

**"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 12-22-24 Advent WK 4, Year C

**Love: Reverend Mothers Day in the Winter / Prepare for Hanukkah
ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 6 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: 1 Maccabees 4:36-59 – Purification of the Temple

Second Reading: 2 Maccabees 10:1-8 The Rededication of the Temple

Psalm: Canticle of Mary: based on Luke 1:46-55

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.**

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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. 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Love Sunday, and The Sunday of Motherly love in the Winter here at Ray Of Hope Church. We have enjoyed the Advent Wreath 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 all four 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)



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, verse 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 also the fourth Sunday of Advent, and the theme is
Love Sunday, Reverend Mother's Day In The Winter.

In our series on Eschatology, this is the 6th and final Sunday. Please take a moment to notice that the purple color has been added to the chapel decorations. However, you might see rainbow colors in the ornaments as we begin the turn toward the Christmas Season.

Today's service outline is as follows:

- 1) Advent Wreath
- 2) Two readings and an explanation of Hanukkah
- 3) Mary's Canticle and the Gospel Reading with an explanation
- 4) Holy Communion
- 5) Final Blessing Welcome to the Christmas Season
- 6) Welcome to the Christmas Season
- 7) Social

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: 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 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.

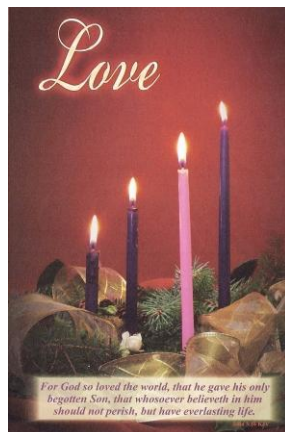
Verse 3: Lord, you give us wonders, your glory to all.
We believe in you, come to us.

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.
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1) Part one, the Advent Wreath

+ **The Advent Wreath Week IV – the candle of Love, Reverend Mothers Day in the Winter.**



Leader -2: Please be seated. Today we celebrate Love Sunday. We begin by praying together.

ALL: We honor you, O God, who is "nearer to us than we are to ourselves." We celebrate your eternal love for us made known especially in the announcement, "the virgin shall be with child, and his name shall be Emmanuel, God with us." (**Attributed to St. Augustine: "nearer to us...." and Isaiah 7:14**)

Leader -3: We marvel at the faith, the trust, of Elizabeth and Mary, who, like Sarah and Hannah before them, placed all their wellbeing into your hands. We desire to follow the example of these reverend mothers whose song of "yes" continues to ring out in our humanity.

Leader -4: Please light your four candles at this time. 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: With the lighting of this last purple candle, the candle of Love, we begin the fourth and final week of our Advent journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential. Together, we say the following prayer out loud.

ALL: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. In this place, at this very moment, we dare to say "yes" to the flow of your love through us, God of all. Send forth your Holy Spirit to renew us and the face of the Earth with holy love. We hear the voices of holy women everywhere again, especially Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Mary. We can relive their quiet and expectant "yes" and follow their example through the power of the Holy Spirit. To the wondrous love of all women everywhere, we raise an Alleluia in the name of (*+*) God, the Christ, 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 rejoice and celebrate the future fulfillment of these promises to Israel. This understanding is the "futurist" or Premillennial interpretation. Together, we

December 22, 2024 Advent IV LOVE Mother's Day in the Winter Year C Page 8 of 33
sing the final verses, seven and eight. Please rise as you are able.

**O come, Desire of nations bind in one the hearts of humankind.
Make all our sad divisions cease, and be for us our King of Peace.**

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

**O come, O come, Emanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in
lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

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

Amen, Alleluia.

Leader -3: Together, we continue forward with expectant faith.
ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Alleluia. 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 Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I. Public Domain. Glory & Praise Second Edition #293 Onelicense Song #84028. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

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 and 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.

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

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

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

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

2) + PART TWO: Hanukkah

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

Read a short article explaining that the original King James Version of 1611 did, in fact, contain all of the books designated as Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical by some traditions. This shows there should be no distinction between a so-called "Catholic" and a so-called "Protestant" Bible based upon the presence of the absence of these books. To read this article, [Click Here](#).

