

**"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 12-8-24 Advent WK 2, Year C  
Eschatology Week 4 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)

**First Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9 not in our NRSV

**Psalm:** Psalm 126: 1-6 Responsorial Psalm inside bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:3-11 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 196

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). For people watching on the Internet, we recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#).

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

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

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

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the second Sunday of the Church year, and our theme is World Peace. We have a seasonal short service within the service for each of the four weeks of Advent. Bring your Advent Wreath or Yule Log with four candles to your table at this time to light two candles later in the service.

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



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

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

available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ALL: And also with you, praise the Lord.**

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

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

Today is 12-8-24, the Second Sunday of the New Church Year, and the

theme is World Peace. Please take a moment to look at our Christmas Tree and notice the purple decorations. We extend many thanks to Kaiden Benedict and the Chapel Assistance Committee, especially Wayne Harris and Glenn Rathbun for assembling our tree and decorating it in Advent purple, the color representing longing and waiting. Wayne and Glenn also refreshed our purple decorations with some new ones. Thank you, Wayne and Glenn. Next week we will add rose color / pink decorations for Gaudete - Rejoice - Pride Sunday in the Winter.

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

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

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

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



**FIRST SONG:** TEXT ONLY

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

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

Jesus, be with us, for we need you.

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

Fill us all with hope and your love.

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

Jesus, be with us, for we need you.

**Verse 2:** Lord, we come to praise you for your faithfulness through night. You will be with us, this we know.

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

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

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

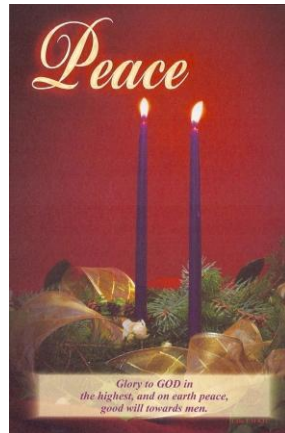
**G&P 304 Jesus, Come to Us. Words and music by David Haas.** © 1981, 1982, Oregon Catholic Press Onelicense Song #80428 Glory & Praise Second Edition #304 All rights reserved. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



**Leader - 4:** Please take a moment to look at the AIDS NAMES Memorial display board on the wall. Members of our Congregation made this posting board between 1983 and 1986 to honor the memory of friends and

lovers who died of HIV and AIDS. It is interesting to look closely at the pieces of paper because many of the names are written in pencil. The names of some of the Ray Of Hope Church Founders are on this board and are the original posting papers. Glenn and Wayne lovingly restored the board for rededication and are bringing it back into use. Thank you. Anyone may add the names of their loved ones too.

### **+ The Advent Wreath Week II – the candle of Peace.**



**Leader -2:** Please be seated. I invite you to pray silently as I say this prayer. (\*wait\*) We come together to give you praise, God of all creation. We come here to remove ourselves from the noise, the conflicts, the sorrow, and the restlessness of society to sit with you and with each other so we can listen and hear your voice.

**ALL:** We are here seeking some peace and quiet. Enfold us with the peace you promised, the peace the world cannot give. Help us abandon ourselves so we can commune in your presence, Lord Jesus.

**Leader -3:** O God of peace and justice, we are baptized into the fire of your divine love. May we bring to every circumstance and situation your gentleness and your kindness.

**Leader -4:** With the lighting of this candle we begin the second week of our four-week Advent journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a new embrace of our potential.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** As you light your Advent candles, both the first and now the second, 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 -2:** Together we say the following prayer out loud.

**ALL: Shatter the silence of Advent longing with the voice calling out, "Prepare the way of the Lord." We open our hearts, our minds, our beings to receive your message and your holy love that is teeming through all of creation. Move us ever closer toward your love that is all-encompassing and everywhere eternally present. Continue to fill all your people everywhere with your awesome essence of life. We ask this in the name of (\*+\*) God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Leader -2:** Please rise as you are able and sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

**O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times did give the law, in cloud and majesty, and awe.**

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

**O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them that trust your mighty power to save, and give them victory o're the grave.**

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

**Amen, Alleluia.**



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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.



**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

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

**Pastor: Colossians 3:11b - 13 reads:**

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

Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. <sup>14</sup> 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

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

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

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

## **WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN**

### **"The Gloria"**

From "Music for Worship"

© Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B. Dedication :Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 1:

You are the One God,  
Sovereign of the Universe,  
Only Holy God, we worship You,  
we give You thanks,  
we praise You for Your great glory!

