



Ray Of Hope

**Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

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

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

Today is December 25, 2022, Christmas, Year A

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.

St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

### **Scripture Readings for this worship event:**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 9:6-7 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 638

**Psalm** 96 verses 1-3 and 11-13 with Responsorial.

**Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 215

**Third Reading:** Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 58

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



## CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

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



## WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

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

We invite everyone to participate in some parts or all of this worship event as you feel comfortable. At Ray Of Hope Church, we assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page and song numbers, and by using a psalm response verse.

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

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



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

**Leader – 2:** Merry and Blessed Christmas to everyone.

**ALL: Merry Christmas. Alleluia!**

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

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

**Leader -1:** God is glorified when we welcome one another and introduce ourselves to those around us. You are truly welcome here. \*\*During COVID, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Merry Christmas!

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

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

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

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, the definition of "woke" is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com:

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

In Theological terms: Awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, actively supporting persons of all Religions and faiths and those with no faith or religion.

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more

Today is Christmas Day.

We give God thanks and praise for the wonderful and out-of-this-world gift of the Christ born to bring all humanity into the eternal New Creation. Indeed, today, I will be preaching on the concept of Universal Salvation, everyone has been brought into the Household of God by God's design and purpose. Salvation has come to all, many people simply do not realize it.

Notice the decorations in the chapel have changed to white, gold, red, and green. The white could be used to represent the innocence and purity of the Divine Child born to Mary. The gold could be used to represent the divinity, the fact that Jesus was God born in the flesh of humanity. The red could be used to represent the Blood of Christ poured out for the forgiveness of all sin and the salvation of all humanity. The green could be used to represent the eternal promises, ever green, ever fresh, able to withstand every season of life and death. The multiple colors on the tree represent the rainbow of God that completely surrounds God's place of Presence, God's Throne in traditional terms.

Ezekiel reports seeing God in a vision, "Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord" (Ezekiel 1:28).

During the Revelation John sees "a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald" (Revelation 4:3).

Also during the Revelation John sees "an angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire" (Revelation 10:1).

Finally, of course, the rainbow is a sign of the Covenant between God and all of creation. God declared the Covenant three times and declared the rainbow as the sign of that Covenant three times in Genesis 9:9-17. With the display of the rainbow colors on the evergreen tree we give witness that we are looking forward to the completion of all the promises God has revealed in the Scriptures.

The tree and decorations all reflect the multiple colors and multiple aspects of God's love for us and God's presence with us.

However, speaking of love and peace, we stop and pray for all the people in the war still raging in Ukraine. We pray to end these hostilities that started approximately 304 (\*corrected\*) days ago. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The Winter conditions are very harsh when the power system is not functioning. It is frigid in Ukraine these days.

(Add your silent prayers for the people in this war.)

**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:

### + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. Notice the Advent Wreath is completely transformed into the Christmas Wreath. We did not include the Candle of Hope in the middle of the wreath until the start of this Christmas Season today. And so, now, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope in honor of the "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. **Jesus said:** (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

**ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."** (John 11:25, 26)

**Leader -2:** While lighting the Candle Of Hope, it is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS. Unfortunately, some churches continue to reject sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Today we are reading the names on Block #56.

December 25, 2022 Nativity Year A page: 7

- Jim Pearson (1)
- Paul Gibson (2)
- Juan (3)
- Chuck Buck (4)
- Charlie Byrd (5)
- Fred Corliss (6)
- Chris Urbanik (7)
- Willi Short (8)

We remember them here and pray for their families.

**Leader -2:** At this time, we also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. Today we especially remember Robb Bacon who passed on December 23, 2018, and Charlotte Allen who passed on December 23, 2019. We pray for their family members as they remember them during this time of year. We give thanks and praise to God for both of these Saints, and we thank Robb and Charlotte for their prayerful support as we move forward in our faith journey. May the candle's flame remind everyone of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

**SECOND SONG:**



**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

**+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.**

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting one another, and praising God in song, we now prepare our hearts to accept

renewal when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. In preparation, we silently confess our sins to Christ and receive the forgiveness He promises to give us.  
(silent prayer)

**Leader -2:** We pray together:

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

L-4: Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Loving God, you challenge us to be the people who celebrate your love for everyone. But, unfortunately, the burdens of life can tempt us to concentrate on our problems and forget your eternal promises. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Christ Jesus, you have given us a new birth and made us sisters and brothers in you. Sometimes we fail to be examples of your radical acceptance of all people. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

