

**"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 2-2-25, Epiphany WK 4, Year C, Black History Month Week One.
Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian Faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.
St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as
"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."
Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal
and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 698

Psalm: 71 with responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 12: 31 - 13:13 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 174

Gospel: Luke 4:20-30 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 61

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

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

Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#). Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>.

You do not need an account on Skype to "enter as a guest" when prompted. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

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

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second half of this worship event. You need not be a member of this church or any church to receive Communion with us if you choose to. To the people watching on the Internet, 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 2nd ring will announce the start of the worship event.

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

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

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

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.

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.

Pastor: Today is 2-2-25, Epiphany WK 4, Year C, Black History Week One.
Christ with us. Human failure.

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:

Blessed Assurance

Arranged by Br. Shawn F. Benedict & Brian Ellison for Ash Wednesday 2025

$\text{♩} = 32$

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance Je - sus is mine! O what a
2. mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
3. mis - sion, al is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal -
rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de -
Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and

- va - tion, pur - chase of God. Born of the
- scend - ing, bring from a - bove ech - oes of
wait - ing, look - ing a - bove. filled with his

REFRAIN:

7 Spi - rit; washed in his blood. *This is my*
mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
good - ness, lost in his love.

2

Blessed Assurance

9 10 11

sto - ry, this is my song. Prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day

12 13

long! This is my sto - ry, this is my

14 15

song. Prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day

16 17

1.2. 3.

long! 2. Per - fect sub 3. Per - fect sub long!

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915) ASSURANCE
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908). Re-harmonized and arranged by Br. Shawn F. Benedict & Brian Ellison (2025).
 Music transcribed and scored by Randy Cornell

Blessed Assurance Text: 9 10 9 9 with refrain; Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, alt. Music: ASSURANCE; Phoebe P. Knapp, 1839-1908.
 Contributors: ASSURANCE, Phoebe Knapp, Fanny Crosby Onelicense Song#94239 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

Blessed Assurance

Verse 1

**Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood**

Chorus

**This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

Verse 2

**Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love**

Verse 3

**Perfect submission all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting looking above
Filled with His goodness lost in His love**

Fanny Jane Crosby, Phoebe Palmer Knapp

CCLI Song #22324

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+ The Candle Of Hope

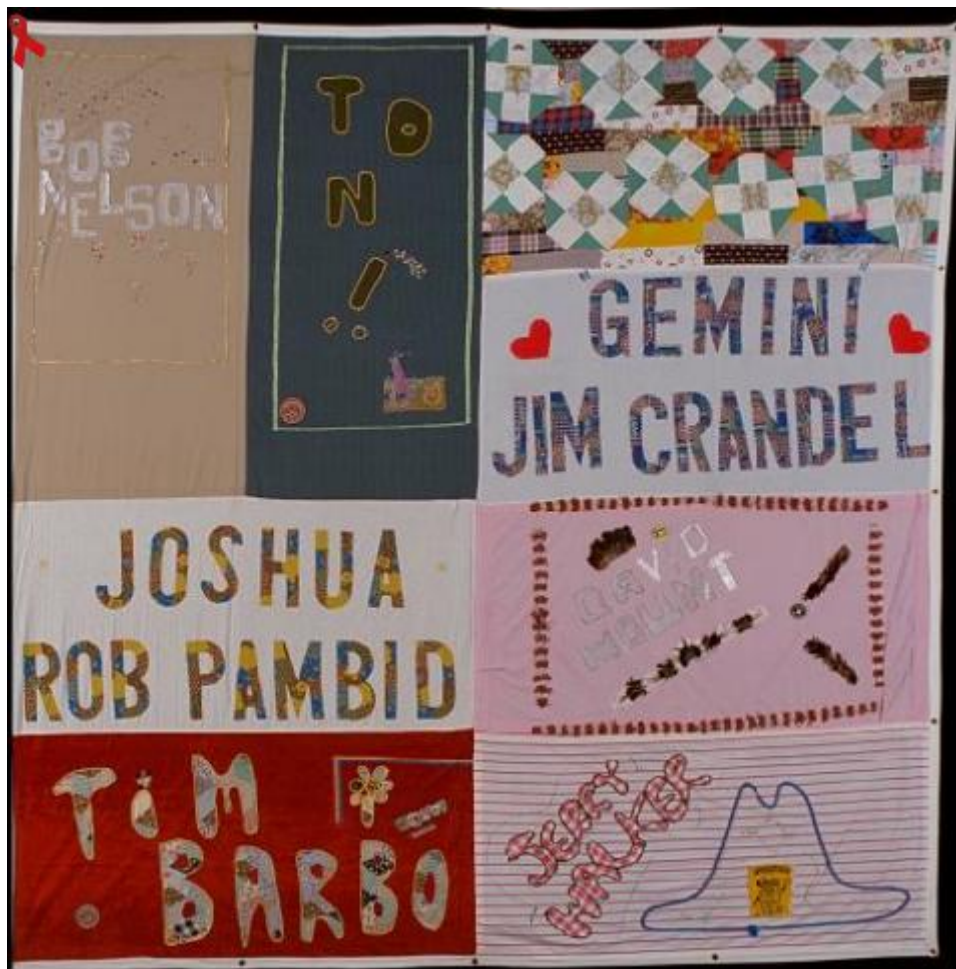
Leader - 2: Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to

