



**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 June 9, 2024, Pride Month Week 2, Year B

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: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

**Second Reading: Gospel: John 14:15-17**

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

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As the 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.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured, and 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 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. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_,

\_(State)\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome ■ (\*\* Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.\*\*) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

**Leader-1:** Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



**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))**

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))



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

**Leader – 2:** (\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\*) Thank you for spending time

with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

**Leader -1:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (\*\* Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.\*\*) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

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

**Pastor:**

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

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

Today is June 9, 2024, the fourth Sunday in the Season of Pentecost, PRIDE Month Week 2, and the start of our ten-day journey to Juneteenth, June 19, with each day featuring a short presentation live online to go along with the daily meditation.



We are here to give God thanks and praise for these glorious events we have been educated in by the gifts of the Holy Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church, the deposit of faith, and the teaching power of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for Christ among us. (see 2Timothy 1:13-14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A13-14&version=NRSVUE>)(see John 1:14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A14&version=NRSVUE> )

Our first song today uses Scripture verses

1 Peter 2:9 and 10

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,<sup>[d]</sup> in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

(NRSVUE)

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1Peter+2&version=NRSVUE> )

**FIRST SONG: Once We Were Not A People.** Tune: Aurelia by Samuel S. Wesley, Inclusive Text by J. Thomas Sopko (1987). Used by permission 8.7.8.7 D Sing to the tune KING'S LYNN as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco. Licensed to Ray Of Hope Church for use in worship. Onelicense Song # 106882 **NTBK #44** Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. 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. 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)

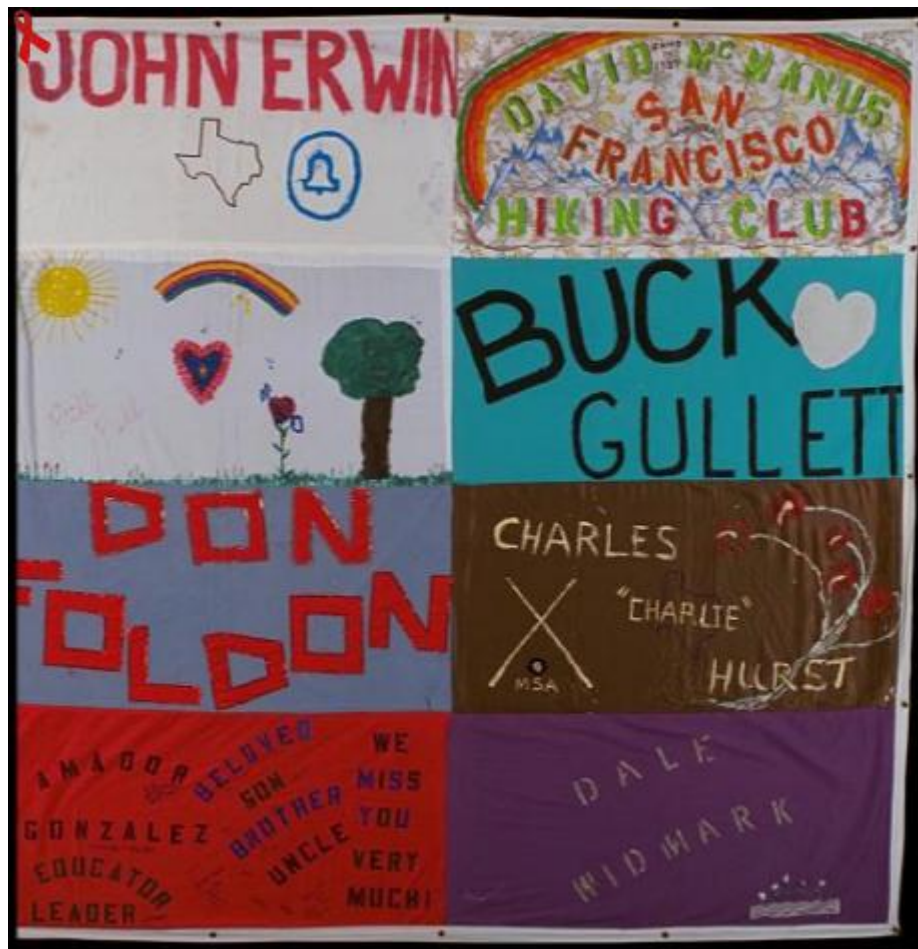
**Leader -2:** In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. In a letter from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learn every minute someone somewhere contracts HIV. In

the year 2023, 1.5 million people became newly infected, and 650,000 people, including some from the United States, died of AIDS-related causes.

HIV/AIDS is still with us; therefore, 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.

(for more information about amfAR: <https://www.amfar.org/about-amfar/>)

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 117.