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

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

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

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

**Pastor:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be united in God's

Kingdom without the loss of anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

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

**Spoken:**

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

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

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

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

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

### **+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader 5:** O Loving, Eternal, and Holy God, our hearts and minds are open to hearing these very familiar Scripture readings. We ask that your Word cause action and change in our lives. We pray that your Word will transform

and equip us for many more years of ministry. We pray through Christ, our Lord;

**ALL: AMEN.**

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

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



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

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

The first reading on this Christmas day is Isaiah, Chapter 9, verses 6 and 7. The reading is on page 638 in the first testament, in the front of the NRSV Bible.

Here begins the reading:

Here begins the reading:

**6** For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### + Psalm

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

The Psalm today is 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.

## + 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 two parts today, the Book of Titus,  
Chapter 2, verses 11-14 and Chapter 3, verses 4-7 on  
page 215 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV  
Bible. Here begins the reading:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12  
training us to reject godless ways and worldly passions, and in  
the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and

godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 It was Christ who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**Reader:** Continuing our reading, in Chapter 3, verses 4-7.

**4** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's own mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **6** This Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## **+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

## We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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 Luke, chapter 2, verses one through twenty on page 58 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

**1** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came

for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" **15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

December 25, 2022 Nativity Year A page: 15  
Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

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

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

**+ Sermon**

Sermon Notes December 25, 2022, Christmas.

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

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

The prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7 was well-known by the people of Jesus' day. They were expecting a virgin to birth a divine Son who would be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6).

Last Sunday, we read Matthew Chapter 1, verse 18 b "she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit." In Matthew Chapter 1, verses 20 and following we read Joseph is told: "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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife .."

In this prophecy is the promise that people would be saved from their sins. This promise is a universal gift to all humanity. Notice it does not say one ethnic group or one religious group; it says his people.

We learn from Jesus that the gift of salvation is for all people everywhere.

There are many verses that teach this doctrine of Universal Salvation.

The entire second reading is a perfect example.

Titus, Chapter 2, verses 11-14 and Chapter 3, verses 4-7 on page 215 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12 training us to reject godless ways and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 It was Christ who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**Reader:** Continuing our reading, in Chapter 3, verses 4-7.  
4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of

**God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us**, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's own mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **6** This Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Isaiah 9:7c "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

It is God's intention to bring everyone safely into the New Heavens and the New Earth, the recreation of the universe as promised in Scripture.

John 5:24 The person who hears my word and believes in God who sent me has eternal life, will never come under judgment, and has passed from death to live already.

**2 Peter 3:9** ESV

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**1 Timothy 4:10** ESV

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

**Romans 5:18** ESV

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

**John 12:32** ESV

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

**1 Timothy 2:4** ESV

Who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

[1 Corinthians 15:22](#) ESV

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

[Romans 11:32](#) ESV

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

[1 John 2:2](#) ESV

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

[Ephesians 1:10](#) ESV

As a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

[1 Corinthians 15:28](#) ESV

When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

[Luke 3:6](#) ESV

And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

[Revelation 20:14](#) ESV

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

[Colossians 1:20](#) ESV

And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

[Romans 6:23](#) ESV

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Acts 3:21](#) ESV

Whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

[Ephesians 1:11](#) ESV

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

[John 12:47](#) ESV

If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

[John 6:37-39](#) ESV

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

[John 3:16](#) ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

[John 1:29](#) ESV

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

[Isaiah 25:6-8](#) ESV

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Romans 8:38 – 38 NRSV <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Adam and Christ Romans 8:12-21**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no

law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup> But law came in, so that the trespass might increase, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so grace might also reign through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Special Music:** "Mary, Did You Know?" Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene.

Soloist: Christina McLaughlin



## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### + The Prayers of the People

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

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

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

**Leader – 3:** We give you thanks and praise for the guidance the church gives us with times and seasons to celebrate and remember the many aspects of your love; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 4:** We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war. We ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by destroying their homes, schools, places of worship, and towns. For these intentions, we pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

**Leader – 4:** We thank you for our Country, the United States of America. We pray that liberty and freedom increase for everyone; we pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

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

**Leader- 2:** We pray for those driven from faith because of the misuse of Religion. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included in the worship community. We hope all people grow to realize that they, too, are God's living light. We eagerly await your

promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. We pray to the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 15:28)

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

**Leader – 3:** We bless you, Almighty God, for all the people who have come through the doors of Ray Of Hope Church. As we continue in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, we ask for your grace and guidance to remain faithful to this unique work of the Gospel; we pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

**ALL: Amen**



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

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

**\*\*\*\* Leader:** At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. In the Chapel, use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event. In addition, there are donation envelopes available on the hospitality table by the door.

