



# 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**

**\*\* April Struhm passed into Paradise on July 4, 2024 after a long battle with cancer. In the worship event of Sunday, July 7, 2024 we celebrated her life, her Membership, leadership, and friendship with us at Ray Of Hope Church.**

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 7-14-24 April Struhm part 2 and spiritual blessings 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: \*\*\* these readings were chosen for this event.

**First Reading:** Job 19:25-27, NRSV 1st Test. pg. 453

**Psalms:** 23 with response

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 1:3-14, NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 192

**Third Reading:** Gospel: Luke 13:1-5 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 76

**\*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 July 14, 2024, the nineteenth Sunday of the Season of Pentecost Year B in the cycle of Scripture readings.

Please take a moment to look around and notice the decorations, also called paraments from the Latin word parmentum meaning adornment; they are now green. The worship space is decorated according to local practice, how the Holy Spirit is understood to be speaking to the local assembly.

On my scale of "Doctrine, Dogma, Teaching, and Practice" that I started developing in the early 1980's, I place practices with very little authority when compared to Doctrines (which are at the top of importance). (N.B. Always remember some denominations switch the order to Dogma, Doctrine, Teaching, Practice. Be sure to establish your terms before

important discussions.) Here at our assembly, church decorating is a matter of Practice. Christians (of any tradition) who follow the approach to Christianity that St. Benedict started, use the worship space to show forth the meaning of Christ among us in design layout, and seasonal art, decorations and paraments. Benedictines use the chapel decorations to proclaim the Gospel. I mentioned a few weeks ago that our originating denomination founder Troy Perry preferred to keep red for all the Sundays from Pentecost to Advent in honor of the Holy Spirit. I like that practice of keeping red very much. However, over the years our not using green has been cited as one more oddity that some might point to when disapproving of Ray Of Hope; therefore the choice of red all season is reconsidered.

Since the Second Vatican Council (10/11/1962 - 12/8/1965) it has become the normal practice to count the Sundays not associated with important events in the Bible with ordinal numbers (numbers indicating position: first, second, third, fiftieth) and those Sundays associated with Doctrinal Importance especially associated with the life of Christ by using cardinal numbers(quantity or amount of time: Advent 1, Advent 2). Unfortunately the use of ordinal numbers has led to a popular misunderstanding that these indicate it is just an "ordinary time." In fact Ordinary Time indicates ordinal numbers, not a time that is not important. The color green is the liturgical color for Ordinary Time - indicating a season of spiritual growth, renewal, rebirth, new growth, learning and promise, possibility, and other forward-looking and growing ideas.

It is in the spirit of ecumenical partnership and cooperation that we use green for July, August, and some of September. As a acknowledgment of those among us who come from traditions where there are no coordinated liturgical seasons, readings, and colors, we take a complete break beginning in Fall and use harvest fall decorations until the Advent Week 1 (Notice the cardinal number Advent 1 of 4 weeks - quantity).

For a moment of contemporary humor and connection, think about the musical and film "The Wiz" where there is an entire sequence on the "color of the week" in the dance and set in the Emerald City. It is an artistic commentary on the pressure people often feel to keep up with whatever is the trend of the day. So, perhaps we might be yielding to some Emerald

City trend-setting peer pressure, but the color of the day is "Green." I can hear St. Kermit the frog singing "It's not that easy being green....." Green surely is a beautiful color.

Here are the sources for the material presented above and further reading on the subject of church decorations: ["Altar Paraments Definition and Colors NOVEMBER 1, 2018"](#) This site has all the colors explained in detail.

Cardinal and Ordinal numbers: (<https://editarians.com/cardinals-ordinals/#:-:text=Cardinal%20numbers%20indicate%20an%20amount,use%20them%2C%20especially%20with%20dates.>)

Monastery of Christ in the Desert (Benedictines) on changing from Christmas to Ordinary Time (<https://christdesert.org/2021/01/january-9th-the-last-day-of-christmas/> )

We are also continuing our celebration of the faith and friendship of our sister, \*\* April Struhm passed into Paradise on July 4, 2024 after a long battle with cancer. In the worship event of Sunday, July 7, 2024 we celebrated her life, her Membership, leadership, and friendship with us at Ray Of Hope Church.

"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



Psalm 116:15-19 O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of the faithful. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosed my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the Lord's name.

(Onelicense song #52515 All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Onelicense #42089 Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.)

Why is it precious in God's view when we die in Christ? It is God's plan that all die with the covering that Christ has provided to all humanity, so that all will be raised to eternal life in new resurrection bodies and live forever. (See Romans 6:8-18)

Last Sunday I went into detail to show April was not punished; she did nothing wrong. Her work here was done, and it was time to move on to her work in Paradise. There were a couple of more Scripture verses I forgot to share and speak on and so these are the special first reading and Gospel reading chosen for today to be sure I make these comments on the record. I will say more about this in today's Sermon.



