



**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 Thirty-eighth year of Ministry.

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory.”

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

*A very special welcome to our visitors.*

*You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.*

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

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

June 6, 2021 PRIDE First Sunday

Corpus Christi, The Body of Christ Sunday Year B

Recommission the Servants Of The Eucharist

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

**First Reading:** Ex 24:3-8 NRSV 1st Test.pg. 70

**Psalm:** The responsorial psalm is inside the bulletin

**Second Reading:** Heb. 9:11-15 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg.223

**Third Reading: Gospel:** Mark. 14:12-26 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Test. pg. 51

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



## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

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

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

\*\* We will welcome the Facebook Live guests before the second bells are rung.\*\*

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



## **WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS**

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York, and now all across the world through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests. We invite you to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as feel comfortable. We are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

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

**Leader -1:** Please take a moment now to welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. \*\*During COVID we may simply wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor: (\*\*introduction of the theme of the day\*)** Today we celebrate the Doctrine of the Corpus Christi, the Body Of Christ.

**Pastor:** We begin now to worship God in the beauty of holiness, in spirit, and in truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

**ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.**

**FIRST SONG: Spirit, Come**

## **+ The Candle Of Hope**

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. At this time we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope. This is a testimony to our anticipation of the resurrection of all the dead, and the transformation of the living faithful, when Christ returns.

**ALL: Jesus said: “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 -1:** Our faith community is looking forward and waiting “for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of Hope in honor of the “Blessed Hope,” the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

**Leader -2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to help us remember those who died of AIDS, especially since many who were very sick and dying were rejected by the churches, were very much alone, and needed spiritual guidance. We remember them here and pray for their families.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. (Names are read at this time.)

**Leader -2:** We also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have passed. May the candle’s flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the “Blessed Hope” we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

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

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

**SECOND SONG:** This Is Why We Are Here: the theme song of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ. NTBK. 23



**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.

**Leader -4:** Almighty and eternal God, you continue to renew the face of the Earth by your complete and holy presence. We pray that people everywhere would appreciate this beautiful gift. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Christ Jesus, Our Lord, you are present in your church. You have given us the Holy Spirit to be your Vicar, with all authority until the church age is complete. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, you guide and challenge us to proclaim the glory of God, to praise God, to live for God, and to guide others to God. May we embrace all of the possibilities you give us. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Holy Spirit, you are with us as the Helper, the Comforter, our Advocate, our Intercessor, our Counselor, our Strengthener, the one who will always stand by us. Help us to see these gifts as the power we need to be witnesses in this age. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

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

**Song:**

**Glory be to the one God, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.** (Traditional Gloria Patri hymn with inclusive language.)

**Spoken:**

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

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

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

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord of all,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the  
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

**+ Opening Prayer**



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

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

### **+ First Reading**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The first reading is in the Book of Exodus, chapter 24, verses 3-8. The reading is on page 70 in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>3</sup> Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." <sup>4</sup> And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup> He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the Lord. <sup>6</sup> Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. <sup>7</sup> Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." <sup>8</sup> Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, "See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### **+ Psalm**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The Psalm today is number 116, selected verses

with a responsorial verse. The response today is “The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call on the name of the Lord.”

**R. The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call on the name of the Lord.**

How shall I make a return to the LORD for  
all the good God has done for me?  
The cup of salvation I will take up,  
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

**R. The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call on the name of the Lord.**

Precious in the eyes of the LORD  
is the death of God’s faithful ones.  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have loosed my bonds.

**R. The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call on the name of the Lord.**

To you will I offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.  
My vows to the LORD I will pay  
in the presence of all God’s people.

**R. The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call on the name of the Lord.**

## **+ Second Reading**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is in the Book of Hebrews chapter 9, verses 11-15. The reading is on page 223 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

<sup>15</sup> For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

## We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al - le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is on page 51 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 14, verse 12-26.