celebrate the Truth they promise us. 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: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people. Scroll the page to see the panels on block 136.



Michigan Jewish AIDS Coalition on Block # 136

- Bob Nelson (1)
 - Toni (2)
- Joshua Rob Pambid (3)
 - Tim Barbo (4)
- Timm Graham (5)
 - Jim Crandel (6)
 - David Mount (7)
 - Jerry Walker (8)

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

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.***) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually:
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

SECOND SONG: G&P 624 Jesus, My Confidence

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First Line: Jesus, My Confidence.

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WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) At this time we prepare our hearts to

be renewed by receiving God in Word and Sacrament by confessing our sins to Christ in silent prayer.
(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 God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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!

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.

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



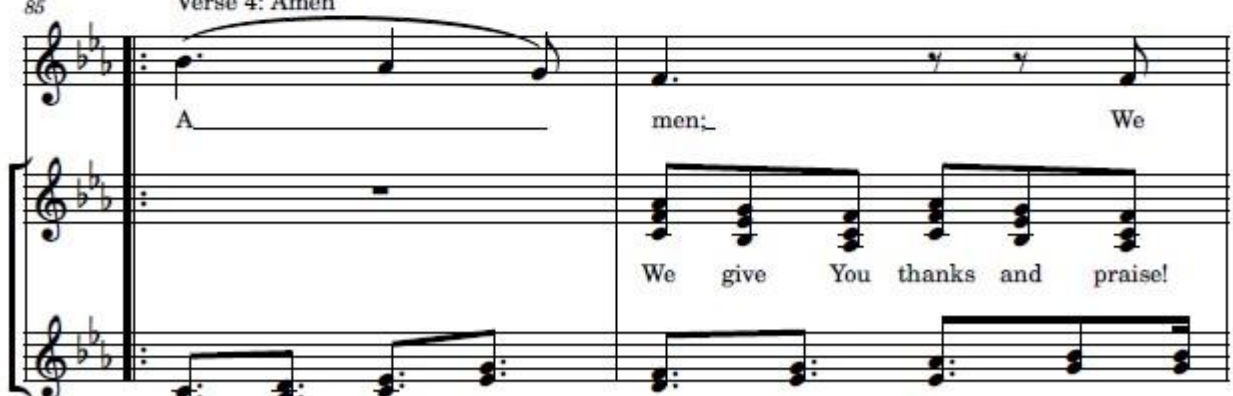
Glo-ry to God in the high-est_ We give you thanks_ and praise. Al-le-lu_ia

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 thnks, We give You praise We give You thnaks 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

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Our first reading is in the Book of Jeremiah, chapter 1, verses 4-5, and verses 17-19.

You will find this on page 698 in the front of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

⁴ Now the word of YHWH came to me and said:

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb, I chose you.
Before you were born, I dedicated you.
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

¹⁷ So now, Jeremiah, brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them all I command you.
Do not break down in their presence,
lest in their presence I break you down.

¹⁸ Look—today I make you a fortified city,
a pillar of iron and a wall of bronze
so you may confront this whole land:

the royalty of Judah and the officials,
its priests and its people. ¹⁹They will assault you
but will never conquer you,
for I am with you to deliver you—
it is YHWH who speaks.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(Jeremiah 1:4-5 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 1055). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 264. Jeremiah 1:17-19 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 1057). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 265. 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.)

+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The Psalm today is 171, verses 1-6, and verses 15 and 17.

Our response today is; " I will sing of your salvation." (cf John 6:63c)

R. I will sing of your salvation.

¹In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me;
pay heed to me and save me.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

³Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
⁴Free me from the hand of the wicked,
from the grip of the unjust, of the oppressor.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

⁵It is you, O Lord, who are my hope.
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.

⁶ On you I have learned from my birth;
from my mother's you have been my help.
My hope has always been in you.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

¹⁵ My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help
(though I can never tell it all).