The names and order of all the Bookes of the Olde and New Testament, with the number of their Chapters.

The Olde Testament		The New Testament	
Genesis hath Chapters	50	Matthew hath Chapters	28
Exodus	40	Marke	16
Leuiticus	27	Luke	24
Numbers	36	Iohn	21
Deuteronomie	34	The Actes	26
Ioshua	24	The Epistle to the Romanes	16
Judges	21	1. Corinthians	16
Ruth	4	2. Corinthians	13
1. Samuel	31	Galatians	6
2. Samuel	24	Ephesians	6
1. Kings	22	Philippians	4
2. Kings	25	Colosians	4
1. Chronicles	29	1. Thessalonians	5
2. Chronicles	36	2. Thessalonians	3
Ezrah	10	1. Timothyus	6
Nehemiah	13	2. Timothyus	4
Ester	10	Titus	3
Iob	42	Philemon	1
Psalmes	150	To the Hebrewes	13
Proverbs	31	The Epistle of Iames	5
		2. Peter	3
		1. Iohn	5
		2. Iohn	1
		3. Iohn	1
		Iude	1
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2. Samuel	24	Ephesians	6
1. Kings	22	Philippians	4
2. Kings	25	Colosians	4
1. Chronicles	29	1. Thessalonians	5
2. Chronicles	36	2. Thessalonians	3
Ezrah	10	1. Timothyus	6
Nehemiah	13	2. Timothyus	4
Ester	10	Titus	3
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		1. Iohn	5
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[v]

When the years of our Lord may be divided into four parts, which is every fourth year, then the Sunday letter repeats, and thus the Tables and Lessons which follow for the same day of the year, shall be read again the day following, except it be Sunday which hath proper Lessons of the old Testament, appointed in the Table following to that purpose.

Also, where there is the beginning of any Lesson, Epistle, or Gospel, it is not expressed, there you must begin at the beginning of the Chapter.

And where there is not expressed how far it shall be read, there you shall read to the end of the Chapter.

Item, if of the first Chapter of Saint Matthew is read either for Lesson or Gospel, you shall begin the same at the birth of Jesus Christ, both on the same day, and the third Chapter of St. Luke Gospel, shall be read, being as near together, as the time of the birth of Jesus Christ.

¶ Proper Lessons to be read for the first Lessons, both at Morning and Evening prayer, on the Sundays throughout the year, and for some after the second Lessons.

Sundays of Advent	¶ Mattew.	¶ Evange.	¶ Mattew.	¶ Evange.
The first	Mat. i.	Mat. i.	Mat. i.	Mat. i.
Sundays after	Mat. ii.	Mat. ii.	Mat. ii.	Mat. ii.
Sundays after	Mat. iii.	Mat. iii.	Mat. iii.	Mat. iii.
Sundays after	Mat. iv.	Mat. iv.	Mat. iv.	Mat. iv.
Sundays after	Mat. v.	Mat. v.	Mat. v.	Mat. v.
Sundays after	Mat. vi.	Mat. vi.	Mat. vi.	Mat. vi.
Sundays after	Mat. vii.	Mat. vii.	Mat. vii.	Mat. vii.
Sundays after	Mat. viii.	Mat. viii.	Mat. viii.	Mat. viii.
Sundays after	Mat. ix.	Mat. ix.	Mat. ix.	Mat. ix.
Sundays after	Mat. x.	Mat. x.	Mat. x.	Mat. x.
Sundays after	Mat. xi.	Mat. xi.	Mat. xi.	Mat. xi.
Sundays after	Mat. xii.	Mat. xii.	Mat. xii.	Mat. xii.
Sundays after	Mat. xiii.	Mat. xiii.	Mat. xiii.	Mat. xiii.
Sundays after	Mat. xiv.	Mat. xiv.	Mat. xiv.	Mat. xiv.
Sundays after	Mat. xv.	Mat. xv.	Mat. xv.	Mat. xv.
Sundays after	Mat. xvi.	Mat. xvi.	Mat. xvi.	Mat. xvi.
Sundays after	Mat. xvii.	Mat. xvii.	Mat. xvii.	Mat. xvii.
Sundays after	Mat. xviii.	Mat. xviii.	Mat. xviii.	Mat. xviii.
Sundays after	Mat. xix.	Mat. xix.	Mat. xix.	Mat. xix.
Sundays after	Mat. xx.	Mat. xx.	Mat. xx.	Mat. xx.
Sundays after	Mat. xxi.	Mat. xxi.	Mat. xxi.	Mat. xxi.
Sundays after	Mat. xxii.	Mat. xxii.	Mat. xxii.	Mat. xxii.
Sundays after	Mat. xxiii.	Mat. xxiii.	Mat. xxiii.	Mat. xxiii.
Sundays after	Mat. xxiv.	Mat. xxiv.	Mat. xxiv.	Mat. xxiv.
Sundays after	Mat. xxv.	Mat. xxv.	Mat. xxv.	Mat. xxv.
Sundays after	Mat. xxvi.	Mat. xxvi.	Mat. xxvi.	Mat. xxvi.
Sundays after	Mat. xxvii.	Mat. xxvii.	Mat. xxvii.	Mat. xxvii.
Sundays after	Mat. xxviii.	Mat. xxviii.	Mat. xxviii.	Mat. xxviii.
Sundays after	Mat. xxix.	Mat. xxix.	Mat. xxix.	Mat. xxix.
Sundays after	Mat. xxx.	Mat. xxx.	Mat. xxx.	Mat. xxx.