We are here to give God thanks and praise for the glorious truths 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>.)

## **FIRST SONG: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise G&P 399, verses 1,2,4**

Text: 87 87 D; Edward Caswall, 1814–1878. Music: St Basil's Hymnal, 1889. Contributor: HOLY ANTHEM Onelicense Song # 84068. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

### **+ 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 # 121.



Names on Block #121



- Joe DuBois (1)
- Mark Feldman (2)
  - Michael (3)
- Michael Pierce (4)
  - Tom (5)
  - Tom Fisher (6)
- Michael Allan Smith (7)
- Dennis Lauriano (8)

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

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (\*\*pause for silent prayer.\*\*\*) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "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: "How Great Thou Art"** Stuart Wesley Keene Hine  
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**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Kaiden Benedict:** 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."

**Lisa Frost:** 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)

**Lisa Frost:** 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\*\*.)

**Lisa Frost:** 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 -1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_.

O Loving God, you give us all the tools to proclaim the Truth of resurrection to eternal life. Sometimes, when we are with family, friends, and other associates we may be hesitant to share the truth of Christ for fear of being ridiculed, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** The Church should lead by example to a society built upon unity, peace, and the celebration of the gifts of all people. There are many political and social movements today using the institutional church to promote division and distrust: Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -1:** The Body of Christ, the Church, should lead society to celebrate all sexual orientations and gender expressions and protect the freedom of all persons; Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**L-1:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

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

**Lisa Frost:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without the loss of anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: 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."

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

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

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

**Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
4  
peace to all peo - ple on earth — Glo - ry to God in the high - est —  
8  
We give you thanks — and praise. Al - le - lu - ia  
10  
We give you thanks — and praise.  
12 **Verse 1**  
You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly  
16  
Ho - ly God, we wor - ship You, we  
18  
give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo - ry!  
21 **Refrain**  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo - ple on earth —  
25  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est — We give you thanks and

2

28

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

31 **Verse 2**

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

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

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

41

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

46 **Refrain**

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

50

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

53

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

56 **Verse 3**

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

61

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

66

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

71

Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain

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

79

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

83

We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen

A\_ men;- We

We give You thanks and praise!

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

give You thnks, We give You praise We give You thnaks and praise

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

## + Opening Prayer

**Leader-5:** Come Holy Spirit, and open our minds to understand and apply what we will 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 in the Book of Job, chapter 19, verses 25-27 on page 468 in the first testament of the 1989 pew edition of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

<sup>25</sup> For I know that my Redeemer<sup>[b]</sup> lives  
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;  
<sup>26</sup> and after my skin has been destroyed,  
then in my flesh I shall see God,  
<sup>27</sup> whom I shall see on my side,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

### Footnotes

- a. 19.12 Cn: Heb *their way*
- b. 19.25 Or *redeemer* \*\*\*\* the 1989 NRSV uses *Redeemer*, the 2021 uses *vindicator*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+19&version=NRSVUE> )  
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**+ Psalm SONG: You Are Near** Words and Music: Dan Schutte. Text based on Psalm 139. Text and music © 1971, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #619. Onelicense Song # 80528. Used



## + Second Reading

**Reader:** \*\*\*\* **If an introduction is needed:**\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is in the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 1, verses 3-14. The 1989 NRSV Bible has this reading on page 192 in the second testament. I will be reading from the updated edition of 2021. Here begins the reading:

### Spiritual Blessings in Christ

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ<sup>[b]</sup> before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us<sup>[c]</sup> for adoption as his children<sup>[d]</sup> through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,<sup>[e]</sup> having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this<sup>[f]</sup> is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

#### Footnotes

a. [1.3 Gk heavenlies](#)

- b. 1.4 Gk in him
- c. 1.5 Or before him; he destined us in love
- d. 1.5 Or sonship
- e. 1.11 Or been made a heritage
- f. 1.14 Other ancient authorities read *who*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+1%3A3-14&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.

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

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

### Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

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

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the

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

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is Luke, Chapter 13:1-5 on page 76 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 Luke.

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

**13** At that very time there were some present who told Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

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

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

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. [13.1](#) Gk *him*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+13%3A1-5&version=NRSVUE>  
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## **Gospel Acclamation**

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

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**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' 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)

Last week I directly answered the question of why God did not heal April from her cancer or her blindness for that matter. One main truth that answers this question is Jesus never said the mission of the Church would be to end all disease, end all human error, to end physical death. If Jesus had made those actions the function of the Church Age we would have to choose from some obvious conclusions such as:

- a) Every person who said they were Christian but died was not a real Christian because real Christians wouldn't die. All those people in all the cemeteries were lost souls because they became sick and died.
- b) The people who prayed for healing were not healed because they were not following God's will in their life.
- c) The people who were ministering the Sacraments were not really in touch with God.
- d) Jesus was a fraud.
- e) There is no God

You can see really quickly where this is going.