¹⁶ Lord, I will declare your mighty deeds,
proclaiming your justice, yours alone.

¹⁷ O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonder still.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

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 forever. A-men.

Text of Psalm 71: 1-24 - A Prayer in Old Age (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #31091 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: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Our second reading is found in the Book of First Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 31 through Chapter 13, verse 13. reading is on page 174 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

Set your hearts on the greater gifts. But now I will show you the way

which surpasses all the others. 13 :1 Even if I can speak in all the tongues of earth—and those of the angels too—but do not have love, I am just a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal.

The Gift of Love ἀγάπη *agapē ag-ah'-pay*

From **G25**; *love*, that is, *affection* or *benevolence*; specifically (plural) a *love feast*: - (feast of) *charity* ([*-ably*]), *dear*, *love*.

G25 ἀγαπάω *agapaō ag-ap-ah'-o* Perhaps from ἄγαν *agan* (*much*; or compare [**H5689**]); to *love* (in a social or moral sense): - (be-) *love* (-ed). Compare **G5368**.

1John 4:8 God**G2316** is**G2076** love.**G26**

2 If I have the gift of prophecy such that I can comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, or if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away everything I own to feed those poorer than I, then hand over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, and it is not snobbish; 5 it is never rude or self-seeking; it is not prone to anger, nor does it brood over injuries. 6 Love doesn't rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. 7 There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. 8 Love never fails. Prophecies will cease; tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away. 9 Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. 10 When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. 12 Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known. 13 There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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

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

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

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

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Reader: The Gospel reading is on page 61 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, verses 20-30. 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.**

This is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel where Jesus was reading from the Book of Isaiah and He stopped on a comma. We are exactly at the same place in today's reading. Here begins the reading.

²⁰ Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he said to them, "Today, in your hearing, this scripture passage is fulfilled." ²² All who were present spoke favorably of him; they marveled at the eloquence of the words on Jesus' lips. They said, "Surely this isn't Mary and Joseph's son!" ²³ Jesus said to them, "Undoubtedly you'll quote me the proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your own country the things we heard you did in Capernaum.'" ²⁴ But the truth is, prophets never gain acceptance in their hometowns. ²⁵ "The truth is, there were many women who were widowed in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens remained closed for three and a half years and a great famine spread over the land. ²⁶ It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but to a woman who had been widowed in Zarephath, near Sidon. ²⁷ Recall, too, that many had leprosy in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one was cured except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ At these words, the whole audience in the synagogue was filled with indignation. ²⁹ They rose up and dragged Jesus out of town, leading him to the brow of the hill on which the city was built, with the intention of hurling him over the edge. ³⁰ But he moved straight through the crowd and walked away.

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. 2780 -2781). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 680. 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

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
 December 31, 1995

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

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+ Sermon NOTES

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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**

REMINDER of this great resource that is available for your private study: *** Millennial
 Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord <https://walvoord.com/series/328>

An **Epiphany in Holy Scripture** is an event where God reveals God's self in an obvious
 and public way.

Epiphany – Week 4 Jesus is the One divinely appointed even before He was in

the womb of Mary. We know this from the Annunciation itself. The Angel Gabriel came to Mary with the full knowledge of the Christ. The Angel told her to name the child Jesus. . Jesus is the fulfillment of (Isaiah 61:1-2)(NRSV 1st test. Pg. 692)

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,*

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

An **Epiphany in Holy Scripture** is an event where God reveals God's self in an obvious and public way. The issue is Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled. Jesus is the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit being part of the three person, one being, Trinity is at the heart of our faith.

False Equivalency: all religions are the same. Epiphany—Christ is the Messiah of Isaiah.

The GREAT COMMA explained.

61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. (NRSVCE)

Liturgy of the Word in the first reading today. The Liturgy until Jesus established the Blessed Sacrament, part 2 of the Liturgy.

There are many **gifts given to each congregation** by the work of the Holy Spirit. Every gift needs the other gifts.

We do not compete with each other; we complete each other.

All of us were known to God before we were in the wombs of our mothers. Jeremiah was a normal human who said "yes" to the call of God. Clearly in the first reading, Jeremiah 1, verse 4, we see God knew Jeremiah before his human life. This brings us back to the three parts of the human person: body, soul, and mind. We all agree on the body being that which is given to us by our father and mother in the womb of our mother. However, the words soul and mind are confusing because some theologies set the "soul" as the part of us that existed before our body, and therefore the mind is part of the human body made in the womb. Other theologies switch and say the mind or spirit is the eternal part and the soul, our feelings come with our bodies in the womb. I think we may all agree that we are one third eternal and two-thirds human creation.

