



# 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)**

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:

"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God" (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable.

We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is 9-15-24 Pentecost Week 18,

The Feast Of The Triumph Of The Cross Year B

The 28th Anniversary of the Southern Tier Extension of Ray Of Hope Church

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:** Hebrews, chapter 9, verse 26b - 28 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 224

**Psalms:** 98 with a response in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Romans 5:5b – 9 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 155

**Gospel:** John 12:31-36a NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 107

\*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 our bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

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



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

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#). Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. 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, please remember to look 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.



(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 choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures

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

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

**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 9-15-24 Pentecost Week 18, 23rd of 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time Year B, meaning there are only 11 weeks before Advent. Today, we are celebrating The Feast of The Triumph Of The Cross, a day celebrated since at least the early 300s in the church. How has our Faith and the power of the Cross of Jesus influenced our lives? Perhaps for many, the experience is too new to answer the question; for others, there is a "reboot," a "clean up on aisle 1" happening with Faith in our lives as we restart our faith journey as LGBTQSAINE2ss+ Christians. The Church has been a significant part of the Civil Rights movement, and many other causes, even from the beginning of the "gay rights movement" during the entire 20th century up until now.

Twenty-eight years ago, Ray Of Hope Church of Syracuse, NY, came to the Southern Tier and held the first of at least 1,484 worship services in the Southern Tier of New York and all across the Internet. In fact, if we add

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funerals, weddings, special services, and all of the Holy Week services, it is fair to round up to 1,500 worship events since we started in the Southern Tier. This is a victory for the Cross of Christ, that this particular community has worshiped in this specific area all these years; may God be praised.

One goal of this church is to show everyone how to bring Christ to every area of our lives.

**Pastor:** With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

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



**FIRST SONG: All Are Welcome.** Words and Music by Marty Haugen  
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Onelicense Song #00004 GIA Edition 4166. Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

## + The Candle Of Hope

Next, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and these words of Jesus to celebrate the Truth they promise us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

**ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."** (John 11:25, 26)

**Leader -2:** In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and,

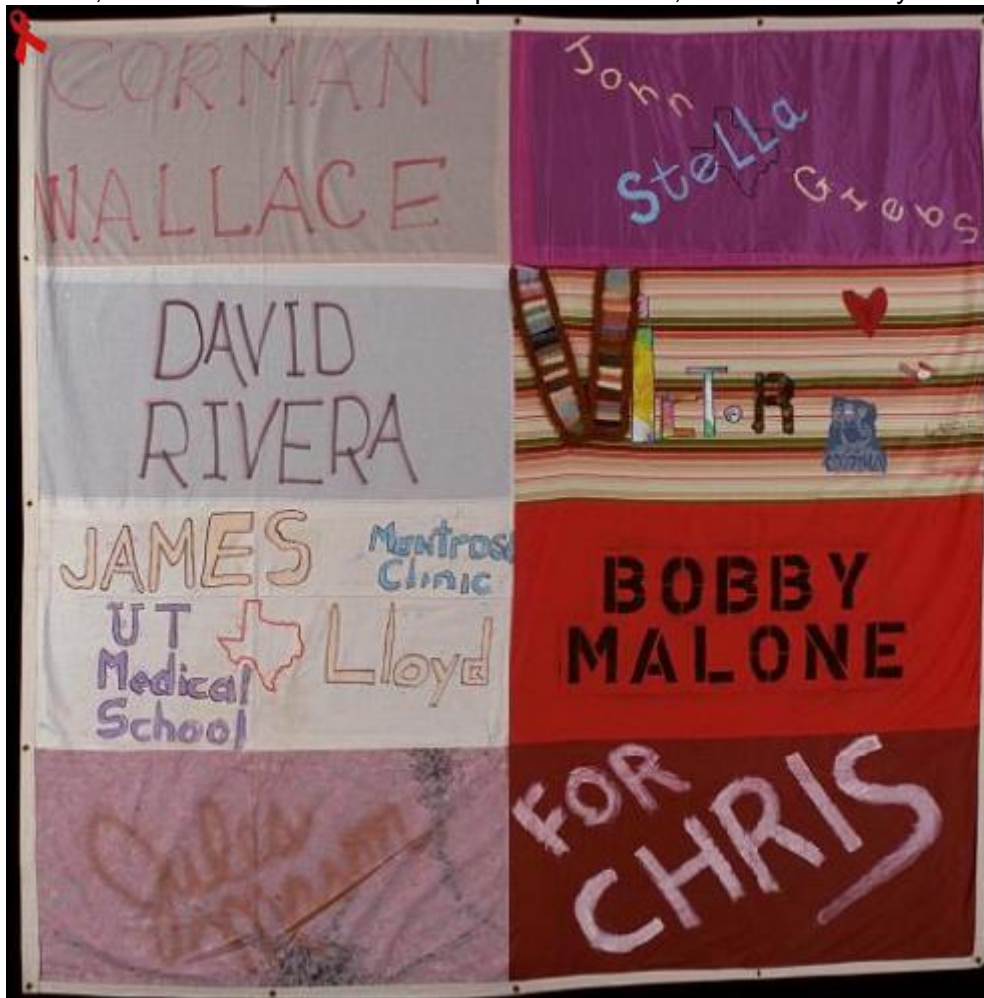


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yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance. Scientists have proven AIDS was never a "gay disease," and it remains a health crisis for the entire Human Race. A letter we recently received from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, states every minute someone somewhere contracts HIV today. Pause right now to think about people becoming HIV-positive today, even during the time we are here to worship. Last 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 and AIDS are still with us; therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

(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 # 129.



## Names on Block #129

- Corman Wallace (1)
- David Rivera (2)
- Jules Mason (3)
- James Lloyd (4)
- Victor LeNoble (5)
- John Giebs (6)
- Bobby Malone (7)
- Chris (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

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comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

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

**Second Song: I Believe In Jesus. Words and Music by Marc Nelson**

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**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Leader 3:** 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. At this time, in silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, then confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ to receive His immediate forgiveness.

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

**Leader 3:** 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.

**Pastor:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without the loss of anyone. Amen. Now, for each member



**ALL: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** Trusting in God's love, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: The faith community of Ray Of Hope Church openly declares the forgiveness of all your confessed sins in the Name of Jesus Christ. He forgives you, we forgive you, and God rejoices over your restoration in Christ. Amen.**

**Leader - 3:** The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able as we sing "The Gloria."

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. men. Al - le - lu - ia.



## + Opening Prayer

**Leader-2:** Please be seated. We are prepared and ready to hear the Holy Scriptures for this Sunday worship gathering. Pray silently with me as I pray this opening prayer. (\*\*wait a few seconds\*\*) Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and refresh us as we listen to these Holy Scriptures. We ask this in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Leader-2:** 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

### + First Reading

**Reader:** \*\*\*\* If an introduction is needed:\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

This morning's first reading is from the Second Testament, the Book of Hebrews, chapter 9, verses 26b through 28 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 224 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment [krisis G2920], <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: [https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Heb\\_9%3A25-28&version=NRSVUE](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Heb_9%3A25-28&version=NRSVUE) Scripture quotations are

**SERMON NOTE: [GOD'S WORD® Translation](#)**

Likewise, Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of humanity, and after that he will appear a second time. This time he will not deal with sin, but he will save those who eagerly wait for him. (source: <https://biblehub.com/hebrews/9-28.htm> )

**+ Psalm** \*\*\*\* **If an introduction is needed:**\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

Today's Psalm reading is prose inspired by Psalm 98, with selected verses and a responsorial verse. Today's response is, " The Lord has made known salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia."

**R.: The Lord has made known Salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Sing to the Lord a new song  
God has worked beautiful things.  
With God's hand and holy arm  
salvation and victory have come.

**R.: The Lord has made known Salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

God has procured Salvation;  
and shown justice to all nations;  
has remembered truth and Love  
for the entire house of Israel and all people.

**R.: The Lord has made known Salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

The whole People of the Earth have seen  
the Salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, everyone,  
ring out your praise and joy, all you people.

**R.: The Lord has made known Salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Sing psalms to God with the harp and instruments,  
with the sound of music.  
Play the trumpets and the horns  
to praise the King of Creation, the Lord.