Names on Block #117

- John Erwin (1)
- David McManus (2)
- Bill Bell (3)

- Buck Gullett (4)
- Don Foldon (5)
- Charles "Charlie" Hurst (6)
  - Amador Gonzalez (7)
  - Dale Widmark (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. Again, today, we also remember our fallen service personnel and their families. 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 "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:** Joyful People, Come and Worship. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adpt. Text: June Norris, © 1987; alt. with permission, as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco.  
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**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) So far, we assembled, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter twenty-four, verse forty-

seven, Jesus instructed the Church "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

**Leader – 3:** Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses eight and nine: "<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>  
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

**Leader -2:** At this time, in silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, and receive immediate forgiveness.

(silent prayer for time to confess our sins.) (\*\*Leader, please count to 20\*\*.)

**Leader -2:** Now, we pray together:

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

**Leader-3:** Jesus told the Church to forgive sins in His Name. Jesus said:

**ALL:** If you forgive people their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive people their sins, neither will your Father forgive your sins." (Matt. 6:14-15) Jesus also told us to forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart. (Matt. 18:35). Therefore, we, the faith community of Ray Of Hope Church, openly declare 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 to sing "The Gloria."

Ray of Hope Church, Inc. *The Gloria* Wnds and Music  
10th Annual Meeting "Music for Worship" *Handwritten Liturgical*  
7/25/17, 1/21/24

*2. = 8* *Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND  
 peace to all peo-ple on Earth.  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est.  
 We give You thank- and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.  
 We give You thanks and praise

*Verse 1*

You are the One God, Sov-ereign of the  
 Uni-verse, On-ly Ho-ly God, We wor-ship You, We  
 give you thanks, We praise You for Your great glo-ry! (Refrain)

7/25/17, 1/1/24 *Handwritten Liturgical* *Chris Bruffner*

$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{6}{8}$  Refrain  $\frac{1}{2} \frac{21}{24}$

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

Glo-ry to God in the high-est.

We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.

We give You thanks and praise

VERSE 2 The Gloria, Pg 2

Lord, Jes-us Christ, The on-ly Be-got-ten Son of God, You are  
Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the  
world: HAVE MER-cy on us; you are seated at the  
right hand of God; re-ceive our prayer. (To Refrain) D.C.

*2. = 8*      *Refrain*      *1/21/24*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND  
 peace to all peo-ple on Earth  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est.  
 We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.  
 We give You thanks and praise

*Verse 3*

For You a-lone are the hol-y one, You a-lone are the  
 LORD of all, You a-lone are the Most High,  
 Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly  
 spir-it, in the glo-ry of God. In the  
 Ho-ly spi-rits in the HO-ly un-i-ty of

(TO REFRAIN)  
 © 7/25/17-1/1/24 Gaudes! Liturgical Arts *RuB/Berard*

$2. = \frac{6}{8}$       *Refrain*       $1/21/24$

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND  
peace to all peo-ple on Earth  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est.  
We give You thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.  
We give You thanks and praise

Verse 4: Amen

The Gloria, Pg 3

ALL: A ————— men; we give you thanks and

We give you thanks and praise

LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you, we give you thank we give you praise

ALL: Praise!

A —————

We give you thank and praise

We give you thank and praise LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you

ALL: men

men al-le-lu-ia

mine @ 7/25/17 - 11/24/18  
Gaudete! - 10/19/16  
Pete Behm

## + Opening Prayer

**Leader-5:** Come Holy Spirit, and open our minds to understand and apply what we hear in the Holy Scriptures today. We ask this in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: AMEN.**

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

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



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. The first reading is 1 Corinthians 12, verses 4-7. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this reading on page 174 in the second testament. I will be reading from the updated edition of 2021. Here begins the reading:

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+corinthians+12&version=NRSVUE>)  
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## + The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

## **Gospel Acclamation**



**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is John, Chapter 14, verses 15-17, on page 109 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep<sup>[a]</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,<sup>[b]</sup> to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be<sup>[c]</sup> in<sup>[d]</sup> you.

6-9-24 Pride Month Week 2, Special Juneteenth and Pride Month series Year B Page 18 of 36  
**Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!**  
**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. 14.15 Other ancient authorities read *me, keep*
- b. 14.16 Or *Helper* or *Comforter*
- c. 14.17 Other ancient authorities read *he is*
- d. 14.17 Or *among*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A15-17&version=NRSVUE>  
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## **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 - sus the  
 5 Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!  
 9 You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our  
 13 joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!  
 17 For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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**Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.**  
 The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

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

### + Sermon

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."***

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

African and African-American LGBTQISANE2ss+ people.