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 2:

Lord, Jesus Christ;  
The Only Begotten Son of God  
You are 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.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 3:

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 God.  
In the Holy Spirit, in the Holy unity of God.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 4:

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

From "Music for Worship" © Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br.  
Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Dedication:  
Ray Of Hope Church  
Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.  
40th Anniversary

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

Words and Music  
Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
7/25/19-1/21/24  
Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

**Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

4  
peace to all peo - ple on earth — Glo - ry to God in the high - est —

8  
We give you thanks — and praise. Al - le - lu — ia

10  
We give you thanks — and praise.

12 **Verse 1**  
You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly

16  
Ho - ly God, — we wor - ship You, — we

18  
give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo - ry!

21 **Refrain**  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, — and peace to all peo - ple on earth —

25  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est — We give you thanks — and

2

28

praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**

Lord, Jes - us Christ;\_\_\_\_\_ The On - ly Be - got - ten

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; Have mer - cy on

41

us; You are sea-ted at the right hand of God; re - ceive our prayer.

46 **Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est,\_\_\_\_\_ and peace to all peo - ple on\_ earth\_

50

Glo - ry to God in the high - est\_\_\_\_\_ We give you thanks\_ and

53

praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**

For You a-lone are the Ho - ly One You a - lone are the Lord of all,

61


You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

66



Spi-rit in the glo - ry of God. In the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

71



Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain




Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on earth.

79



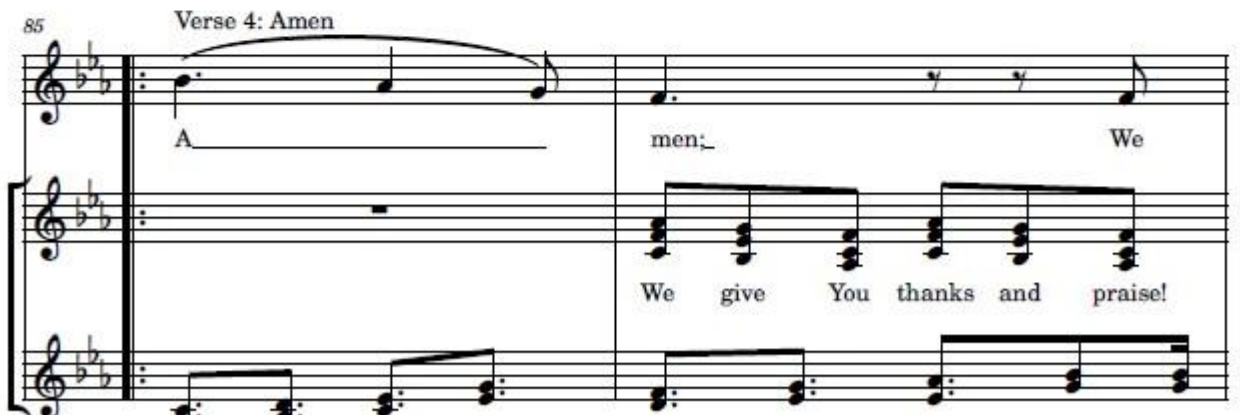
Glo-ry to God in the high-est. We give you thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia

83



We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen



A men: We

We give You thanks and praise!

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

give You thanks, We give You praise We give You thanks and praise

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You men. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PASTOR:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

**+ Opening Prayer**



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

**ALL:** And also with you, Alleluia!

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

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

**Leader-4:** We make this exhortation together:

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

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



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

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

This morning's first reading is in the Book of Baruch, chapter 5, verses 1-9. The reading is not included in our 1989 NRSV pew edition Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

<sup>1</sup> Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

<sup>2</sup> Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Eternal One,

<sup>3</sup> for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

<sup>4</sup> For God will give you evermore the name,  
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

<sup>5</sup> Rise up, Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the  
Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

<sup>6</sup> For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but  
God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

<sup>7</sup> For God has ordered that every high mountain and the ancient hills  
be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that  
Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's  
command.

<sup>9</sup> For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of God's glory, with the  
compassion and justice that come from the Most High.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

Today's Psalm reading is number 126, with selected verses and a responsorial verse. Today's response is, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."

**R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with Joy.**

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with Joy.**

The heathens themselves said: "What marvels  
the Lord worked for them!"

<sup>3</sup> What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with Joy.**

<sup>4</sup> Deliver us, O Lord, from out bondage  
as streams in dry land.

<sup>5</sup> Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with Joy.**

<sup>6</sup> They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full of song,  
carrying their sheaves.