12-17-22 King James Apocrypha pages.pdf - Adobe

RSV Oxford Annotated 1973

From Brother: "Hanukkah (Chanukah and Hanukah) commemorates the miracle of the holy oil for the Light of Presence in the rededicated Second Temple, lasting eight full days. However, it was only enough oil for one day. The word Hanukkah is derived from the Hebrew verb meaning to dedicate. Therefore, Hanukkah is the feast of the Rededication of the Temple. It is celebrated on the 25th day of the month of Kislev because that is when the Jewish People stopped fighting their oppressors. The battle occurred during the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire, a Greek Hellenistic state ruled by the Seleucid dynasty." from All Christians Should Celebrate Hanukkah. (revised and updated 12/13/22)

This year Hanukkah on the 25th day of Kislev, which this year falls on the 25th of December.

(<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Hanukkah%202016%20web%20site%202022%20update%2012-17-22.pdf>)

First Reading: 1 Maccabees 4:36-59 – Purification of the Temple

³⁶ Judah Maccabeus and his followers decided, "Now that our enemies have been crushed, let us go up and purify the Sanctuary and rededicate it." ³⁷ So the whole army assembled and went up Mount Zion. ³⁸ They saw the Sanctuary in ruins, the altar desecrated, and the gates burned. In the courtyard, bushes grew up between the stones as they would on the hillsides, and the priests' chambers were destroyed. ³⁹ They tore their clothes and let out a great wail. Covering themselves with ashes, ⁴⁰ they fell on the ground. When the trumpet sounded, they cried out to Heaven. ⁴¹ Then Judah sent fighters to attack the Citadel, while he and those with him rededicated the Temple. ⁴² Blameless priests who were devoted to the Law were recruited to perform the task. ⁴³ They cleansed the Sanctuary and removed the stones that had been defiled, taking them to an

unclean place.⁴⁴ Then they debated about what to do with the altar of burnt offerings, which had been desecrated.⁴⁵ In the end they decided to tear it down so that it would not stand before them as an everlasting disgrace because the Gentiles had defiled it.⁴⁶ They took the altar apart and placed the stones in a convenient place on the Temple hill until a prophet might come along who would tell them what to do with them.⁴⁷ Then they took uncut stones, as the Law dictates, and built a new altar like the old one.⁴⁸ They rebuilt the Sanctuary and the inner parts of the Temple and consecrated the outer courts.⁴⁹ They cast new sacred vessels and brought the lampstand and the showtable into the Temple.⁵⁰ Then they offered incense on the altar and lit the lamps on the lampstand, so that the Temple was illuminated.⁵¹ They placed bread on the table and hung up the tapestries. And so they finished this work which they had undertaken.⁵² Early in the morning of the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month—that is, the month of Chislev—in the 148th year,⁵³ they rose to offer sacrifice according to the Law on the new altar of burnt offerings which had been made.⁵⁴ On the very anniversary of the day on which the Gentiles had defiled it, it was reconsecrated with songs, and the sound of harps, flutes and cymbals.⁵⁵ All the people prostrated themselves and worshipped and gave Heaven praise for their success.⁵⁶ For eight days they celebrated the dedication of the altar and joyfully offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of deliverance and praise.⁵⁷ They ornamented the facade of the Temple with gold crowns and shields; they repaired the gateways and the priests' chambers, and fitted them with new doors.⁵⁸ There was great joy among the people now that the disgrace of the Gentiles was washed away.⁵⁹ Then Judah and his followers and the entire congregation of Israel decreed that the days of the dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness on the anniversary every year for eight days, beginning on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.⁶⁰ Then they built fortifications around Mount Zion with high walls and watchtowers, so that the Gentiles would not trample them down again.⁶¹ Judah placed a garrison there to guard it, so that the people would have a stronghold that faced Idumea.