For the purpose of this short sermon, I will use "soul" to refer to our eternal part. God alone can create souls. When God creates a soul, it is forever from that beginning. We all understand our bodies and with them the organ of the brain - the mind, are made on our mother's bodies. What this first reading indicates today is we all have been in creation before we were physically born. The two beautiful gifts promised to each of us are 1) when our body dies we will have the gift of having our souls and spirits united and only leaving the body aside waiting for our return. At a day known only to God, we will return with Christ and receive our resurrection bodies and be united again as Body, Soul, and Spirit but now able to live without any of the destructive powers of Sin.

There is much more to be said about this first reading that has to be addressed on Tuesday evening Bible Enrichment sessions. Included is one of the many places in Scripture God promises the people and land of Israel protection from other countries and other religions attacking them. In verse 19 it is clearly promised; "They will assault you but will never conquer you, for I am with you to deliver you - it is YHWH who speaks." The history of Israel certainly reveals nation after nation trying to destroy them from the face of the Earth, and yet, it is impossible. Unfortunately, the Scriptures reveal there will be more attempts to eliminate the Jews, but the Holy Scriptures assure us, that will never happen, as it has not happened even to this day.

With the second reading we continue where we left off last week. The greatest gift God gives to the church is agape, universal altruistic love. If we start with and base everything we do on altruistic agape we will experience God in real time.

In the first reading at Jeremiah 1, verse 17, God tells Jeremiah; "brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you." We are all called to get into the action, the work and power of the Holy Spirit.

HUMAN FAILURE

FATE the development of events beyond a person's control, regarded as determined by a [supernatural](#) power.
"fate decided his course for him"

FAITH complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
"this restores one's faith in politicians"

Worthiness

1. the quality of being good enough; [suitability](#).
"he demonstrates his **worthiness to rule**"
- o the quality of [deserving](#) attention or respect.
"an argument about the moral worthiness of the nation's founders"

"I DO NOT DO ANYTHING UNLESS I CAN PROVE IT SCIENTIFICALLY."
"I AM NOT GOING TO BELIVE IN ANYTHING THAT SCIENCE HAS NOT PROVEN."

Mechanical Failure
Medical Failure
Infections
BIRD FLU
BUILDING COLLAPSE

PLANES FALL OUT OF THE AIR - killed in parking lot
PLANE COLLIDE IN THE AIR.

[The Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) reported 1,757 near-misses at airports in 2024, which is similar to the number reported in 2023. These near-misses are also known as runway incursions.](#)

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/news/anti-dei-legislation-tracker/>

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/news/trump-executive-order-ends-educational-equity-initiatives/>

Which states have introduced anti-DEI bills? <https://www.nbcnews.com/data-graphics/anti-dei-bills-states-republican-lawmakers-map-rcna140756>

***** Keeping Watch***** On Sunday, January 19, 2024 I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment. (Source:[https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment).)

) **Civil Rights Sunday is our call to action.**



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

=====

*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

=====

Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:



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

Leader: Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful for all the people over these last forty-one years of ministry who have given help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in this new year of 2025. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen." Your giving has been exemplary and extraordinary; may God bless you.

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



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

OFFERTORY SONG: NTBK #63 "Thy Word" Words and Music by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith. © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Vinny Mae's Girl (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC); Curb Word Music. For use solely with the SongSelect®. CCLI Song # 14301 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 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 thank you for those who can give financially and with their skills, prayers, talents, and 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

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+ 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 Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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!

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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: G&P# 656 **Christ, Be Our Light.** Words and Music Bernadette Farrell

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, Be Our Light. Words and Music Bernadette Farrell
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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2024

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of December was \$849.50. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$4,058.90. This included special donations of \$400.00 towards Brothers' self-employment tax and a \$200 special donation towards the internet reimbursement. Also, the undeposited funds of \$77.67 from November were deposited in December. Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 5 weeks was paid equaling \$2,475.00 Verizon \$62.38, Paypal charges of \$70.01 and a reimbursement of \$200 to Brother for the Internet came out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$2,178.68.

The Building Fund opening balance was \$1,209.64. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$700.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$59.08, electric \$679.15,(this higher amount was to catch us up on the budget balance) gas bill \$253.00, liability insurance \$291.18, a purchase of communion kits for \$30.99 and the water bill of \$92.53. Ending balance of this fund was \$903.71.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$720.63. The undeposited funds of \$500.00 from the end of November were deposited in December bring the ending balance on the account to \$1,220.63

Savings (Council) Account opening balance \$443.65. There was no activity on this account for the month of December, so ending balance is \$443.65.

