



# 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 9-8-24 Pentecost Week 17,  
22nd of 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time Year B  
Considering God's Radical Welcome; How Shall We Respond?  
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: Isaiah 35:4-7 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 663**

**Psalm: 146 with responsorial verse.**

**Second Reading: James 2:1-5 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 229**

**Third Reading: Gospel: Mark 7:31-37 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 42**

\*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 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. 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

instruct us to:

**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 9-8-24 Pentecost Week 17, 22nd of 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time Year B, meaning there are only 12 weeks before Advent. Today's theme is Considering God's Radical Welcome; How Shall We Respond?

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  
Tune: © 1994, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Text: © 1994, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.  
Onelicense Song #00004 GIA Edition 4166. Used with permission. Onelicense  
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## + 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, 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

9-8-24 Pentecost Week 17, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr. B Page 6 of 37  
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 # 128.



### Names on Block #128

- Mike Saddler (1)
- Tom Wheeler (2)
- M. Robert Schwab (3)
- Mike King (4)

- George Hansen (5)
- Joel Ken Thomas (6)
  - Gator (7)
- Fred Havard (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 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: Seek The Lord.** Words and Music by Robert F. O'Connor, Jr., SJ, \*Composer's revised text Text based on Isaiah 55:6–9. © 1975, 1996, Robert F. O'Connor, Jr., SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song #81340 Glory and Praise Second Edition # 351. OCP Octavo/Bonus Music. Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.



**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.

**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. Today, we will recite the Gloria. Together:



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

Amen; 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

men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

## + Opening Prayer

**Leader-2:** 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

The reading is Isaiah, chapter 35, verses 4-7 in the 1989 pew Bibles has this reading in the First Testament, pg. 663. I will be reading The Inclusive Bible of 2007 by Priests for Equality. Here begins the reading.

<sup>4</sup> Say to all those of faint heart: "Take courage! Do not be afraid! Look, YHWH is coming, vindication is coming, the recompense of God— God is coming to save you!"

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unsealed.

<sup>6</sup> Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy. Waters will break forth in the wilderness, and there will be streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> The scorched earth will become a lake; the parched land, springs of water. The lairs where jackals used to dwell will become thickets of reed and papyrus.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

(Source: Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 947-948). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. **The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights**, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury)

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

Today's Psalm is number 146, with selected verses and a responsorial verse: "Praise the Lord, my soul, alleluia."

**R: Praise the Lord, my soul, alleluia.**

<sup>5</sup> They are happy who are helped by Jacob's God,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
<sup>6</sup> who alone made heaven and earth,  
the seas and all they contain.

**R: Praise the Lord, my soul, alleluia.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,  
<sup>7</sup> who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is God who gives bread to the hungry,  
the LORD, who sets prisoners free,

**R: Praise the Lord, my soul, alleluia.**

<sup>8</sup> the LORD who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
<sup>9</sup> the LORD, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

**R: Praise the Lord, my soul, alleluia.**

<sup>8c</sup> It is the LORD who loves the just  
<sup>9c</sup> but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The LORD will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. Alleluia.

**R: Praise the Lord, my soul, alleluia.**

**Give praise to the Living God.  
To God's Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.  
To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.  
Both now, and forever. A-men.**

Text of Psalm 146 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #54629. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Response verse and Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

## **+ 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 James, Chapter 2, verses 1-5. The 1989 NRSV Bible includes this reading on page 229 in the second testament. I will be reading the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

### **Warning against Partiality**

**2** My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. **2** For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, **3** and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%20%3A1-5&version=NRSVUE>)

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

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

### Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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 Mark, chapters 7:31-37. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 42 in the Second Testament. I will read the 2021 NRSV Updated Edition.

**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.**

## **Jesus Cures a Deaf Man**

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

### **Footnotes**

a. [7.36](#) Gk *he*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%20%3A31-37&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. 5:10**

## + 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)

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+

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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 and support, especially Ed Askins, Phillipa Askins, Kaiden Benedict,

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 information, including our street address.

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 in support of 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

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**

**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! \_\_\_\_

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## + 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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The Inclusive Bible. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. **The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights**, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.