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

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

<sup>12</sup> On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, the disciples asked Jesus, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>13</sup> So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, <sup>14</sup> and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>15</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished

and ready. Make preparations for us there.”<sup>16</sup> So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>17</sup> When it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup> And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”<sup>19</sup> They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I?”<sup>20</sup> He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread<sup>[a]</sup> into the bowl<sup>[b]</sup> with me.”<sup>21</sup> For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

**Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!**  
**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the". The second staff starts at measure 5 and continues with: "Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!". The third staff starts at measure 9 and continues with: "You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our". The fourth staff starts at measure 13 and continues with: "joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!". The fifth staff starts at measure 17 and continues with: "For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!".

+ Sermon

NOTES

Matthew 24:6-8

<sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Jesus said: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8.32 -----

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Isaiah 25:7, 8 The Lord will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
8 he will swallow up death forever.

with

Hebrews 2:14 and 15 <sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

with

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

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

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

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault,

God's design, God's doing from start to end.

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June 1, 2020, marked the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our moving into the monastery here at 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY. It took 1 and one-half years from the time of purchase to move-in date to finish all of the requirements. We celebrated the purchase date on Gaudete Sunday in 2001.

June 1, 2021, also began PRIDE Month. Today is The Frist Sunday Of Pride. June 26, 2015, is the day the Supreme Court legalized marriage equality in all fifty states. This will be the completion of six full years of Marriage Equality when we reach the Stonewall Anniversary weekend of June 25 – 28. The actual events happened June 28 – July 3, 1969.

Today as we celebrate Corpus Christi we will also recommission our Servants Of The Eucharist for one more year of service.

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#### PROBLEM IN TODAY'S Gospel

Mark 14:12, Matthew 26:17, Luke 22:7 all have Jesus eating on Thursday night, according to Tradition. Only John's Gospel explains the two Sabbaths that year being caused by the moving seven days (eight-day in some traditions) week of Passover. We know from James F. White the early church celebrated the whole event from Institution of the Eucharist, to crucifixion to the resurrection as a one-day event. This one-day annual celebration was broken into the four days of "Holy Week" around the time of the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Century as recorded by a Spanish woman named Egeria. (See White pages 55 – 60, Introduction To Christian Worship.) It is possible, therefore that the church added some clean-up to the Synoptic Gospels to make them fit into the tidy weekend celebration designed for the convenience of tourists, of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil on Saturday night.

I, therefore, make the informed decision to follow the Gospel of John with the two Sabbath outline of the events of Holy Week. This is not a matter of Doctrine essential for salvation. It is just the best answer, in my personal opinion, on how we can secure Scripture supporting three full days and three full nights in the tomb for Jesus. Today's Gospel reading in Mark does not support that timeline. I suspect this is a modification of the text to fit the

practice of the "Holy Week."

We are well familiar with this in the topic of sexuality where all kinds of words have been imposed by denominational authorities and thus the entire wall of so-called "translations" of Bibles at the bookstore. One outstanding example is the word "homosexual" being added to the Revised Standard Version in 1946 as first reported and first published by Justin R. Cannon in his book: *The Bible, Christianity, & Homosexuality A Study* by Justin R. Cannon. Copyright ©2008. ISBN: 1438249616.

So, what do we say then about the Inerrant Inspiration of the Holy Bible?

Find this on our web site: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm>

Then go to the gold box to read The PROLOGUE

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Prologue%202014.pdf>



ARTICLE 1

INSPIRATION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

We believe that the original autographs (the manuscripts that were signed by the original authors) of the Holy Scripture, both the Hebrew Testament and the Christian Testament, are inerrantly inspired of God, that is "in.spire" or breathed into by God. Therefore the Bible participates in the supernatural and

perfect qualities of God. Consequently, the Bible contains God's Truth without error and thence provides God's people with an infallible authority in all matters of Faith and Doctrine.<sup>2, 2a</sup>

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:89, 105; 2Peter 1:19-21; Hebrews 4:12; John 20:30-31; Acts 17:11; Isaiah 51: 15-16; Jeremiah 1:9

Ray Of Hope Church does not claim that Biblical inspiration and infallible authority necessarily always applies in every matter of dogma, local teaching, or practice. This will be explained in greater detail below.