**R.: The Lord has made known Salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Let the seas and oceans thunder with praise;  
the world and all its nations of people.

Even the rivers and the hills praise God  
with joy and thanksgiving.

**R.: The Lord has made known Salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Be ready to rejoice at the presence of the Lord,  
for He will come to rule the Earth  
with justice, kindness, and fairness  
He will rule all the people.

**R.: The Lord has made known Salvation; Alleluia, Alleluia.**

\*\* Inclusive language and prose added by Br.  
Benedict, based on multiple translations.

## + 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 Romans, chapter 5, verses 5b - 9 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 155 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

**God's Love** has been poured **into our hearts** through the **Holy Spirit** that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his Love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, **will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.**<sup>[a]</sup>

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### Footnotes

a. 5.9 Gk *the wrath*

### Read full chapter

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans++5%3A5-9&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 John, chapter 12:31-36a in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 107 in the Second Testament.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

<sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment [krisis G2920] of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the Earth, will draw all people<sup>[a]</sup> to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. <sup>34</sup> The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah<sup>[b]</sup> remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "The light is in you<sup>[c]</sup> for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

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

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

#### Footnotes

- a. 12.32 Other ancient authorities read *all things*
- b. 12.34 Or *the Christ*
- c. 12.35 Other ancient authorities read with you

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+12%3A31-36&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.)

## 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 - 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. 15:10**

### + Sermon

**Br. Shawn Benedict, Pastor.**

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)

### Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Triumph Of The Cross  
Holy Cross Day

Universal Exaltation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross

Source: Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Exaltation of the Holy Cross". Encyclopedia Britannica, 2 Jan. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Exaltation-of-the-Holy-Cross>. Accessed 14 September 2024.

**"Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, liturgical [feast](#) celebrated on September 14 to honour the [cross](#) on which [Jesus Christ](#) was [crucified](#). In the Eastern churches the feast dates back to the dedication of the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#) (the site of Christ's tomb) in [Jerusalem](#) circa 335. It was adopted by the [Roman Catholic Church](#) in the 7th century and is also observed in various [Protestant](#) traditions, including [Lutheranism](#) and [Anglicanism](#).

The universal symbol of the Christian Faith, the cross represents Christ's victory over death. The feast celebrates the redemptive transformation of a barbaric instrument of torture into a divine "tree of life" that brings hope to humankind. In some traditions, a cross is oriented to the cardinal directions to represent the universal nature of Christ's sacrifice and prayers are said for the [salvation](#) of all."

Source: Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Exaltation of the Holy Cross". Encyclopedia Britannica, 2 Jan. 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Exaltation-of-the-Holy-Cross>. Accessed 14 September 2024.

## Hebrews 9:26b - 28

He has [appeared once for all](#) at the [end of the ages](#) to [remove sin by the sacrifice](#) of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for [mortals to die once and after that the judgment \[krisis G2920\]](#), <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those [who are eagerly waiting for him](#).

His first coming: was to remove sin, "the sin of the World," as we pray in the Gloria prayer. What is the "sin of the world" but the apparent wholesale rejection of God and God's Christ by societies, peoples, nations, political systems, etc.

We are in the period of time between Christ's first coming to Earth and what will be considered His second coming. When He comes this time, it will not be to sacrifice Himself for sin but to rescue, save, and collect all who are "eagerly waiting for Him." One way Ray Of Hope Church symbolizes our waiting for His return is the lighting of the Candle Of Hope every week. It stands in our assembly as the sign of our intent "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." We are waiting for His return.

## The Second Reading, Romans 5:5b- 9

[God's Love](#) has been poured [into our hearts](#) through the [Holy Spirit](#) that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—

though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.<sup>8</sup> But God proves his Love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, **will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.**<sup>[a]</sup>

God is acting, and God is pouring out God's self in LOVE through the Holy Spirit. Notice the last sentence, "we will be saved through Him from the wrath of God." There is NO reason we should be walking around afraid of God's judgment. In fact, some have seen in this sentence that God intends to save us from the hour of the Tribulation Period under the Anti-Christ even.