5 :¹ When the nations around them heard that the Israelites had been rebuilt their altar and rededicated their Temple, they became enraged.² They decided among themselves to destroy all the Jews living in their villages, and so began a killing rampage among the Jewish communities.³ The descendants of Esau who lived in Idumea had besieged Israel, so Judah attacked them at Akrabattene, defeated them, and sacked their village.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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Second Reading: 2 Maccabees 10:1-8 The Rededication of the Temple

10 :¹ By now Maccabbeus and his followers, under the guiding hand of the Holy One, had recaptured the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. ² They tore down the altars that the foreigners had set up in the public squares, and likewise their shrines. ³ They purified the sanctuary and constructed a new altar; then struck fire from flint and offered sacrifice—the first in two years. They burned incense, lighted the lamps, and set out the bread of Presence. ⁴ Then they prostrated themselves and begged God that they might never again fall into such degradation; but if in the event they fell again into sin, that they might be disciplined more gently, and not be given over to the blasphemous and barbarous Gentiles. ⁵ This purification of the Temple took place on the twenty-fifth day of Chislev, which is the anniversary of the day when the Gentiles desecrated it. ⁶ The Judeans celebrated with joy for eight days, just as in the Feast of the Tabernacles, bearing in mind how so recently they had kept that feast while wandering like animals in the caves and mountains. ⁷ Therefore, carrying poles wreathed with ivy, green branches and palm fronds, they chanted hymns of thanksgiving to the One who brought about the purification of this place. It was decreed by a public vote that the whole nation of Judea should celebrate these days annually. ⁹ This, then, was the end of Antiochus, also called Epiphanes.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp.2431-2432). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 593. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

Explanation of the Hanukkah Menorah

rayofhopechurch.com/Hanukkah.htm

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 

The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
 New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 41 years. October 31, 2024 - 41st Anniversary now in our 42nd year in Ministry

Home | Purpose | Sexuality | Location | Worship | Contact | Resources | Staff | Ministry | Organization

							
1st night 12/25/24 1st Dispensation Innocence	2nd Night 12/26/24 2nd Dispensation Conscience	3rd Night 12/27/24 3rd Dispensation Human Government	4th Night 12/28/24 4th Dispensation Promise	5th Night 12/29/24 5th Dispensation Law	6th Night 12/30/24 6th Dispensation Church / Grace	7th Night 12/31/24 7th Dispensation Kingdom	8th Night 1/1/25 8th Dispensation New Heavens New Earth God is "All in All" Eternity

Updated 11/24 7 p.m.

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Home | Purpose | Sexuality | Location | Worship | Contact | Resources | Staff | Ministry | Organization

							
1st night 12/25/24 1st Dispensation Innocence							

Updated 12/21/24 12 p.m.

website now: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Hanukkah.htm>

(https://www.aqapebiblestudy.com/SalvationHistory/_L23_REVOLT%20OF%20THE%20MACCABEES.htm) Closing prayer on Amillennial site.

3) + PART THREE: MARY'S CANTICLE, GOSPEL, Explanation

+ 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 Mary's Canticle Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour,
 for God has looked with favor on this lowly servant.