Ray Of Hope publicly acknowledges the fact that the Universal Church has none of the original writings (autographs) of Holy Scriptures. Our English translations are therefore dependent on translators, and translation traditions that have sometimes been influenced by denominational and political agendas, even sometimes dictated by those who financially supported the work or "authorized" it. Admitting various levels of textual corruption due to translations does exist, our position on the "Inspiration Of Holy Scriptures" makes no claim to cover the preservation of the accuracy of the translated biblical transcripts. Inerrancy is claimed for the original manuscripts only as they came from the hands of their authors. At the center of our position on Inerrancy and Inspiration is the conviction that God did not, could not, and would not, convey the body of Truth that the Church is dependent upon, through an error-filled document. Therefore, we assert that copyist's errors do not invalidate the Inspired Inerrancy of the Bible. Ray Of Hope Church endorses and supports the continuing efforts of scholars who labor to purify our English translations, making them more accurate to the most ancient extant Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts of Holy Scriptures. We do acknowledge the unfortunate reality that some English translations in fact do perpetuate errors in the translation, even sometimes intentionally, when compared to extant Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek manuscripts. Ray Of Hope Church is committed to exposing all known and proved errors in English translations of Scriptures, and we do not ascribe any authority to mistranslated texts for guidance in faith, doctrine, teaching, or practice, even when mistranslations are held in "affection" and/or "Sacred Tradition" even by the majority of profession Christendom. We believe God's Word is Truth, and that the Truth alone will set all Christians free. John 8:32, John 14:16, John 16:13, John 17:17-19.

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast\\_of\\_Corpus\\_Christi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_Corpus_Christi)

The **Feast of Corpus Christi** ([Ecclesiastical Latin](#): *Dies Sanctissimi Corporis et Sanguinis Domini Iesu Christi*, [lit.](#) 'Day of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ the Lord'), also known as the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**,<sup>[2]</sup> is a Catholic and [Anglican](#) liturgical [solemnity](#) celebrating the [Real Presence](#) of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of [Jesus Christ](#) in the elements of the [Eucharist](#). Two months earlier, the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper is observed on [Maundy Thursday](#) in a somber atmosphere leading to [Good Friday](#). The liturgy on that day also commemorates Christ's washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the priesthood, and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The feast of Corpus Christi was proposed by St. [Thomas Aquinas](#), [Doctor of the Church](#) to Pope [Urban IV](#), in order to create a feast focused solely on the Holy Eucharist, emphasizing the joy of the Eucharist being the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of [Jesus Christ](#). Having recognized the authenticity of the [Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena](#) on input of Aquinas,<sup>[3]</sup> in 1264, the pontiff, then living in Orvieto, established the feast of Corpus Christi as a Solemnity and extended it to the whole Roman Catholic Church.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

**1 Corinthians 12:27** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Cor. 12:20 There are many members, yet one body...)

**Romans 12:4-5** (NKJV)<sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,<sup>5</sup> so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

**Ephesians 4:4-8** (NKJV) There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one Eternal God of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**Colossians 1:18** Christ is head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things Christ may have the preeminence. (that Primacy be His)

**1 Corinthians 10:16-17** (NKJV) The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for all partake of that one bread.