Concerning our celebration of Baptism in two weeks, the love of God will be outpoured through the pouring of water, and in that water will also come the gift of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of the sins of all who participate.

This Tuesday night, we will review the main points of the Profession of Faith and the Statement of Faith, as this is required for Christian Baptism. Katrina is our Candidate for Baptism in two weeks, September 29, 2024. She will be receiving her first Baptism. Everyone and anyone who wants to renew their Baptism or refresh their profession of Faith may do so in two weeks on Sunday, September 29, with baptismal water poured over their head or sprinkled with the baptismal water.

In The Gospel John 12:31-36a

<sup>31</sup> Now is the **judgment [krisis G2920] of this world**; now the **ruler of this world** will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the Earth, will draw **all people**<sup>[a]</sup> to myself."

Here, we see that the effects of the Cross of Jesus have been to bring salvation to "all people." All people, including all of us.

=====

Guide for political actions allowed by churches and by pastors  
<https://www.adfchurchalliance.org/electionguide>

=====  
Read the 2024 Democratic Party Platform Here: <https://democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/FINAL-MASTER-PLATFORM.pdf>

[See pages 56 & 57 RIGHT CLICK HERE](#). Scroll to page 56 :LGBTQI+

=====  
Read the 2024 Republican Party Platform Here  
(<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/2024-republican-party-platform> )

Read the supporting documents and ideas known as Project 2025 here: <https://www.project2025.org/>

See a video summary of the highlights of Project 2025 by the Wall Street Journal here:

[\(Project 2025: The Radical Conservative Plan to Reshape America Under Trump | W.S.J.\)](#)

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



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**+ (optional) Profession Of Faith**

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

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

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God.  
Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

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

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

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

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

## + The Prayers of the People

**Leader – 1:** Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader – 1:** We pray for people living under the rule of unjust governments; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 1:** We pray for those forced into labor and work in unjust systems; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 2:** We pray for those who have lost their source of work to the bombs of war, to ethnic cleansing, to displacement, and to the greed of business owners and powerbrokers; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 2:** We continue praying for people we know who need healing



9-15-24 Pent. Wk 18, corr. The Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, 28th Anniversary of STE Yr. B Page 24 of 41  
and support, especially Ed Askins, Phillipa Askins, Christina McLaughlin, Brother Benedict, Cheryl Allen, Tami Whatley, Lisa Frost, Ken Cummings, Allena McGlaughlin; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 2:** We pray for family and friends who have lost loved ones and must find a new way forward without someone they loved; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader-2:** At this time, you may add your silent prayers. (\*pause for time to pray.\*)

**Leader-2:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**

**Leader - 3:** 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.



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

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation, including



this QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact

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.

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**Leader - 3:** (\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts you have received to support this ministry. We bless you for those who can give financially, with their skills, prayers, and many other ways. We bless you for those who could not give and pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

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



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

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

**Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ** (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

**Pastor: (An improvised prayer is said here.)**

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) 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 - 3:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the Bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

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

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

**Leader - 1:** You may relax your arms and hands.

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

**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.

**+ 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!

## + The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



### The Reception of Holy Communion

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

**ALL: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.**



**Leader - 2:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

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

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

**+ Sign Of Peace**



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

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Leader-1:** Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. \*\*During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

**COMMUNION SONG:** **Look Beyond.** Words and Music by Darryl Ducote  
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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 September 1 \$600.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday

**General Offering** for the week of September 1 \$1,065.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday  
Wednesday, September 11, Attendance 5  
(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

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

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

Kaiden Benedict made a \$400.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you, Kaiden. Christina and Ian made a \$436.50 donation to the Building Improvement Fund, thank you both.

Brother Benedict made a donation of \$640.00 to the Building Fund.

Cam was here to help with trimming and weeding on Tuesday, August 12. Thank you, Cam.

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.

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

The Innocence Project <https://innocenceproject.org/>

Announcing Baptism Preparation Instruction. Membership is based the [Statement Of Purpose](#). The Sacrament of Baptism is based upon the [Statement of Faith](#) and is the public affirmation that one desires to be "baptized into Christ Jesus," (see Galatians 3:27-28) and forever remain one with Christ and His Body, the Church.

