work of Ray Of Hope Church so we can bring others along with us as we wait in joyful hope for the Kingdom of Christ; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: The Ukraine war continues for two years and ten months. The war between Hamas and Israel continues at fourteen months and counting. Tension is rising in over ninety-three wars and conflicts around the world. We pray for the innocent victims, especially the elderly and children, and we pray leaders to be willing to find diplomatic solutions to conflict; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

See this website for more information: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>.

Leader – 2: We thank you, Lord, for the praise reports of those who have experienced healing. We continue to pray for the people we know who are facing treatments, surgeries, hospice, and recovery. We pray for families who will go through these holidays and Holy Days for the first year following the death of loved ones. May they find the deep and lasting Peace that only Christ can provide. We add to this list those we hold in our silent prayers and all who have asked for our prayers; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 2: We continue praying that the leaders of world Governments will recognize and respond to the environmental emergency of Climate change with compassion and plans for change that are short and long-

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, prayers of thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind.
(silent prayer begins here)

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

ALL: Amen




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

Veronica: Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful for all the people over these last forty-one years of ministry who have given help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in 2024. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen," may God bless you.

We are an independent organization founded and funded by anyone who appreciates what we offer. Your support is one way to give God thanks and praise for this unique ministry for all people. There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode , this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information, including our street address. We always say, "Give what you can, but never give your last."

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

Offertory Song: Rejoice in the Lord Always

**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!**

**Gaude! Gaude! Again I say, Rejoice!
Gaude! Gaude! Again I say, Rejoice!**

Rejoice in the Lord Always Tune: Traditional; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. Worship & Rejoice #650 Text: Traditional Onelicense Song #97790. Text based on Philippians 4:4. All rights reserved. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

Leader - 3: (**You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We bless you for those who can give financially, and those who give with their skills, prayers, and many other ways. We bless you for those who could not give at this time and pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Kaiden: Please set down your Bread. For those at home, pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Kaiden: Please set down your cup.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

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

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

Pastor: (An improvised prayer is said here.)

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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

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

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

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

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

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

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

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The Reception of Holy Communion

Pastor: Please raise the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of praise and pray together:

ALL: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.

Leader - 2: Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to ____ You. Al - migh - ty

5
God ____ world with - out end. ____ A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11
A ____ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! ____

Kaiden: Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. Receive now the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gift of God for the People of God. Receive these gifts of love to strengthen your resolve to serve others and God and to fortify your Salvation. I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, and will be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Veronica: We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion based upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ Sign Of Peace

Leader-1: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader-1: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Leader-1: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

COMMUNION SONG WORDS / TEXT ONLY **G&P 297** **Every Valley.** words and music by **Bob Dufford, S.J.**

Refrain

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry hill made low.
And all God's people shall see together
the glory of the Lord.

1. A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God."

Refrain

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry hill made low.
And all God's people shall see together
the glory of the Lord.

2. Comfort all my people.
The time for war is gone.
The blind shall see, the deaf shall hear,
the lame shall leap for joy.

Refrain

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry hill made low.
And all God's people shall see together
the glory of the Lord.

3. Stand upon the mountain top.
O lift your voice to the world.
Sing joyfully, Jerusalem:

"Behold, behold your God."

Refrain

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry hill made low.

And all God's people shall see together
the glory of the Lord.

G&P 297 Every Valley. words and music by Bob Dufford, S.J. © 1970, Robert J. Dufford, SJ. Published by Oregon Catholic Press Onelicense Song #81011 Glory & Praise Second Edition #297. Text based on Isaiah 40:1, 3, 4, 9. All rights reserved. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 2024, given by Ed Askins, Treasurer, at the November 21, 2024 of the Church Council.

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of October was \$1,016.27. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$1,963.03 which includes the undeposited funds off \$122.66 from last month . Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 5 week was paid equaling \$2,475.00, Verizon \$62.39 and

Paypal charges of \$40.03 came out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$401.88.

Building Fund opening balance was \$1,242.41. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00 and transferred in \$309.95 from the Building Improvement fund. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$61.41, electric \$633.92, gas bill \$253.00, Isaac's Heating and Air Conditioning \$309.95 for boiler repair and I transferred \$200.00 into savings to save for the liability insurance bill that will be due the beginning of December. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,134.08.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$4,888.99. Donations to this account for this month were as follows: Undeposited funds from September from Ian and Christina \$627.34, Anonymous donation of \$500.00, a second Anonymous donation of \$200.00, Veronica and Tami \$150.00, Denise Robinson \$100.00, Diane Housely \$50.00 and Tejuana McMillian \$25.00. I transferred to the Building Fund \$309.95 to cover the Isaac's invoice listed above. The ending balance on this account is \$6,231.38.

Savings (Council) Account opening balance \$243.65. I transferred in \$200.00 from the building to cover the upcoming liability insurance payment, so the ending balance in this account is \$443.65. There was a gifts in kind donation of \$40.00 by Ed Askins to cover the cost of the gate repair done by Travis Askins.

There were no undeposited funds for the month of October.