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 MIND-**  
**ED** 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 First Sunday of Pride, 2018**

On this Feast of Corpus Christi, June 6, 2021, Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, reauthorizes and relicenses the following Servants Of The Eucharist from June 6, 2021, through June 30, 2022;

Cheryl Allen  
Lisa Frost  
Veronica Floyd  
Tami Whatley

The Servants Of The Eucharist are Members and attendees of our Congregation who assist the pastoral ministry by volunteering to be available to take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, the homebound, those who are close to death, those who are in any kind of trouble or despair, and those who request receiving Holy Communion in extraordinary circumstances. Servants Of The Eucharist keep and maintain a Pyx, a small blessed container that holds pieces of Holy Communion from our Sunday celebration. Servants Of The Eucharist promise to protect and defend the Blessed Sacrament from any kind of abuse or damage, acknowledging it is the Sacred and truly present Body of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Servants Of The Eucharist profess and believe in the Real Presence of Jesus present in the consecrated bread and cup of the Eucharist.

Ten years in 2015, therefore 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary today.

*Regarding the Deposit Of Faith, the Doctrines of the Christian Faith, known to us in the Holy Scriptures, the Church, and the Sacraments you are charged to listen to and follow the Command of*

*St. Paul given to St. Timothy: "Guard the Deposit entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge." (1 Timothy 6:20)*

*“Guard the good Deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.”*

*(2 Timothy 1:14 NIV)*

*With the whole People Of God you are charged to continue “steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42 NKJV)*

*In this charge and ministry our Lord and Saviour promises to be with you and to provide for you all you will need. He commands and promises:*

*“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:17b-20 NKJV)*

*Christ promised the “law of the Holy Spirit” saying; “The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in My Name, will teach you everything, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)*

*“When the Holy Spirit of truth, has come, the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth; and will not speak on its own authority, but whatever the Spirit hears from me will be spoken to you and the Holy Spirit will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)*

*If you accept the charge of this Ministry and promise to carry it out with the help of the Holy Spirit for the period of June 6, 2021 to June 30, 2022, sign your name here:*

**===== PENTECOST Prayer=====**

**Prayer for our Congregation:**

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that your Holy Spirit continue to move in our congregation in ways always new and refreshing. We open our hearts to be a dwelling place, a home, a temple of your Holy Spirit. Empower us as you see fit with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used as servants of God, disciples of Christ, and witnesses of God’s love and God’s eternal plan. Come Holy Spirit, come, and impassion us with your Divine Love. Stir and enkindle within us the flames of compassion, forgiveness, patience, empathy, Joy in believing, thanksgiving and praise, and love for God’s holy Will. Build up within us an expectant faith with a view of church that is full of possibilities and potential. Guide our lives, we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**(\*\*TWO ARTICLES AT THE END OF THE BULLETIN\*\*)**

**=====**



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**+ (optional) Profession Of Faith**

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in the One Eternal, Loving, Life-Giving,  
Forgiving, Good, and Gracious God,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,  
our Lord and Saviour.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God.

Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is equal with God and the Son.

I believe in the one, holy, Christian Church, the Body of Jesus  
Christ that is universal/catholic, and apostolic.

I believe in the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

**+ The Prayers Of The People: Shared Prayer**

**Leader – 4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others with prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart. Please keep the prayers brief so as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and in truth. So, we begin with \_\_\_\_\_  
(The person leading will invite prayers from the various rooms in the service.)

**Leader – 4:** (when all prayers have been heard) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers and we ask you in intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**



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

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

**Leader - 5:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. At this time we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. During our COVID Infection Prevention procedures, we have many ways you can continue to support this ministry. To be directed to our website where you may make a secure Paypal donation using any debit or credit card, and you do not have to have a Paypal account to use this, [Right Click Here](#). Those in the chapel may use the offering plate, or you may send your donation to Lisa Frost directly or

to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Elmira, NY 14901. We always say give what you can, but never give your last.