Last Sunday I stated if everyone who believed, or went to the Sacraments for healing, or "was saved" never became sick and never died, we would have two human races on the planet, the saved, resurrected, transformed perfect bodied eternal people and the others who have not had their "come to Jesus moment."

Here are the additional points for this week.

Some professional clergy even allow people to assume that people die because of some sin that is in their life. APRIL WAS TOLD BY ONE PRIEST THAT SHE WAS GOING TO HELL AND THERE WAS NOTHING SHE COULD DO ABOUT IT BECAUSE SHE MUTILATED HER BODY WITH HER TRANS SURGERY. SOME DENOMINATIONS ARE MAKING SIMILAR STATEMENTS WITHIN THE LAST YEAR. THIS IS A MAN-MADE LIE. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE BIBLE THAT SUPPORTS THIS LIE. Some pastors will say a disease that is not healed or a particularly tragic event that leads to a person dying is somehow a judgment from God.

The gospel reading today is about two situations, one being murder and the second having a building a tower fall on people, where some people thought these victims must have been in some kind of sin for this to happen. Twice, verse 3 and verse 5 Jesus firmly says "no" they were not punished. Then he throws the ball or responsibility back and says we must be people of confession and repentance if we plan to stay in the household of God.

JESUS states there is no punishment for sin through the manner of one's death be it plane crash, house fire, murder, war, or disease. All of those conditions are the result of human sin and humanity refusing to listen to God and follow God's will. In fact the holy Scriptures clearly state there is a time to be born and a time to die. Dying is as much a part of the human experience as being born is. The doctrine of the resurrection is NOT a Christian original

idea. The Book of Job is another source of knowing the people of the first testament believed in the Resurrection of the Dead.

Signed: Br. Benedict 7-14-24.

The Book of Job is another source of knowing the people of the first testament believed in the Resurrection of the Dead.

Job 19:25-27, NRSV 1st Test. pg. 468

<sup>25</sup> For I know that my vindicator<sup>Ⓜ</sup> (Redeemer) lives  
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;  
<sup>26</sup> and after my skin has been destroyed,  
then in my flesh I shall see God,  
<sup>27</sup> whom I shall see on my side,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

It is noteworthy that this reading is often read at Christian funerals and in our minds we think a Christian said it and wrote it. No, this is Job of the first testament. We can stop and understand some of the response when Jesus identified himself as the Resurrection and the Life. He was clearly declaring his divinity. Martha, a sister of Lazarus said; "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." (John 11:24) Martha had learned of resurrection from the Scriptures. Try to imagine the moment that followed (11:25) when Jesus identified himself as the Resurrection.

In fact, the Scriptures tell us there is a time to be born and a time to die.  
Ecclesiastes Chapter 3

**3** For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup> a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup> a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate;

a time for war and a time for peace.

It is Interdependence, Cooperation, Community, what we hold in common, and in Holy Communion that matters eternally and will give us true freedom.

With these words comfort one another. 1 Thessalonians 4:18

Remarks by Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O. S. B. 7-7-24 and 7-14-24

Today's Second Reading is one of the most beautiful sections of Scripture regarding our lives.

Ephesians 1:3 <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,<sup>1a</sup> **Every spiritual blessing in all of creation is ours.**

Ephesians 1:4 just as he chose us in Christ<sup>1a</sup> before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. **God chose you and knew you before this planet existed.**

Ephesians 1:5 <sup>5</sup>He destined us<sup>1a</sup> for adoption as his children<sup>1a</sup> through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, **God was pleased, thrilled to determine that you and I would be born during the Church Age so we could be "in Christ" in the Church, to be LGBTQSIANE2ss+++ CHRISTIANS in this time at this place.**

Ephesians 1:6 <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. **We are here to praise God for God's glorious grace, love, cherishing that God lavishes on us through Christ. It is all God's fault that LGBTQSIANE2ss++ people are SAVED, especially through the sins of the church mistreating us.**

Ephesians 1:7,8 <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. **We sin, God knows that, but in God's love our sins are forgiven through the blood of Christ shed on the Cross and being offered by Jesus in Heaven before the Throne of God until the church age ends. God POURS OUT this love LAVISHES it upon us.**

Ephesians 1:9 With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, **God wants us to understand GOD'S WISDOM the entire plan and it is set forth in Christ who lives in us and is head of the Church. WE LEARN THIS PLAN AT CHURCH.**

Ephesians 1:10 <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. **God will WIN. All things (wow, all sinners, all fallen angels, all who were**

tricked by evil?? all means all.....) will be gathered in Christ and in God, ALL CREATION WILL BE HOLY.