From this day, all generations will call me blessed:
The Almighty has done great things for me,
and Holy is God's Name.
God has mercy on those who respect and love God
in every generation.
God's arm has shown strength
and scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things,
the rich have been sent away empty.
God has come to the help of Israel, God's servant,
and has remembered the promise of mercy
made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his descendants forever.

Glory to God, The Christ, and The Holy Spirit. As it was in the
beginning, it is now and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

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

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

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Matthew, chapter 1, verses eighteen through twenty-four on page 1 in the second testament of the NRSV Bible.

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a

dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife

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 - 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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Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.
The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.

The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQISA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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

+ Sermon part 2

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

Advent Week II **Peace**— Now may the God of hope fill you with all Joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

The God of "steadfastness and encouragement" (Romans 15:5)

With "one voice glorify God." (Romans 15:6)

Advent Week III **Joy** -

Philippians 4:4-8 (NRSV) **Latin: gaudete in Domino semper iterum dico gaudete Philippians 4:4**

⁴ **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.** ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Advent Week IV **Love** -

Matthew 1:24 ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

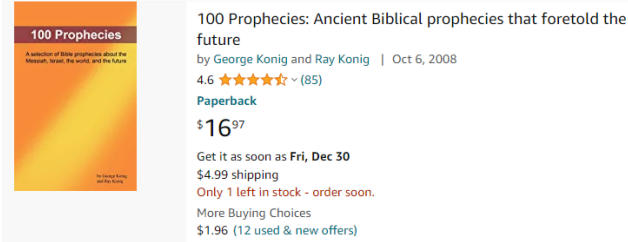
All souls are mine says God (Ezek 18:4)

All the animals and the birds are mine says God (Psalm 50:10, 11)

Some Prophecies (<http://www.100prophecies.org/page2.htm>)

Below is a selection of prophecies in the Bible that found fulfillment in the birth of Jesus the Messiah about 2,000 years ago.

The commentaries below are from the second edition of the book, 100 Prophecies, by George Konig and Ray Konig, who are the authors and copyright holders of the material. The third edition, revised and expanded, of [100 Prophecies: Ancient Biblical prophecies that foretold the future](#) is available through Amazon.com.



Isaiah foreshadowed the virgin birth of Jesus

Bible prophecy: Isaiah 7:14

Prophecy written: Between 701-681 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC

In Isaiah 7:14, the prophet Isaiah addresses the "house of David," meaning the family and descendants of King David, and speaks of a virgin being pregnant with a child, and giving birth to the child. Isaiah says this in the context of it being a sign from God. He also says that the child would be referred to as "Immanuel," which means, "God with us."

The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

Bible prophecy: Micah 5:1-2

Prophecy written: Sometime between 750-686 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC

In Micah 5:2, there is a prophecy that reveals that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

Micah 5:1-2 (NIV):

1 Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah

Bible prophecy: Genesis 49:10

Prophecy written: As early as 1400 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC

Genesis 49:10 (NIV):

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Nations would seek the counsel of Jesse's descendant

Bible prophecy: Isaiah 11:1-10

Prophecy written: Between 701-681 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: By the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago

In Isaiah 11:1-10, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a ruler who would be a descendant of Jesse. Jesse was the father of ancient Israel's great King David. This descendant would rule with true justice and true faith, and he would establish true peace.