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event **SOON**. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*)

(\* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set. A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. \*)

## **SONG: SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD**

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

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



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

**Pastor:** Lord God, we ask you to receive our worship this day. We pray that you will be pleased with our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

**ALL: May the Lord accept our lives as a sacrifice for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's people. Amen**

**Pastor:** Please lift your bread at this time as I pray this prayer.  
(\*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.\*)

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that 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.**

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

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

Now, please lift your cup with me at this time as I pray this prayer.(\*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.\*)

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

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

**Pastor:** We offer ourselves, with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind unto you Almighty God. Accomplish your desires for us in our lives. Mold us to be more like you every day. Receive us along with these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine to be made holy, and through them make us into a perfect offering to you, One and Only Holy God. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

**\*\*\*\*\* the people may be invited to offer prayers of thanks and praise.**

**\*\*\*\*\* the Pastor continues with a Eucharistic Prayer.**

## 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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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

**Pastor:** Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I 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 Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

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

**Pastor:** Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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

**Pastor:** Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

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

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

**Pastor:** Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

**+ Optional Christological Canticule:**

**#1 Philippians 2:6-11**

Though He was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at.

Rather, He emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above every other name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend

(optional\*\*genuflect or bow\*\*)

in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:

**JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**

**#2 Colossians 1:15-20**

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. In Christ everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible.

All were created through Him;  
all were created for Him.  
Jesus is before all else that is.  
In Him, everything continues in being.

It is Jesus who is head of the body, the Church!  
He who is the beginning, the first-born of the dead, so that primacy may be His in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in Christ and, by means of Him, to reconcile everything in His person, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of His cross.

**+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith**

**a) Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

- b) Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**
- c) When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your  
death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**
- d) Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.  
You are the savior of the world.**
- e) Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us and is risen  
from the dead. He is our saving Lord. He is joy for all ages.**
- f) Jesus Christ has died for us, Christ our Lord is risen,  
Christ will come again someday. Oh deep in my heart, I do  
believe that Jesus Christ will come again.**
- g) Christ has spoken in times past. Christ is speaking to us  
today. Christ will speak and take us into the future.**

**+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.**

**Pastor (or other person designated):** While we are gathered here together we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere would recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for freedom, equality, and respect for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

## + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Please elevate the Holy Eucharist as a gesture of praise, thanksgiving, honor, gratitude, and the offering of the entire Church, the Body Of Christ, to God.

**Pastor:** Together we pray:

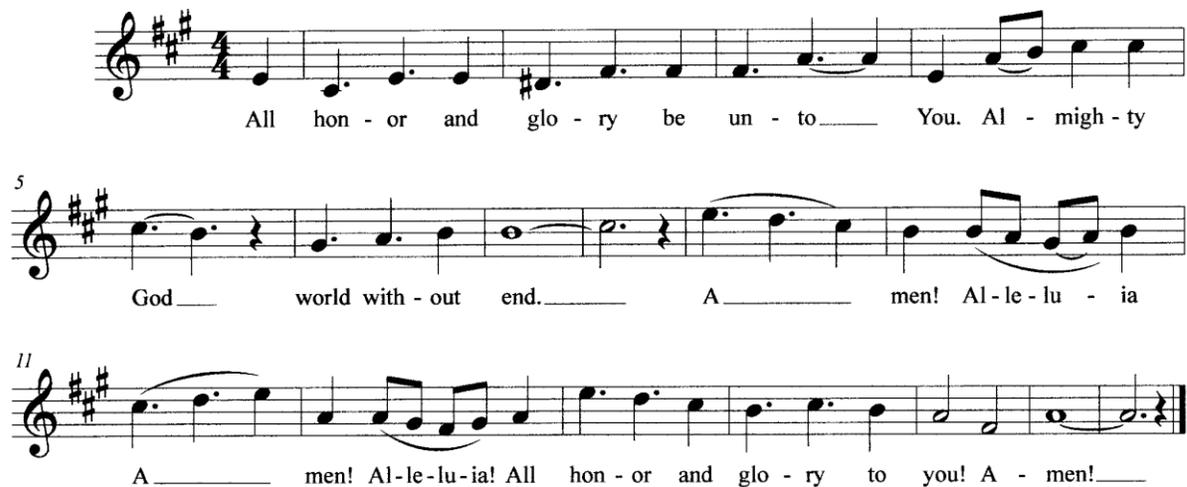
**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

### Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993



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

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

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

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### The Reception of Holy Communion

## + The Lord's Prayer

**Pastor:** Having heard the Word of God and having remembered 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**

**+ Sign Of Peace**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**+ The Lamb Of God**

**Pastor:** Please break the bread as we pray together:

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

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

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

**Pastor:** You may set the bread down and pray silently as I pray this prayer.

**+ Priestly Prayer For All People**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that our participation does not bring us condemnation as St. Paul warned, but brings us sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit. We pray that all God's people will one day be reassembled without the

loss of anyone in your kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN**

## + Invitation to the Lord's Table

**Pastor:** At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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

**Pastor:** Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

**Pastor:** I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

**Leader-1:** Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

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

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive**

**you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

When you come forward, the person serving you will say; “The Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ for you.” Respond with “Amen” or “Alleluia” or some other acclamation of appreciation or faith. Then take a piece of the bread and dip it into the cup and serve yourself. If you are here with family or friends you may come to Holy Communion together and serve each other. Please wait after you receive Holy Communion because the person serving you will pray with you before you return to your seat.

Serving Holy Communion today will be: \_\_\_\_\_  
We sing during Holy Communion and maintain our worship. We begin.  
The Table of Christ is served.

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

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



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

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

**ALL:** And also with you!

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

**ALL:** Amen

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

(Romans 15:13)

**Pastor:** We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

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

**SONG: WE ARE ONE BODY**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**General Offering** for the week of May 30 was \$388.00. Attendance 6. **We give God thanks and praise for all the gifts given.**

The air conditioner wall unit donated by Cheryl Allen failed in the chapel on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, after many wonderful years of service. The temperature would not regulate under 81 degrees, so Br. Benedict and Kaiden Rae purchased a brand-new energy efficient unit that has a dehumidifier and special air filtering functions for \$483.84 to help with the clean air protocols in the chapel. The purchase was out of their personal funds and we are asking anyone who would like to make a special donation to offset the cost, please designate and send to the treasurer Lisa Frost via the PayPal link on the website ([www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com)) or mail to or drop off at the chapel by Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Thank you, Br., and Kaiden for making the purchase and installing as the unit will benefit all who visit our chapel, keeping the environment as pleasant as possible.

# For the beauty of the earth

Worship-Education-Service

Join the Elmira Area Ecumenical Community  
for a time to praise our Creator and steward creation

Saturday, June 12th 10AM - 1PM  
At Tanglewood Nature Center  
443 Coleman Ave, Elmira, NY 14903

Limited space available  
Please RSVP to [jenny@graceelmira.org](mailto:jenny@graceelmira.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<https://www.faithstreet.com/search>

June 8, Tuesday, Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

June 12 Saturday volunteer day at Tanglewood Nature Center. 10 am to 1 pm

June 13 Central NY Pride Sunday

June 19 is Juneteenth. Two and one half years after the Emancipation Proclamation became law on January 1, 1863 there still African – American slaves in the United States.

They were set free on June 19, 1865. To read more: [Right Click Here](#).

June 20 Father's Day and Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Brother's Ordination and Solemn Profession of Benedictine Vows.

## =====Who can receive the Holy Spirit=====

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

Below is a rendering of John chapter 16, verse 7 by the translators of the Amplified Bible that I find particularly enlightening. This verse gives many of the attributes of the Holy Spirit, in English, that are all packed and hidden in the original

Greek Word parakletos. Each of the capitalized words in the verse below tells us how the Holy Spirit is ready to help us. All we have to do is ask with a short prayer like this: "Oh God, give me the awareness to know you are with me in all these ways through the Holy Spirit, Amen."

Here is the verse in the Amplified Bible

Jesus taught, saying: "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]." John 16:7

Did you realize the Holy Spirit is with you to bring you all those actions of God? If we understand the Real Presence of God is with us in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, we will experience more confidence, love of ourselves and our neighbors, and be able to feel better about our lived experience. You can have all this and more. Start with that simple prayer above.