Ray Of Hope Church By-Laws [8.02 Baptism](#).

Baptism in/with water as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life in Christ Jesus and God's service and shall be witnessed by Christ's Church.

**September 3, 10, 17, 24 – Tuesdays - Baptism Instruction 6:30 – 8:00**

**Sunday, September 15, Worship at 10:30 a.m. Celebrating the 28th Anniversary of the Southern Tier Extension of Ray Of Hope Church and the Feast of the Triumph Of The Cross.**

September 16, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

September 17, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM **Baptism Instruction**

September 18, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

Sunday, September 22, Worship at 10:30 a.m.

September 23, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

September 24, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM **Baptism Instruction**

September 25, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

**September 26, Thursday at 3:00 p.m. rescheduled Council Meeting**

**September 27, Friday 7:00 PM Elmira College Gibson Theatre Matsiko World Orphan Choir [www.matsiko.org](http://www.matsiko.org) hosted by North Presbyterian Church**



Sunday, September 29, 2024, the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Worship at 10:30 AM with the Sacrament of Baptism. Shared dinner after Worship and the Congregational Meeting will start at 1:00 PM. The meeting is short: Approval of the January 2024 Congregational Minutes and hold elections to the Council. Veronica Floyd is nominated to fill a two-year seat.

September 30, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee  
October 1, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment - continuing Angels  
October 2, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person  
(\*October 5, Saturday 4:30- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
The Chosen - see flyer below.)

Sunday, October 6, Worship 10:30 a.m. World Communion Sunday and Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi - the Saint who welcomed everyone and celebrated all the gifts of Creation in worship.

October 7, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee  
October 8, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment - continuing Angels  
October 9, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person  
(\*October 12, Saturday 4:30- 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
The Chosen - see flyer below.)

Sunday, October 13, Worship 10:30 a.m.

October 13, Sunday at 2:00 PM **The Abrahamic Walk** presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition

#### Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2024.

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of the month was \$1,043.91. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$1,368.50. There were 2 people who deposited their August donations in July, so this figure is lower than normal by about \$800.00 Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week was paid, Verizon \$62.13, a reimbursement to me for the wine and grape juice kits of \$91.44 and Paypal charge comes out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$265.34.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,357.42. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00. I transferred back in from Savings \$662.33 also. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$61.42, electric \$233.92 (which has increased \$100 per month), gas bill \$253.00, water bill \$82.79, Fire Inspection fee of \$60.00, Isaac's Plumbing and



9-15-24 Pent. Wk 18, corr. The Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, 28th Anniversary of STE Yr. B Page 35 of 41  
Heating \$364.95 and I paid the Liability Insurance bill of \$662.33. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,341.34.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$2,452.49. We had no activity on this account during August. Ian & Christinas donation was done on Paypal September 1<sup>st</sup>, so that will be on next month's report. So the ending balance on this account is \$2,452.29.

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance \$705.33. I transferred \$662.33 to the building fund to cover the liability insurance payment, so the ending balance in this account is \$43.65.

These balances do equal the ending bank balances.

# SHOW TIME ELMIRA

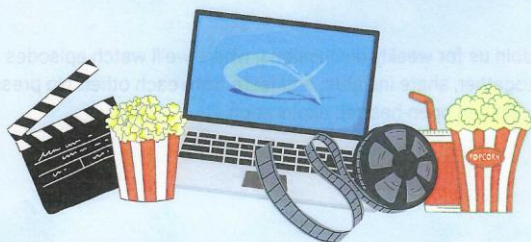
PRESENTS

## The CHOSEN

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church of Elmira  
1054 W. Clinton St. Elmira, NY 14905  
**Dates:** Saturday afternoons, Oct 5 - Nov 23  
**Time:** 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Get ready to dive into the epic saga of "The Chosen" with our first screening on Saturday, October 5th at 4:30 PM! Join us every Saturday at this time to catch all of Season One, ending on November 23rd. That's 8 chances to get together to enjoy, explore and discuss this fantastic, ground-breaking series.

Gather your friends and family and mark your calendars for this unforgettable adventure of friendship and faith.  
Can't wait to see you there!