The Messiah would be a descendant of King David

Bible prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5

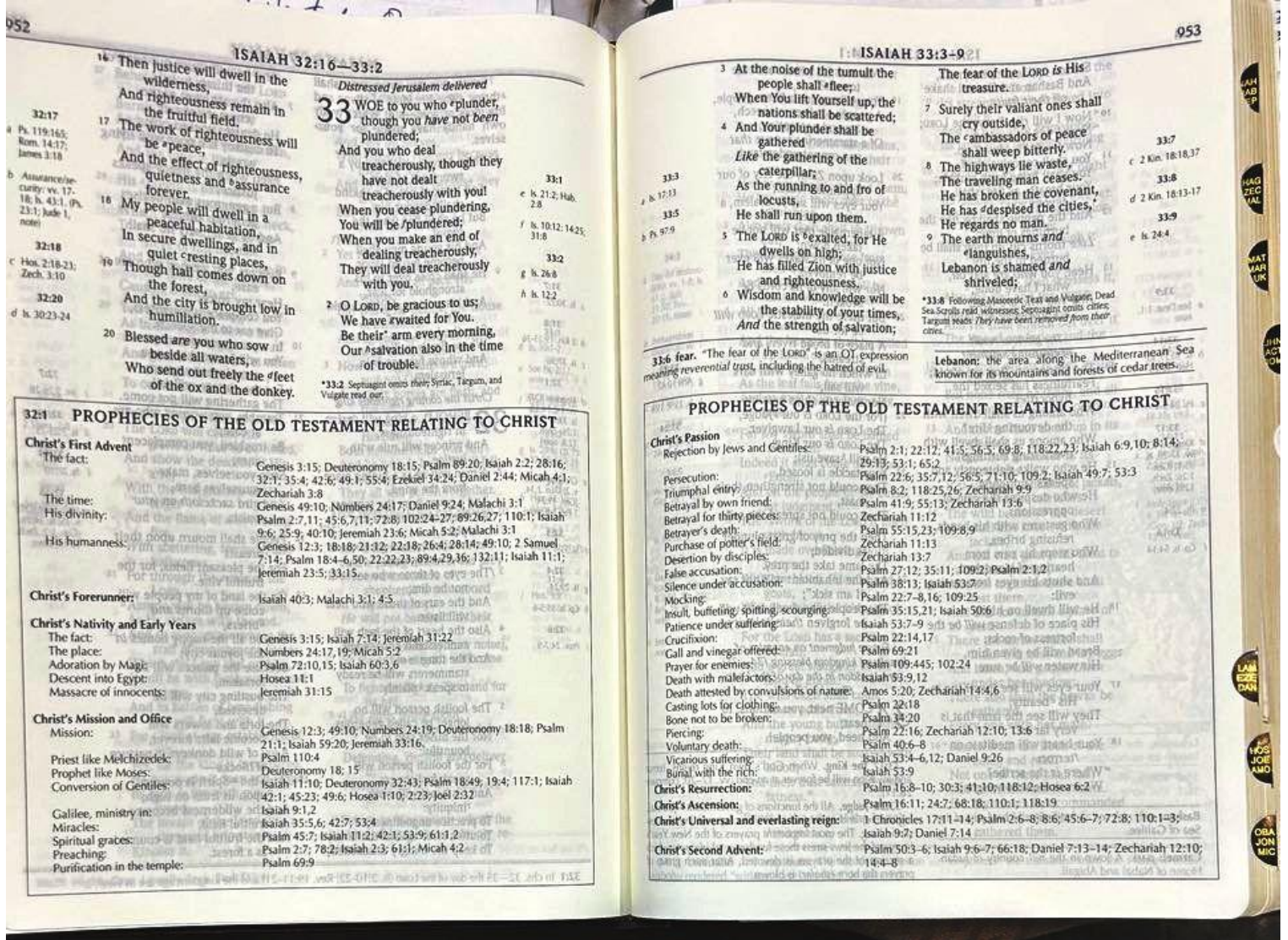
Prophecy written: Sometime between 626-586 BC

Prophecy fulfilled: By the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago

In Jeremiah 23:5, as well as in other Bible prophecies, we are told that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David.

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Pages 952 and 953 of the New King James Version, The Scofield Study Bible III, large print edition ©2002 (order here: <https://a.co/d/1HAEjJb>)



Luke 1:39-45 NRSVUE

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened

12-22-24 Advent Week IV Love Sunday Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter Year C Page 22 of 33
to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The courage of these women!

The Hail Mary Prayer

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour,
for God has looked with favor on this lowly servant.

From this day, all generations will call me blessed:
The Almighty has done great things for me,
and Holy is God's Name.

Just as we call upon each other to pray for us, so we may call on the Saints, all who have died in faith, to pray for us.

SERMON Song: Hail Mary: Gentle Woman by Carey Landry, G&P 426
Text based on Luke 1:28, 42. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Carey Landry. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense song# 81283 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.



(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

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."