**General Offering** for the week of August 18 \$310.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday; Wednesday, August 21, Attendance 4

**General Offering** for the week of August 25 \$10.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday

**General Offering** for the week of September 1 \$600.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday (some people give monthly rather than weekly)

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

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

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**

September 8, Sunday 10:30 AM Worship In-Person and Online

September 9, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

September 10, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:00 PM **Baptism Instruction**

September 11, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

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

The September Council meeting is on 9-20-24 at 2:00 PM.

September 27, Friday 7:00 PM Elmira College Matsiko World Orphan Choir

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting is September 29, 2024

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.

October 13, Sunday at 2:30 PM? **The Abrahamic Walk** presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition

**Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2024.**

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of the month was \$649.04. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$2,945.40. There were 2 people who deposited their August donations early. Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week was paid, Verizon \$62.13 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 \$1043.91.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$2,001.66. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$63.27, electric \$133.92, gas bill \$253.00, water bill \$68.18, Sewer bill \$405.92, Initial Boiler service call with Isaac's Plumbing and Heating \$109.95 and I transferred \$650.00 to savings to cover the liability insurance that is due in early September. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,357.42.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$2,189.85. We received a Paypal donation from Ian & Christina McLaughlin. A net amount of \$436.50 and also a donation from Annie and Gary of \$200.00 towards the A.C. unit in the Frazier room. The total of the A.C. paid from this account was \$373.86. The ending balance in this account is \$2,452.49.

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance \$55.98. I transferred the \$650.00 from the Building Fund into this account for the liability insurance, so the balance in this account at the end of the month is \$705.98.

These balances equal Five Star bank balances at end of month, with the exception of the Building Improvement Fund, which I will explain during the meeting.

\*\* Ed Askins is the Treasurer of Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. and is glad to answer any questions regarding the finances of the Church.\*\*

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The following is the text and pictures of an email sent on August 28, 2024

"Today marks the 61st anniversary of the historic 1963 March on Washington. There, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, calling for an end to racism and the realization of equality and justice for all.



As we reflect on this pivotal moment, here are some powerful films and a series that capture the spirit and the significance of the March on Washington:

- Rustin
- Selma
- Genius: MLK/X
- Boycott
- John Lewis: Good Trouble

While progress has been made in the decades since the march, Dr. King's vision of a nation where people "will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" remains unfulfilled. Racism, barriers to voting, and systemic racial inequities continue to persist in our society today."

NAACP EMAIL ENDS HERE. ( More information Right Click Here:

<https://naacp.org/volunteer?sourceid=1000375&emci=c1462629-3b65-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&emdi=fdafa66a-4665-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&ceid=3587589> )

## Current Political Resources





Our statement on the RNC's approval of the historic 2024 platform:

"Log Cabin Republicans have been working for decades to help build a more inclusive GOP and update the platform's outdated and out-of-step language... Today, that hard work has finally come to fruition."



"The approval today of the 2024 Republican Party platform at the Republican National Convention is a historic moment both for the GOP and for our country. Log Cabin Republicans have been working for decades to help build a more inclusive GOP and update the platform's outdated and out-of-step language opposing marriage equality, an issue that the vast majority of the country and a majority of Republican voters support. Today, that hard work has finally come to fruition. This platform sends a powerful message to LGBT conservatives across the country that we are not only welcome in the Republican Party, but a part of the movement to Make America Great Again. It also makes clear to voters that the Republican Party welcomes all, and is looking optimistically to the future instead of cynically rehashing old debates of the past. This is a platform of unity. We applaud President Trump for his visionary, inclusive, and consistent leadership, without which this moment wouldn't be possible. LGBT conservatives are more determined than ever before to help the GOP fight the radical gender ideology of the Democrat Party and more enthused than ever to nominate President Trump as our standard-bearer and Make America Great Again."

- *Log Cabin Republicans President Charles Moran*



## 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: Psalm 23 - My Shepherd Is the Lord.** Refrain text and Music by Joseph Gelineau, SJ, Copyright ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Text of Psalm 23 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #79358 All rights reserved. Reprint from Gather 3rd Edition #34. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on

growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



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

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

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

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

**WE ARE YOU!**

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

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public, 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)