<https://ministrywatch.com/cote-divoire-breaks-from-united-methodist-church/>  
Côte d'Ivoire Breaks From United Methodist Church

Methodists from West African country vote to leave denomination over LGBTQ policies. Jessica Eturralde May 30, 2024



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Black Heroes of the LGBT Community

[https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/BlackHeroes\\_13\\_1.pdf](https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/BlackHeroes_13_1.pdf)

John Amaechi - professional basketball player, Cleveland Cavaliers in 1995, a few years in Europe, Orlando Magic in 1999. He is the first former NBA player to come out as a gay man.

James Baldwin - author, activist, playwright, essayist, public speaker, civil rights activist

Simone Bell - Georgia House of Representatives - December 2009 through November, 2015. community organizer, works in the Southern regional office of Lambda Legal - LGBT and HIV legal issues.

Cathy Cohen - author, activist, professor, and author

Marsha P. Johnson - transgender rights activist 1960's - 1990's (August 24, 1945 – July 6, 1992)

Barbara Smith - black feminist, lesbian, activist, author, publisher, elected official

Frank Ocean - songwriter and hip-hop artist

Bayard Rustin - activist, NAACP, the principal organizer for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

Wanda Sykes - comedienne, actress, and Emmy-award-winning writer

[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org) · [facebook.com/glsen](https://facebook.com/glsen) · twitter: @glsen



[https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm\\_source=reading-plan&utm\\_medium=unbounce&utm\\_campaign=juneteenth-23](https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm_source=reading-plan&utm_medium=unbounce&utm_campaign=juneteenth-23)

<https://experiencevoices.org/juneteenth/>

1st Introduction: (Source PDF "Juneteenth Faith & Freedom" "Juneteenth Overview" PDF in resource packet, 2023, Our Daily Bread)

Juneteenth was declared a federal holiday in the United States in 2021. While it has already been celebrated by many, its cultural and spiritual significance is widely unknown. Our Daily Bread Ministries VOICES team has launched a campaign to help churches, civic organizations, and individuals learn and celebrate the holiday! VOICES has produced a documentary, devotionals (print and digital options available), podcasts, and an album to equip you with all you need to appreciate Juneteenth, revealing how it's a celebration of freedom and faith in the midst of struggle.

Juneteenth Day reflects dynamic truths about faith and freedom, particularly relevant to the African American experience. The holiday was first celebrated in churches, revealing a deep connection between faith and freedom. The Scriptures teach of Jubilee (Leviticus 25), the time prescribed for justice and freedom to be restored throughout Israel.

Jesus, in his inaugural sermon, announced that his kingdom would consummate God's kingdom of righteousness and justice, through the church and throughout the world.

When people are freed from injustice, Earth becomes a little more like Heaven. These resources offer an opportunity to tell the story of Juneteenth for those seeking to understand the holiday and find inspiration in its significance.

Juneteenth is a story that highlights how hope has endured from 1865 to the present. In doing so, it offers an important story for the discouraged and the hopeful, Black and White, skeptics and saints.

(\*\*END of quotation from PDF provided by Our Daily Bread)

2nd Introduction: Read from the pamphlets. This content does not seem to be online.

READING PLAN

<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1>

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

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**Prayer for our Congregation: (revised, 2023)**

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask that your Holy Spirit continue to move in our Congregation in new and refreshing ways. We open our hearts to be a dwelling place, a home, a temple of your Holy Spirit. Empower us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used as servants of God, disciples of Christ, and witnesses of God's love and eternal plan. Come, Holy Spirit, 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 an expectant faith within us with a view of a church that is full of possibilities and potential. Guide our lives; we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**+ The Prayers of the People**

**Leader – 4:** Having heard the Word Of God, speaking of the Holy Trinity, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today, we are using communal prayers. After each petition, please respond with, "Lord, hear our prayer."

**Leader – 4:** We give God thanks and praise for the progress made in protecting the rights of all people, and we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 4:** We pray for all the people in the world where wars are being

fought. We pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 4:** We feel empathy and compassion for people who feel left behind, alone, and abandoned in institutions where they are required to live. We pray that institutionalized people will experience the real presence of Christ, the comfort of the Holy Spirit and be encouraged by the promises of God. We pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 4:** In silent prayer, we now lift to God those people we know who are ill and in need of healing, those who are facing poverty and need guidance, and anyone who comes to mind who needs God's grace. We pray together silently now. (\*\*Silent prayer begins.\*\* \*\*Leader, please mentally count to about twenty.\*\*) For all the people we have just prayed for, we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 4:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader - 5:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry.

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 can be mailed, [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information.

Also, at this time, we will set our altars and communion tables at home and in the chapel. Those viewing at home, please turn to the highlighted text on page three of this bulletin to review the instructions for items needed for Holy

Communion. In the Chapel here, everyone may assist in setting the Table of the Lord together. We begin now.