Ephesians 1:11 <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,<sup>11</sup> having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, God chose you for this, and there is an inheritance you are headed for AND APRIL BEAT US TO IT!!!! The GLORIOUS vision now of the New Heavens and New Earth to come. APRIL TOLD ED IT IS MUCH BETTER THAN WE EVEN HAVE DESCRIBED IT after she died, April appeared to Ed Askins in talking according to Ed's testimony on 7-7-24.

Ephesians 1:12 <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. Now that we know this future "HOPE" it is our responsibility to give God thanks and praise for it in everything we do.

Ephesians 1:13 <sup>13</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. All who are in this building today, our Members and Friends have heard this holy and fantastic news that LGBTQSIANE2ss+ + + + people are saved in Christ and are called to be here to give God thanks and praise and learn more about it. WE HAVE BEEEN SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (Sacrament of Confirmation, Second Birth, Sanctification, Born Again) Sealed by the Holy Spirit forever so we are empowered to live this way.

Ephesians 1:14 <sup>14</sup> this<sup>14</sup> is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. This is God's pledge, God's promise of the inheritance the eternal life in God. In short, if you die before Christ returns you are going to Paradise / Heaven. YOU will be in the New Heavens and the New Creation as described in the Book of Revelation when it happens. This is God's pledge. And if this doesn't give you unspeakable joy, nothing will!

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\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*  
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## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### + The Prayers of the People - Pastor

**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: Keep In Mind. Words and Music by Lucien Deiss, CSSp NYBK #125.** ©1965, World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Ritual Song 2nd Edition, #789 - Keep in Mind. Onelicense Song # 50050 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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**

**Kaiden:** Please gently hold the communion kit in your hands for the next two prayers. Those at home with bread please lift it now.

**Veronica:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

**Lisa:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, almighty and eternal God. We praise You in the company of all the Faithful from every time and every place. We thank you for every person who shared in this ministry, especially our Foundresses, Founders, and those visionaries who dared to step up and form a church where everyone is welcome when AIDS was causing a great deal of fear, even in the churches. We thank you today for our sister, April Struhm, for her example that no situation, and no disease has the power to break our faith and Covenant with You, Eternal God. By the way they lived their lives, you offer us an example. By our Communion with them now in Paradise, you give us companionship. By their intercession, we experience sure support so that, encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run as victors in the race before us, and win with them the imperishable Crown of Glory through Christ our Lord. (Based upon the New Roman Missal (prayer book) Eucharistic Prayer #66, Preface I Of Saints (page 598))

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

**Veronica:** 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

## + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Please lift the Holy Communion Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation. 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

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

**ALL:** Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said

**whoever eats of this bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.**

**Lisa:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

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

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

## + Sign Of Peace

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Leader 1:** Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you.

\*\*During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

Clear your worship table and altar.

## **COMMUNION SONG:**



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#### 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 June 23 \$339.00 Attendance 11 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, June 26, Attendance 2

**General Offering** for the week of June 30 \$498.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, July 3, Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of July 7 \$875.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday;  
Wednesday, July 10, Attendance 3  
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

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

There is a new air conditioner and dehumidifier in the Frasier Room that was purchased with monies donated by Gary and Annie and the William and Jean Houser Trust. We are very grateful, thank you.

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

Kaiden Benedict donated \$400 to the Building Fund last week, thank you Kaiden.

On Wednesday, July 3, Cam, Gary, and Annie came up from Millerton and worked from 2:00 - 7:30 PM with Brother to reduce shrubs, trees, and brush from the side yard and removed the cuttings to a compost pile at Gary and Annie's house. We are very grateful to the three of you, and Kaiden managed the monastery hospitality during these hours. Christina and Annie spent some good ministry and visiting time together too.

Ian and Christina donated \$450.00 to the Building Improvement Fund this week, thank you both.

Brother Benedict donated \$700 to the Building Fund last week.

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

July 8, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee.

July 9, Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment.

July 10, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

July 14, Sunday Worship will be at 10:30 AM, in-person and online.



**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

7-7-24 Independence Day, 60th Anniversary of Civil Rights Act, & thanksgiving for April Struhm, Yr. B Page 35 of 38  
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:** Give Thanks words and music by Henry Smith NTBK#6

**CCLI Song #20285© 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WE ARE YOU!**

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

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public, the way it used to be from 7:00 AM to 11:59 PM daily, as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

**(Optional) Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Optional) Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

—————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)