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

Now we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Folks viewing on the Internet, please turn to page three and follow the instructions under leader two.

We are using the small Communion set at your seat in the Chapel. Shake the kit gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

( \*\* Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. \*\* Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*) )

## **SONG:**

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

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



## **WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

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

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

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

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

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

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this fruit of the vine will become for us the

Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Pastor:** Please set down your cup.

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

**Pastor:** It is truly right and just....

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

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

**ALL:** O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful

**ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual** wellbeing. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

**Cheryl:** You may relax your arms and hands.

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

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



## **The Reception of Holy Communion**

**+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## + A Proclamation Of Our Faith

**Leader-2:** We proclaim our faith together.

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

### PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

## + The Lord's Prayer

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

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

**+ Final Doxology**

**Pastor:** Together we pray:

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

**Doxology/Amen!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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**+ Sign Of Peace**

**Veronica Floyd:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.  
**ALL:** And also with you.

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

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

## **SONG:**

**Post-Communion Music:** Ed Askins sings the song: "Breathe" by Marie Barnett (made popular by Michael W. Smith)

### **A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:**

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

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

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

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

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

**General Offering** for the week of December 11 \$388.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance **15 ALLELUIA!**

**General Offering** for the week of December 18 \$93.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

**\*\*\* Donations for the end of the year special gifts are now being received.**

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

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
**OUR CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, December 25 NATIVITY 10:30 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Christmas**

Hanukkah **Day 8** 5:00 p.m. service of light December 26 Monday Hanukkah ends at sunset.

December 26 Monday Kwanzaa **day 1 Umoja (Unity)** 7:00 p.m.  
service online **2<sup>nd</sup>** Day of Christmas

December 27 Tuesday Kwanzaa **day 2 Kujichagulia (Self-determination)** 7:00 p.m. service online  
No Bible Enrichment **3<sup>rd</sup>** Day of Christmas

December 28 Wednesday Kwanzaa **day 3 Ujima (Collective work & responsibility)** 7:00 p.m.  
service online **4<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas

December 29 Thursday Kwanzaa **day 4 Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)** 7:00 p.m.  
service online **5<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas

December 30 Friday Kwanzaa **day 5&6 Nia (Purpose) & Kuumba (Creativity)** 7:00 p.m.  
service online **6<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas

December 31 Saturday no service **7<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas

January 1 Sunday The Presentation of Jesus, the Holy Name of Jesus **8<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas  
Kwanzaa **day 7 Imani (Faith)** 7:00 p.m. service online

January 2 Monday **9<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas

January 3 Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m. **10<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas

January 4 Wednesday **11<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas

January 5 Thursday **12<sup>th</sup>** Day of Christmas The Twelfth Night Epiphany Eve

January 6 Friday actual Epiphany and Orthodox Christmas

January 8 Sunday Epiphany Celebration at Ray Of Hope Church

January 10 Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

January 15 Sunday Civil Rights Sunday, The Memorial of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 17 Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

January 22 the 39th Annual Meeting in the 40th year of Ministry, also The Memorial of St. Marianne Cope of Syracuse, NY, "Beloved Mother of Outcasts".

**Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023**

**Holy Week 2023:** Palm Sunday April 2 10:30 a.m. Holy Thursday April 6 7:00 p.m. Good Friday April 7 7:00 p.m. Vigil of the Resurrection Saturday April 8 7:45 p.m. No service on Sunday April 9.



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Pastor:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

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

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

**SONG:**

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

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

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

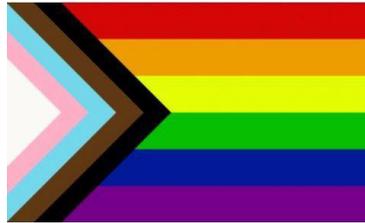
**\*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**

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

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

December 4, 2022 Advent Week II Year A page: 34

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

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

**Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.**

Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

December 4, 2022 Advent Week II Year A page: 36  
mottos, when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien; "You are as  
welcome here as Christ Himself."

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

**Bible Enrichment-** Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage  
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign  
on by 6:15 p.m. [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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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