The Reception of Holy Communion

4) PART FOUR HOLY COMMUNION AT THE TABERNACLE

Pastor: On Good Friday, there is no prayer of consecration anywhere in the world. The liturgical practice is ancient, and the purpose is to call to mind what the world would be like if Jesus did not give us the Blessed Sacrament. What if Jesus was a fraud? What if he did not rise from the dead? There would be no New Testament, no Gospels, no Church. Annually, for one day, we think about the world without the Gospel, the Church, the Scriptures, and the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist.

Then, on Holy Saturday Night, which is early in the morning of the Resurrection, we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

Today, on Mary's Day, Revered Mother's Day, etc., I decided this would be a good day to think about the waiting period all the women in Mary's family and friends who realized she was the blessed among women went through with her. Mary was genuinely pregnant and went through all the things women go through during pregnancy. To bring the sense of waiting to mind, I decided today we would not celebrate the full liturgy of the Eucharist. Instead, we shall wait until we meet again on December 29 to

12-22-24 Advent Week IV Love Sunday Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter Year C Page 24 of 33
experience the consecration anew. However, since none of us know when our personal last day on this planet is, I do not want to send you out without receiving the Blessed Sacrament. So, we shall receive from the Reserved Sacrament, already consecrated in the Tabernacle this morning.

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2024, given by Ed Askins, Treasurer, at the December 19, 2024 of the Church Council.

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of November was \$401.88. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$2,592.31. This included undeposited funds of \$77.67 which hit the bank early December. Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 4 week was paid equaling \$1980.00, Verizon \$62.38 and Paypal charges of \$24.64 came out of this account.

After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$849.50.

Building Fund opening balance was \$1,134.08. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$450.00. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$58.51, electric \$590.92, gas bill \$253.00, and the water bill of \$112.01. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,209.64.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$6,231.38. Donations to this account for this month were Ian and Christina \$450.00 at the beginning of the month and \$500.00 at the end of the month. The \$500.00 did not hit the bank until early December, so that is part of the Undeposited funds on the balance sheet. I paid Isaac's Heating and Air Conditioning \$5,960.75 for the boiler repair. The ending balance on this account is \$720.63.

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

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

General Offering for the week of December 15 \$100.00 Attendance 14 on Sunday
Wednesday, December 18, Attendance 11

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

Thank you to everyone who had any part in the Gaudete Party, Dinner and gift exchange.

Kaiden is Chairperson of the **Chapel Assistance Committee**. Kaiden wishes to thank Glenn Rathbun, Wayne Harris, and Katrina Lourdiane for changing the decorations from Gaudete to Mother's Day Sunday, pink and purple.

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.

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.

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 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

January 16, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING COUNCIL Votes on new By-Laws and 2025 Budget

January 17, Friday Annual Reports to Veronica

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

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

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

January 22, Wednesday Noon Mass

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

Monday, January 27, 2025 at Noon, The Third Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Annual Prayers At Noon Together on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day will be held on both in-person and online, and online. The prayers are three psalms, a Scripture reading, and a closing prayer. Psalms will be sung congregationally and led by Pastor Br. Shawn Benedict of Ray Of Hope Church.

12-22-24 Advent Week IV Love Sunday Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter Year C Page 28 of 33
MARCH 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP will be presented by the Elmira Area Clergy with up to ten churches participating. It will be hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church 256 S. Walnut St., Elmira, NY 7:00 PM. Details will follow in singing in the choir, and serving in the worship event. Please plan to be in attendance.

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

5) PART FIVE BLESSING

Pastor Benedict: FINAL BLESSING

Ending Blessing Colossians 2:1-3, 8-14 NRSVUE

2 For I want you to know how greatly I strive for you and for those in Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face. ² I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ,^[a] ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles^[b] of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision,^[c] by the removal of the body^[d] of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised

with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God**^[e] **made you**^[f] **alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,** ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

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6) PART SIX WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON LIGHT THE RAINBOW

LAST SONG: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O Come, All Ye Faithful/Adeste Fideles G&P 311 Text: John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786. English tr. Frederick Oakley, 1802-1880, alt. Music: Adeste Fideles John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786. Setting by James Chepponis. Setting published in ©2017 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127. Performed by Rev. Clyde McLennan. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted.

7) PART SEVEN SOCIAL TIME

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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)