**R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with Joy.**

**Give praise to the Living God.**

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

**To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.**

**Both now, and for ever. Amen.**

Text of Psalm 126: 1-6 - Song of the Returned Exiles / A Pilgrimage Song (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #17023 All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

## **+ Second Reading**

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

The second reading is in the Book of Philippians chapter 1, verses 3-11. The reading is on page 196 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I think of you. <sup>4</sup> In every prayer I utter, as I plead on your behalf, I rejoice <sup>5</sup> at the way you have all continually helped promote the Good News from the very first day. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this much: that God, who has begun the good work in you, will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> It's only right that I should entertain such expectations about you, since I hold all of you dear—you who are all partakers of grace with me, even when I lie in prison or am summoned to defend the solid ground on which the Good News rests. <sup>8</sup> God knows how much I long for each of you with all the affection of Christ Jesus! <sup>9</sup> My prayer is that your love may abound more and more, both in understanding and in wealth of experience, <sup>10</sup> so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. <sup>11</sup> It's my wish that you be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**We Love Your Word!**

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is on page 60 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 3, verses 1-6. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene.<sup>2</sup> In those days, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John, ben-Zechariah, in the desert.<sup>3</sup> John went through the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,<sup>4</sup> as is written in the words of

Isaiah, the prophet: "A herald's voice in the desert, crying,  
 'Make ready the way of our God;  
 clear a straight path. <sup>5</sup> Every valley will be filled,  
 and every mountain and hill will be leveled.  
 The twisted paths will be made straight,  
 and the rough road smooth— <sup>6</sup> and all humankind will see the  
 salvation of God.'"

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 2776-2777). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 679. 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.)

## 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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

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

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## + Sermon: Br. Shawn Benedict

We are celebrating Gratitude, Appreciation, and Thankfulness for 41 years of

ministry, welcoming all people to the free gift of salvation. We are now in our 42nd year of ministry.

Historicity of the Gospel of Luke: who, what, where, and why. Here is a decent resource: (<https://www.2belikechrist.com/articles/luke-3-summary-5-minute-bible-study#:~:text=The%2015th%20year%20of%20Tiberius,Jesus'%20relatives%20from%201%20A.D.> )

Isaiah 40:3-8

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out,

"Clear a path through the wilderness for YHWH!

Make a straight road through the desert for our God!

<sup>4</sup> Let every valley be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low;

let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges become a valley!

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of YHWH will be revealed,

and all humankind will see it." § The mouth of YHWH has spoken!

<sup>6</sup> A voice commands, "Cry out!"

and I answer, "What will I say?"

—"All flesh is grass

and its beauty is like the wildflowers:

<sup>7</sup> the grass withers

and the flower wilts

when the breath of YHWH blows on them.

How the people are like grass! <sup>8</sup> Grass withers, and flowers wilt,

but the promise of our God will stand forever."

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 971). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 245. 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.)

NRSV 1989 has this reading on page 667.

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**ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 3 of 6**

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

**No dogmatic position at Ray Of Hope Church**

=====

Eschatology ultimately orders everything that is preached and taught in a consistent theology. The dogmatic position one takes on the last things

provides a lens through which the entire teaching message will be filtered.