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

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

General Offering for the week of November 10 \$310.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday
Wednesday, November 13, Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of November 17 \$70.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday
Wednesday, November 20, Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of November 24 \$360.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday
Wednesday, November 27, Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of December 1 \$1,625.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday
Wednesday, November 27, Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of December 8 \$1,475.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday
Wednesday, December 11, Attendance 6

**** Special Gifts this week and recently****

Thank you to Wayne and Glenn for donating paper products for social times, and supplies for the restroom. Your donations are greatly appreciated. This is the second time in a month Wayne and Glenn have donated paper products. Thank you.

Everyone is very grateful for all the cooking talents that have been recently shared. Thank you Wayne Harris, Katrina Lourdiane, Ruth Goyette, Gary Davis, Lisa Frost, and Ed Askins.

Kaiden is Chairperson of the **Chapel Assistance Committee**. Kaiden wishes to thank Glenn Rathbun, Wayne Harris, and Katrina Lourdiane for continuing to help with the chapel decorations. Again, thank you Wayne and Glenn for the addition of new decorations; new purple, new pink, and reviving the AIDS Names Memorial board.

Thank you, Kaiden for your \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund

Thank you, Veronica for your special donation toward the internet expenses.

Thank you , Veronica for your special \$300.00donation toward the pastoral SE Tax line item.

Ed Askins donated \$100.00 to the Pastor SE Tax budget line. Thank you, Ed. Ian and Christina donated \$500.00 to the Building Improvements Fund, thank you both. Brother donated \$640.00 to the Building Fund, thank you.

Everyone expresses gratitude to our Church Council Members: Christina McLaughlin - Acting Moderator, Veronica Floyd - Clerk, and Ed Askins - Treasurer for the many hours they each volunteer doing the behind the scenes administrative duties for the Church.. We do appreciate our Council Officers.

Sunday December 20 - Mother's Day

- 12/23 Change to Gold and White with about 70 artificial poinsettias to open, set up the Manger

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

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

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

December 16, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM continued work on new By-Laws

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

December 18, Wednesday, NOON Mass

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

* * * * * Friday 12/20 Put up full color ornaments, removing some purple and pink to make room. COLOR lights, set up the Manger

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

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

December 24, Tuesday no scheduled events.

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

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

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

December 28, Saturday 1:00 - 3:00 PM NAACP presents Kwanzaa - see poster below.

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

December 29, Sunday CHRISTMAS AT RAY OF HOPE

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

December 30, Monday 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Kwanzaa at Ray Of Hope Church, live in-person and online.

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

No other meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 31, 2024

January 1, Wednesday, No Noon Mass scheduled for this date.

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

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

Sunday, January 5, Holy Name Sunday * * * * * "Veronica's Holy Name Sunday, 2025"

January 6, Monday By-Laws work will likely continue 3 - 4:30

January 7, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00

January 8, Wednesday Noon Mass

Sunday, January 12, EPIPHANY - Orthodox Christmas(on or near 1-7-25)

January 13, Monday By-Laws work will likely continue 3 - 4:30

January 14, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00

January 15 Wednesday Noon Mass

Sunday, January 19, Dr. Martin Luther King and Civil Rights Sunday AND The Baptism Of The Lord

January 20, Monday, No events are scheduled for this date.

January 21, Tuesday, Bible Enrichment 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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

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

MARCH 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP???????????

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 7, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads

Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)

Inquiries Class #4 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

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

APRIL 13, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 AM HOLY WEEK

APRIL 17, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 PM

APRIL 18, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 PM

APRIL 19, 2023 GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OUR EASTER EVENT MEMBERSHIP

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 8, Sunday Pentecost

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 15, Sunday, Father's Day and 29th Ordination Anniversary

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



**KWANZAA:
A SEVEN PRINCIPLES CELEBRATION
FROM UNITY TO FAITH
LUNCHEON**



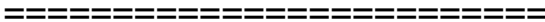
**Saturday, December 28, 2024
1:00 – 3:00pm**

**Friendship Baptist Church
120 Pearl Street
Corning, New York**



**SPEAKER
Tara Clark**
Case Supervisor, Child Preventive Service
Tompkins County, New York

The program is free and open to the public



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Leader - 2: **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Leader - 2: We bless and praise you, God, for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and Peace; (*+*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Leader - 2: We pray Romans Chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

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

Leader-4: We go forth in Peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

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

LAST SONG: NTBK #95 Lion Of Judah Words and Music by Ted Sandquist

Verse 1

Lion of Judah on the throne,
I shout Your name let it be known
That You are the King of kings.
You are the Prince of Peace.
May Your kingdom's reign never cease.
Hail to the King hail to the King!
Hail to the King hail to the King!

Verse 2

Lion of Judah come to earth,
I want to thank You for Your birth,
For Your Living Word,
For Your death on the tree.
For Your resurrection victory.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Verse 3

Lion of Judah come again.
Take up Your throne Jerusalem,
Bring release to this earth
And the consummation
Of Your kingdom's reign:
Let it come.
Maranatha! Maranatha!

Lion Of Judah. Words and Music by Ted Sandquist. © 1976 Lion Of Judah Music. Renewed 1981. CCLI Song # 16990. Lyrics appear here solely with

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization**, **survival**, and **sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive**, **train**, and **transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public, the way it used to be from 7:00 AM to 11:59 PM daily, as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