Signed: Pastor Benedict, 3-6-21. Read this on our website.

[Right Click Here.](#)

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

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

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

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is really present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The

Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

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

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

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

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

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

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here.](#)

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



The following information, published by the Secular Coalition for America, is included by me, personally, as part of my response to the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose. Ray Of Hope has not endorsed the Secular Coalition For America in any way, officially or implied. I am including this information here to assist people who may want to take action now to encourage their members of the Senate of the United States to know the facts and identify the false information being put forth in the hearings that are happening now on the Equality Act. SIGNED: Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, Pastor, 3-20-21 7:00 p.m.



Dear Friend,

Last month the House passed the [Equality Act \(H.R. 5\)](#). For those unaware, this important legislation

June 6, 2021 Corpus Christi Sunday page: 37

would amend existing civil rights laws, such as the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, to include sexual orientation, and gender identity as protected characteristics under law. The bill also expands federal non-discrimination protections regarding discrimination based on race, color, national origin, **religion**, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity in public settings, and protects against sex-based discrimination in government services and federally-funded programs.

This week, the Senate held its first ever hearing on the [Equality Act](#) and as expected, the debate was heated. It seems opponents of the bill (Senate Republicans) are promoting [several misconceptions](#) about its purpose and scope which include:

- *“The Equality Act would destroy religious freedom in this country.”*
  - **NOT TRUE.** Freedom of religion is already protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Nothing in the *Equality Act* would change that. The bill simply extends those rights that most vulnerable groups are already afforded to those who have been denied them, such as the **LGBTQ community**. In fact, the bill actually protects freedom of religion by preventing the imposing of one’s religion upon another.
- *“The Equality Act will make athletics unfair for females.”*
  - **NOT TRUE.** Schools across the nation already have policies in place to ensure a level playing field for all students, and they are working. Additionally, except for a very small percentage, most students who participate in high school sports do not continue on with their athletic endeavours after high school. The possibility that perhaps one or two transgender students in an entire student body would ruin that opportunity for another is [almost nonexistent](#). *Title IX* is extremely important in regards to girls athletics, and the bottom line is that **nothing in the Equality Act changes that**. Instead, we should be calling for increased funding for girls athletics.
- *“The Equality Act will allow men to harass women in public restrooms.”*
  - **NOT TRUE.** We already have laws in place to prevent such acts, and the *Equality Act* does nothing to change that. Additionally, **21 states** have had similar nondiscrimination laws on the books for decades now and they have worked, as there have been no increases in public safety incidents in bathrooms since they were codified.



[Tell the Senate to Support the Equality Act - Secular Coalition for America](#)

It is important that we dispel these untrue myths about this legislation, which seeks only to provide the same protections that most of us already are afforded to those who are not. We must always push back against these false narratives whenever they are presented. Only by doing so will we be able to do away with the myths and focus on the facts of the issue, which is equal treatment under the law for everyone, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual identity, or sexual orientation.

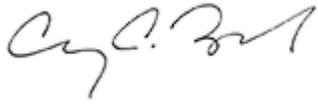
If you would like to contact your Senators in Washington to tell them that you would appreciate their support of the *Equality Act*, you can do so by clicking the link provided below. We are closer than we have ever been before, and now is the time to voice your support!

**[Please click here to tell your Senators in Washington to support the Equality Act!](#)**

To be a part of our team, and celebrate with us when we secure the passage of the Equality Act in the Senate, please click the "I want to help" button below. Every dollar goes to representing you on Capitol Hill, and strengthening the wall of separation between religion and government. With *your* help, we can make even greater progress on the issues we care about!

**[I want to help!](#)**

Your advocate on the Hill,



Casey C. Brinck

*Director of Policy & Government Affairs  
Secular Coalition for America*



### *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](#)



### **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