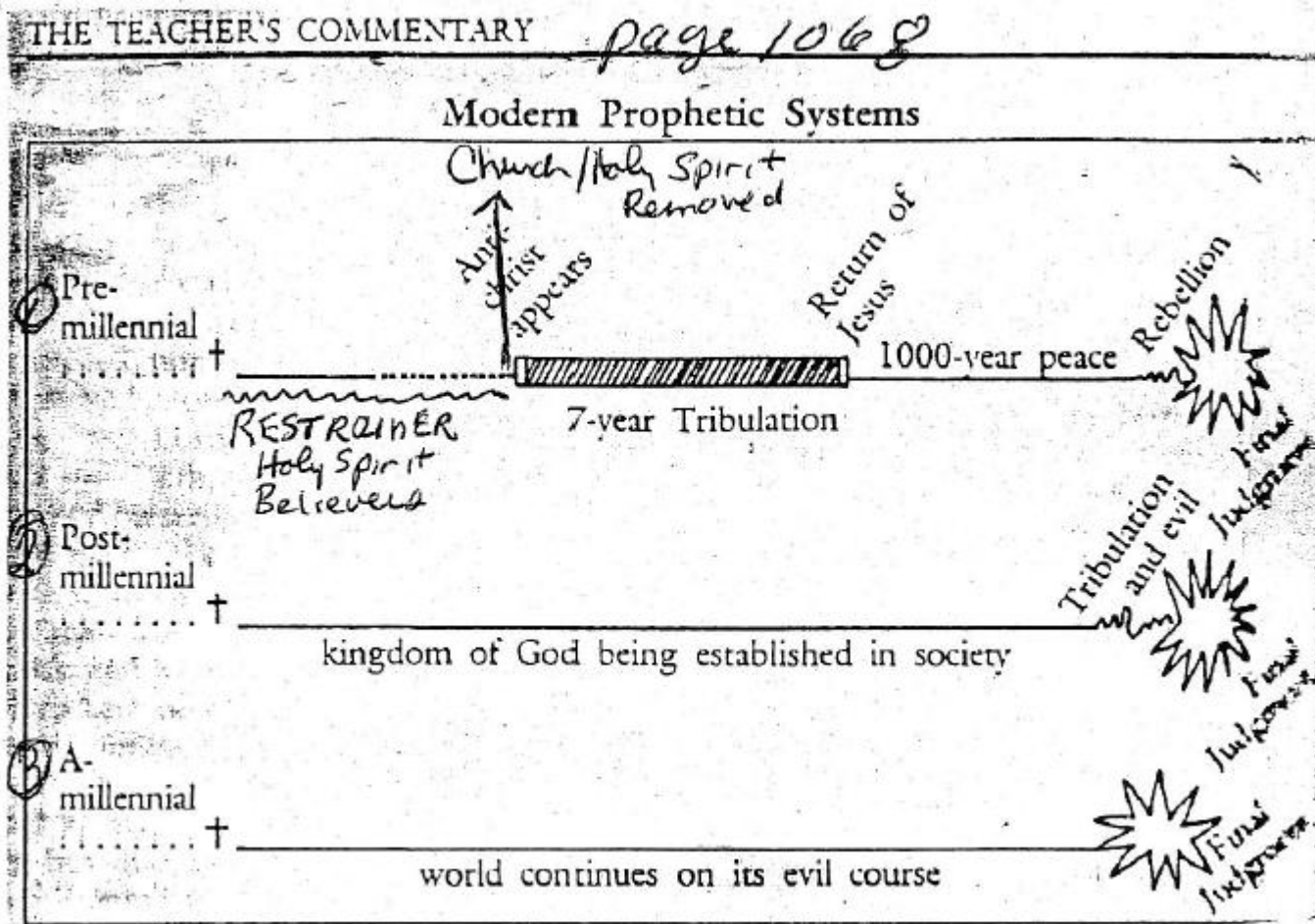
Preaching using the lectionary is completely filtered through the lens of how one views Eschatology.

Seminaries absolutely teach according to the eschatological dogmatic position.

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

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

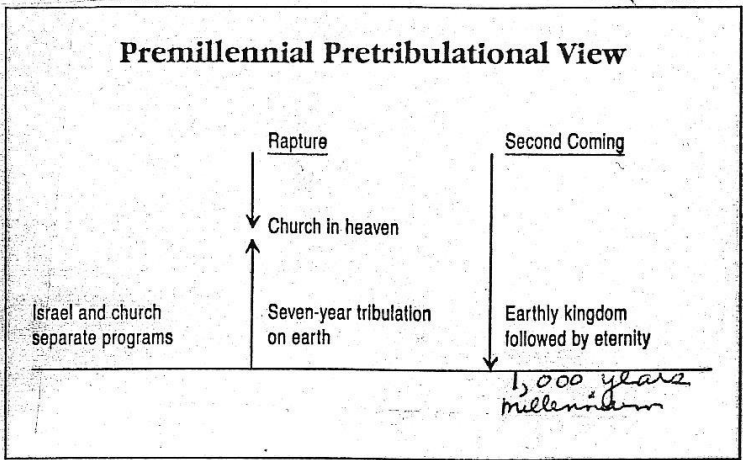
We go to specialists for their expert advice because none of us can be experts at everything.