The First Presbyterian Church  
North Presbyterian Church  
And Elmira Community Leaders

*are embarking on an exciting journey together,  
and we'd love for you to join us!*

What?

We're diving into the acclaimed series "The Chosen." This groundbreaking show beautifully portrays the life of Jesus and those around Him.

But here's the best part:  
it's not just for one faith—it's for everyone.

Why?

Because we believe that stories have the power to unite us.

Whether you're a person of faith, curious about spirituality, or simply appreciate compelling narratives, "The Chosen" invites us all to explore universal themes like forgiveness, friendship, and transformation.

How?

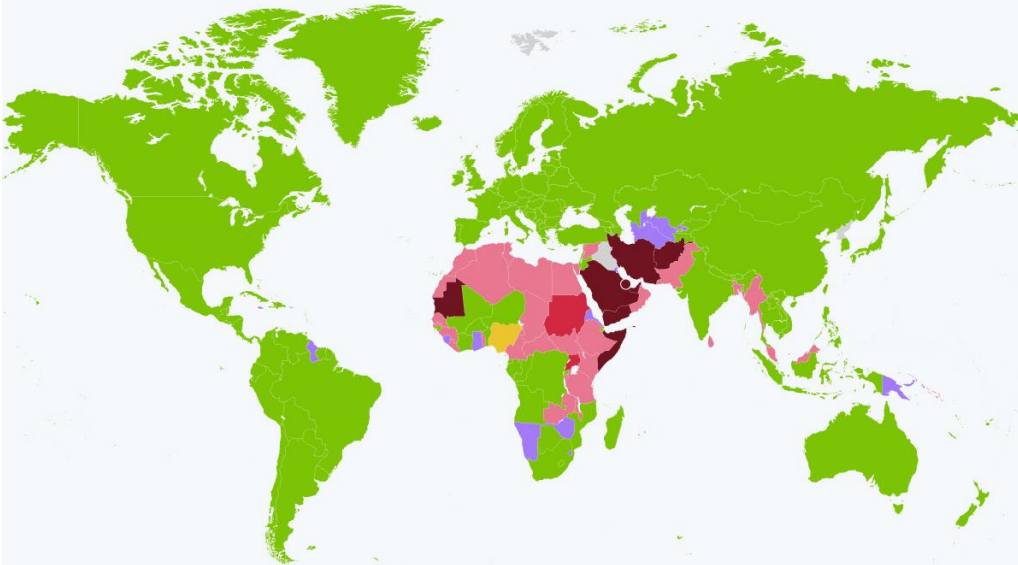
Join us for weekly discussions, where we'll watch episodes together, share insights, and learn from each other. No pressure, —just an open-hearted exploration.

website: <https://www.statista.com/chart/4310/global-laws-against-homosexuality-visualised/>  
<https://cdn.statcdn.com/Infographic/images/normal/4310.jpeg>

# The Legal Status Of Homosexuality Worldwide

Global laws regarding homosexual activity in 2022

- Legal
- Male illegal, female legal\*
- Illegal (other penalty)
- Illegal (imprisonment)
- Illegal (up to life in prison)
- Illegal (death penalty)
- Unknown, N/A or ambiguous



As of August 22, 2022

\* Eswatini, Jamaica: female uncertain

Source: Equaldex





380 W. FIRST ST.  
ELMIRA, NY 14901

## NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The September Congregational Meeting for Members and Friends of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024. You may attend in person or on SKYPE. The schedule for the day will be as follows:

**10:30 a.m. – Worship**  
**12:30 p.m. light refreshments**  
**1:00 p.m.—Congregational Meeting**

The Congregational meeting will include election of Council members for 2025.

We look forward to having you join us and engage in this ministry. If you haven't been here in a while, please consider coming to fellowship with us for worship and stay for a brief meeting of the congregation. We would love to see you.

Sincerely,

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



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

**ALL: Amen**



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

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

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

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

**LAST SONG: G&P 444 Lift High The Cross** Refrain text and Music by Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18; George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912, and Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, alt., © 1974, Hope Publishing Co. Onelicense Song # 01923 Lead Me, Guide Me 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 726 Used with permission. Onlicense # 81048 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."

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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, and CoVID-2. 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)