As of today 1/16/2025 bank account balances are as follows:

General Fund: \$1,710.13, Building Fund: \$827.36, Building Improvement Fund: \$1,670.63 and the Savings (Council) Account: \$526.99 (which includes January Self Employment tax of \$83.34 which is set aside for January 2026). Bills due: CCLI invoice is due for \$387.00 (One license was paid January 2nd \$198.00) and I have a bill for the Elmira sewer tax for \$36.20. As an information only note..... The credit card balance from the latest statement is \$2,476.09. We spent \$433.44 last year on interest on this card.

At the end of 2024 our income exceeded our expenses by \$1,973.60. The members of the council wish to thank the congregation for their generous donations.

*380 W. First St.
Elmira, NY 14901*



NOTICE OF FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Members and Friends of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ will be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2025. The schedule for the day is as follows:

10:30 a.m. – Worship (please be on SKYPE by 10:15 for this)
12:30 – Online Fellowship time / meal and desserts at Elmira Chapel
1:30 p.m. – Annual Membership Meeting

Please review the attached documents before the Annual Meeting date. Watch your email for a few more reports which we will discuss at the meeting as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Veronica Floyd, Clerk
Ray Of Hope
Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

General Offering for the week of December 29 \$1045.00 Attendance 14 on Sunday

General Offering for the week of January 5 \$600.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday
Wednesday, January 7, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of January 12 \$400.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday
Wednesday, January 14, Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of January 19 \$725.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday
Wednesday, January 21, Attendance 9

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

Thank you, Katrina for assisting in the Monastery with cleaning, cooking, running errands, spending many hours assisting with typing and clerical skills.

Thank you, Wayne and Glenn for paper products, coffee, and desserts.

Thank you, Lisa for the \$100.00 donation to the SE Tax line. Thank you, Ian for the \$500.00 donation to the SE Tax line.** If we cross the \$1,000.00 amount, the funds stay in the account, on the line for the SE Tax, for the following budget year.** Thank you, Kaiden for the \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you, Christina and Ian for the \$450.00 to the Building Improvement Fund.

*****TOTAL of all donations for the week of December 29 to January 4 is \$2,495.00, AND there is already \$150.00 received for next week. ***** MANY, MANY, THANKS to EVERYONE and may all our efforts glorify God and assist the spread of the Gospel.

Thank you to all the people who are cooking, baking, and sharing treats during the Nativity Season.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU AGAIN TO THE CHAPEL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE FOR OUTSTANDING WORK ON THE DECORATIONS: Chairperson - Kaiden Benedict, committee helpers: Wayne Harris, Glenn Rathbun, and Katrina Lourdiane. Also, thank you to Glenn and Wayne for the new wreath.

Week of December 22-29 Brother Benedict donated \$700.00 to the Building Fund.

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

Thank you to Wayne and Glenn for donating paper products for social times, and supplies for the

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

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

Monday January 29 NOON The Fourth Annual Prayers Together for International Holocaust Remembrance Day. 12:00 - 12:30 PM so you can make it back for lunch.
January 28, Tuesday, Bible Enrichment 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
January 29, Wednesday Noon Mass
BLACK HISTORY CONCERT Saturday February 1 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Sunday February 2, 10:30 AM Black History Month Week 1
February 3, Monday 3:15 - 4:30 By-Laws Revision
February 4, Tuesday, Bible Enrichment 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
February 5, Wednesday Noon Mass
Sunday February 9, 10:30 AM Black History Month Week 2
February 10, Monday 3:15 - 4:30 By-Laws Revision
February 11, Tuesday, Bible Enrichment 7:15-8:45 p.m.
February 12, Wednesday Noon Mass

REHEARSALS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Choir Thursday, February 20 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Choir Tuesday, February 25 6:00 - 7:30 PM
READERS, SERVERS, Wednesday, February 26 7:00 PM
Thursday, February 20, 2025 Council Meeting 6:30 PM

MARCH 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP will be presented by the Elmira Area Clergy with up to ten churches participating. It will be hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church 256 S. Walnut St., Elmira, NY 7:00 p.m. Details will follow in singing in the choir, and serving in the worship event. Please plan to be in attendance.

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 7, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith
Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads
Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)
Inquiries Class #4 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible
Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

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

APRIL 13, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m. HOLY WEEK
APRIL 17, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.
APRIL 18, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 p.m.
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



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.

ENDING SONG: G&P 561 Lift Every Voice and Sing. Text: James W. Johnson Music: J. Rosamond Johnson. Onelicense song# 85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition # 561 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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

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



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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 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. 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 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. daily, as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