**Offertory Song: "Spirit Of The Living God " Words and Music by Daniel**

**Iverson.** © Words: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Music: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song # 23488. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(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:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and 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 bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and 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), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), 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)



**Pastor:** Please set down your communion kit.

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

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

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." 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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**+ The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

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



## The Reception of Holy Communion

**BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD BEHOLD HIM WHO TAKES BEHOLD  
THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP**

**Lord, you make me worthy to receive you and by your Word, I am  
healed.**

**Pastor:** Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The  
Gift of God for the People of God....

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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

**Pastor:** 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.

### + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Together, we pray:

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

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to You. Al - migh - ty  
 5 God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia  
 11 A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

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### + Sign Of Peace

**Veronica Floyd, Moderator:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Leader:** 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:** 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

6-9-24 Pride Month Week 2, Special Juneteenth and Pride Month series Year B Page 30 of 36  
water. Dry the cup with the side napkin.  
Clear your worship table and altar.

**COMMUNION SONG:** "Jesus, Lord" G&P #594 Text: Based on John 3:16-21. Text and music © 1984, OCP. All rights reserved. Contributors: Randall DeBruyn. Glory & Praise Second Edition 581, All rights reserved. Onelicense song #83430 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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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 May 19 \$420.75 Attendance 10 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, May 22, Attendance 4

**General Offering** for the week of May 26 \$10.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, May 29, Attendance 2

**General Offering** for the week of May 26 \$10.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, May 29, Attendance 2

**General Offering** for the week of June 2 \$1,500.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, June 5, Attendance 4  
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

**\*\*In Addition to the General Offering, we received the following Special Gifts.\*\***

An anonymous gift of \$300.00 to help with utility bills was made this week. Thank you to the person or persons who made the donation.

**\*\*Recent Special Gifts\*\***

Brother Benedict made a \$640.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you. Kaiden Benedict made a \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Kaiden. Ian and Christina McLaughlin donated \$450.00 to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you Ian and Christina.

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**

June 2, Corpus Christi, 21st Anniversary of the first Sunday worship service in the Monastery.

June 3, Monday, 3:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

June 4, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

June 5, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

June 8, Saturday, CORNING PRIDE

June 9, Sunday: The Start of our Juneteenth 10-day devotions **Introduction**.

June 10, Monday **JTDEVOTION#1** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1> ; 3:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

June 11, Tuesday **JTDEVOTION #2** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-2> ; 6:00 PM NAACP 7:15 PM Bible Enrichment

June 12, Wednesday **JTDEVOTION#3** 11:00 AM <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-3>. NOON TRADITIONAL MASS

June 13, Thursday **JTDEVOTION #4** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-4>

June 14, Friday **JTDEVOTION #5** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-5>

June 15, Saturday, JUNETEENTH in Elmira **JTDEVOTION #6** 8:00 PM  
<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-6>.

June 16, Sunday, Father's Day, 28th Ordination Anniversary, **JTDEVOTION #7**  
<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-7> **MAJOR EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT**: Worship will be 45 minutes and then we will view the film "Juneteenth Faith & Freedom" simultaneously from our homes and the chapel. Viewing the film will be a congregational activity.

June 17, Monday, **JTDEVOTION #8** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-8>; 3:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

June 18, Tuesday, **JTDEVOTION #9** NOON <https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-9>; Bible Enrichment 6:30 PM.

June 19, Wednesday, **JTDEVOTION #10** 11:00 AM  
<https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-10> Juneteenth; NOON Traditional Mass

June 23, Sunday, relicense our Servants of the Eucharist,



June 24, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

June 25, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

June 26, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

June 30, Sunday Stonewall 55th Anniversary of the riots and 54th Pride Parade.

Worship will be at 10:30 AM, led by the Congregation.

On Monday, July 1, there will be no meeting by the By-Laws Revision Committee.

July 2, Tuesday, NO MEETING Bible Enrichment.

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



## We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

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

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

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

**LAST SONG:** "Let Heaven Rejoice" G&P #392 Words and Music; Robert J. Dufford, SJ. © 1972, Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Contributors: Bob Dufford Glory & Praise Second Edition 392, All rights reserved. Onelicense song #80435 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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

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



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.

We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.

We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or  
**RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.

We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**  
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

**WE ARE YOU!**

**THIS is the Church where YOU belong.**

**Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.**

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

**Made by you and for you, because we are**

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

**Bible Enrichment-** Tuesday 6:30–8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery.  
Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15  
PM [Click Here](#).

**\*\* to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374\***

### **Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our website;  
[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors\\_At\\_Events.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public 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)

—————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)