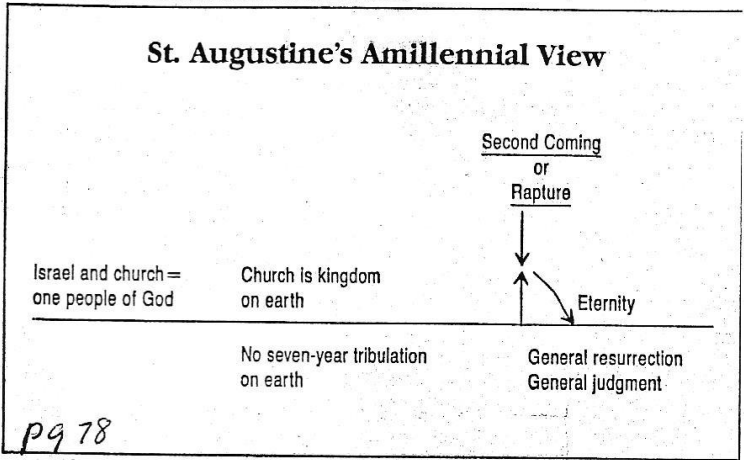
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A



pg 63

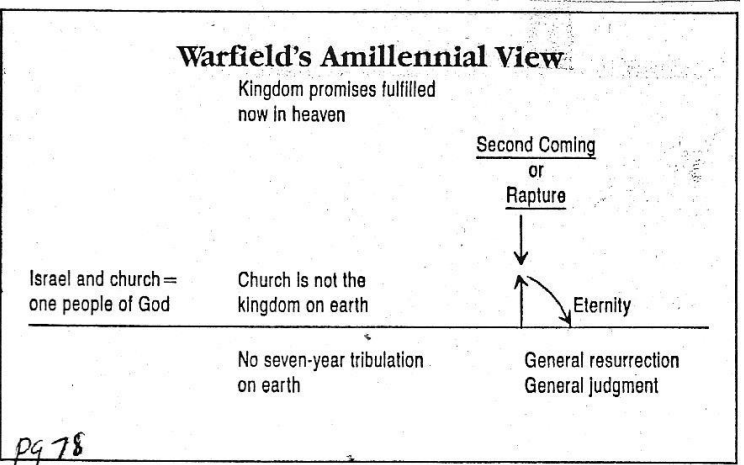
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pg 78

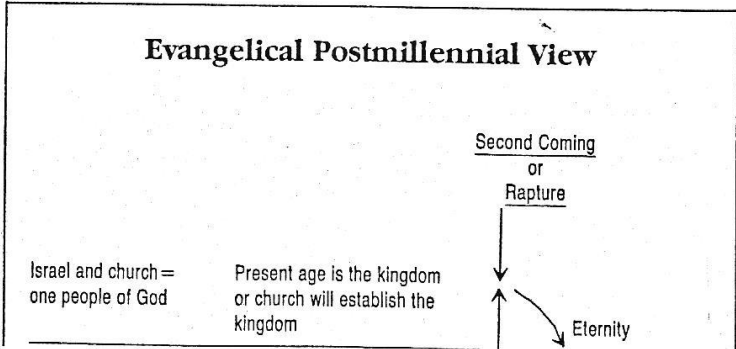
*Last Days Handbook  
Robert P. Lightner, Ph.D.*

C



pg 78

D




\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*

**Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:** Hurricanes, floods, war, disease, and healing; who else should we pray for?

**Veronica:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. The church has an old standard, *lex orandi, lex credendi*, which means that "the law of prayer is the law of faith" or "that which we pray is that which we believe." Our prayer, our worship is the key to understanding what God has revealed for us to accept as Eternal Truth. Our Congregation serves the general public by providing qualified leadership, an organization accountable to its members, teachings based on ancient ecumenical consensus, the presentation of worship experiences, the physical building space for worship and education in spirituality, and our presence on the Internet platforms. All are welcome to avail themselves of our services of worship. (<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Worship.htm>)

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



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

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

**Offertory Song:** Lord I Lift Your Name On High. Words and Music by Rick Founds

### Verse

Lord I lift Your name on high  
 Lord I love to sing Your praises  
 I'm so glad You're in my life  
 I'm so glad You came to save us

## Chorus

You came from heaven to earth  
To show the way  
From the earth to the cross  
My debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I Lift Your Name On High. Words and Music by Rick Founds

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21787152.

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

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

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



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God

(John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

**Pastor: (An improvised prayer is said here.)**

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

# Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**+ The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

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

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## The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

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

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

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

### **+ Sign Of Peace**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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



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

## COMMUNION SONG

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

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of October was \$1,016.27. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$1,963.03 which includes the undeposited funds off \$122.66 from last month. Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 5 week was paid equaling \$2,475.00, Verizon \$62.39 and Paypal charges of \$40.03 came out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$401.88.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,242.41. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00 and transferred in \$309.95 from the Building Improvement fund. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$61.41, electric \$633.92, gas bill \$253.00, Isaac's Heating and Air Conditioning \$309.95 for boiler

repair and I transferred \$200.00 into savings to save for the liability insurance bill that will be due the beginning of December. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,134.08.

