



Ray Of Hope

**Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19) "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:10,33)

April Struhm, Moderator

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.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (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 March 29, 2024, Good Friday, Year B

Holy Week, 2024, celebrating the week that changed everything.

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:

**The Stations Of The Cross**

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bells ring.**

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As the tubular bells are ringing, please find your seat, pray silently, and refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray. Thank you.

### + Pastoral Welcome

**Leader – 1:** Good Evening. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in \_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_, \_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_. 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. In this Church, each person decides to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as they feel comfortable.

The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for tonight are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Skype, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. Finally, on our website, find the large gold box labeled HOLY WEEK WORSHIP INFORMATION with the red framed box inside the gold one for tonight at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm)) ([www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm))

(This By-law was amended 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](#))



**The Bell rings 39 tolls to honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured for our salvation to start the worship event.**

**Welcome: Veronica Floyd:** Everyone is welcome to the continuation of our celebration of Holy Week, "the week that changed the world." Ephesians 5:16 calls us to redeem the time, and tonight, we will do that together by remembering the Sacrifice Of The Cross, the Passion itself.

**Kaiden Benedict:** Please share a Holy Greeting and Holy Welcome before we proceed. \*\*During COVID, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**Lisa Frost:** Please rise as you are able for our First Hymn in Glory and Praise #367 O Sacred Head, Surrounded, and in the Music Supplement for those online, verses 1a through 3a.

**FIRST SONG: O Sacred Head, Surrounded**

Text: 76 76 D; Salve caput cruentatum; ascr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153.  
Verses 1, 2 tr. by Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.; verse 3 tr. by James W. Alexander, 1804–1859, alt. Alternate verses: verse 1 tr. by Henry W. Baker, alt.; verse 2, Owen Alstott; verse 3, Owen Alstott, composite. Alternate verses 2, 3 © 1977, OCP. All rights reserved.  
Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; adapt. by Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750. Used with permission. Onlicense # 80922 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**Organist: Clyde McLennan, organist, producer of "good quality accompaniments for congregational singing available at no cost. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde**

McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted. For permission to use them for any other purposes, please contact [manager@hymnary.org](mailto:manager@hymnary.org). (<https://www.smallchurchmusic.com/About-New.php>)

**Ian:** Please pray this opening prayer with me.

**ALL: O God, we give you glory, praise, thanks, and honor for loving us so much that you offered your Only Begotten Son so that all who believe can now pass from death to life, will never come under condemnation, will never see Hell, but will always have eternal life in God's Eternal Realm. Amen** (See: John 3:16; 5:24; Romans 8:1;

Only Begotten Son see Hebrews 1:5; 5:5; 1 John 4:9)

**Special Music performance by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin. "Via Dolorosa"**  
Words and Music by Billy Sprague and Niles Borop.© 1983 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song# 12852 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

**FINAL SONG: Lift High The Cross Glory and Praise #444**

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18; George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912, and Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt., © 1974, Hope Publishing Co. Onlicense Song # 01923 Lead Me, Guide Me 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 726 Used with permission. Onlicense #

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#### NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

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#### New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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**General Offering** for the week of March 3 \$1490.00 Attendance 11 Sunday;  
Wednesday, March 6, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of March 10 \$30.00 Attendance 7 Sunday;  
Wednesday, March 13, Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of March 17 \$30.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8 Sunday; Wednesday, March 13, Attendance 4

#### **\*\*Special Gifts\*\***

On March 25 we received a special gift from Matthew and Carol Papkov of Endicott, NY. Matt is a friend of April Struhm. Matt and Carol have participated on the Internet. We thank them both for their generous donation.

We are grateful for these gifts received this week.

#### **\*\*Additional Special Gifts\*\***

We received a letter dated March 6, 2024 from The Winston-Salem Foundation, North Carolina, signed by Shelia Virgil, Vice President, Development & Donor Services. In part, the letter reads as follows: "On the advice of Dr. Elwood Robinson, The Winston-Salem Foundation has awarded Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ a grant of \$500.00 from .. the.. Novant Community Benefit Fund...on February 28, 2024...please note the advisor's preferred designation is as follows: general support in honor of my sister-in-law Veronica Floyd."

Veronica has directed \$250.00 to the Building Fund and \$250.00 to the Building Improvement Fund. Thank you, Veronica, Dr. Elwood and Denise Robinson. Denise is Veronica's sister.

*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.\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/> Christians  
Against Christian Nationalism

### **HOLY WEEK, 2024**

**Holy Saturday**, March 30, 2024, 7:45 p.m.- 9:15 p.m. **Celebrating The Vigil Of The Resurrection Of Christ.** Rite of Membership: Ian McLaughlin. \*This is our "Easter Service."

\* \* No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024 \* \*

\*\* April 1, Monday, no By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

April 2, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment.

April 3, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.



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](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 as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). 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)