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

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

There were no undeposited funds for the month of October.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Kaiden for your \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund  
Thank you, Veronica for your special donation toward the internet expenses.  
Thank you , Veronica for your special \$300.00donation toward the pastoral SE Tax line item.

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

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

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.

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.

- Thursday 12/12, Friday 12/13 Put up the Pink Decorations(take down Purple) add pink to Christmas Tree - Gaudete Party
- Thursday 12/19, Friday 12/20 Put up Purple full color ornaments. COLOR lights Sunday December 20 - Mother's Day
- 12/23 Change to Gold and White with about 70 artificial poinsettias to open, set up the Manger

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto: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 8, Advent Week 2 The Candle of Peace, praying for world peace. - purple

Monday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m. By-Laws Committee (continuing indexing)

Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. Lisa will be performing with the Community Orchestra at the Arnot Mall for a free Holiday Concert.

### **TUESDAY December 10 ELMIRA POLICE AND NAACP Law-Enforcement**

#### **Zoom meeting 5:30 - 6:30**

The Elmira-Corning branch of the NAACP is sponsoring a Law-Enforcement zoom meeting on December 10, 2024 from 5:30-6:30 pm, featuring the Elmira, NY, Police Chief Kristen Thorne. The meeting will consist of a PowerPoint presentation reflecting takedown procedures with explanations and more. The public is invited to zoom in an effort to learn what procedures are legal, illegal and more. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83010795485?pwd=KFSa3RZsrjv1MnhxNgxSaWgk596sKN.1>

Meeting ID: 830 1079 5485

Passcode: 529546

One tap mobile

+16469313860, 83010795485# US

+16465588656, 83010795485# US (New York)

**\*\***

### **TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 7:15 - 8:45 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 3 of 4**

December 11 Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

December 12 Thursday 2:00 p.m. Budget workshop for 2025. Council is required to attend and others may also attend if interested in helping us project into next year with our fiscal planning.

Sunday, December 15, Advent Week 3 GAUDETE REJOICE SUNDAY PRIDE PARTY

IN THE WINTER. PINK DAY! GIFT EXCHANGE AND DINNER TOGETHER - PINK CANDLE

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

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

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 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 4 of 8 live on Facebook

December 29, Sunday 10:30 A.M. 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 scheduled evening class on Tuesday, December 31.

January 1, Noon. No scheduled Mass.

January 1, 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, Orthodox Christmas EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 12, The Baptism Of The Lord

Sunday, January 19, Dr. Martin Luther King and Civil Rights Sunday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL 17, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 PM

APRIL 18, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 PM

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

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

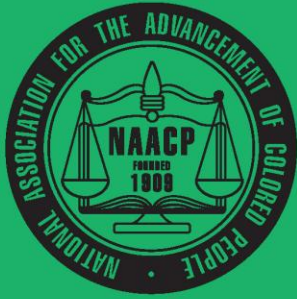
June 8, Sunday Pentecost

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

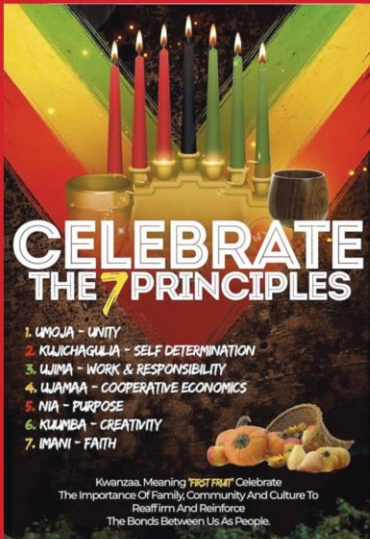
June 15, Sunday, Father's Day and 29th Ordination Anniversary

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



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



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

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



**SPEAKER**

**Tara Clark**

**Case Supervisor, Child Preventive Service  
Tompkins County, New York**

**The program is free and open to the public**



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

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

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

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

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

**Verse 1**

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

Hail to the King hail to the King!

### Verse 2

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

### Verse 3

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

**Lion Of Judah. Words and Music by Ted Sandquist.** © 1976 Lion Of Judah Music. Renewed 1981. CCLI Song # 16990. Lyrics appear here solely with the SongSelect® All rights reserved. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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](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.

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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](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs)

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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)

