



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“My House shall be a house of prayer for All People.”
(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-sixth year of Ministry.

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory.”

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

January 19, 2020 **Epiphany Week 3, Year A**

The 36th Annual Meeting

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

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3-9 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 679

Psalm: Psalm 40 responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 1:1-3 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 165

Gospel: John 1:29-34 NRSV 2ND Testament page 92

We suggest you find these Scripture readings in your Bible and place a marker in them before the Worship begins. The readings are also printed in this bulletin for your convenience.)

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

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3-9 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 679

And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

4 But I said, “I have labored in vain,

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God.”

5 And now the LORD says,

who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

6 he says,

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

7 Thus says the LORD,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,

“Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Zion’s Children to Be Brought Home

8 Thus says the LORD:

In a time of favor I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;

I have kept you and given you
as a covenant to the people,^[a]

to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages;

9 saying to the prisoners, “Come out,”

to those who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.”
They shall feed along the ways,
on all the bare heights^[b] shall be their pasture;

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 40 with selected verses and responsorial.

Refrain: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD
 who stooped toward me and heard my cry.
 The Lord put a new song into my mouth,
 a hymn to our God.

Refrain: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not,
 but ears open to obedience you gave me.
 Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
 then said I, "Behold I come."

Refrain: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
 to do your will, O my God, is my delight,
 and your law is within my heart!"

Refrain: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
 I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

Refrain: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 1:1-3 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 165

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, (R.C. called to be holy) together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord^[a] and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 1:29-34 NRSV 2ND Testament page 92

The Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Benedict

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THE POWER OF THE NAME OF JESUS, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS: In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Galatians 6:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Civil Rights, then, are the means by which our governments assure the full respect, protection, promotion, and advancement of life from womb to tomb. Civil rights are only valid in as much as they build their basis from the Creator of all life. To respect life is to respect the Creator of life and to promote life in all of its forms. Understanding the dignity of human life requires an understanding of God's perspective. It also requires our being open to the vast spectrum of God's continuing creativity. This manifests especially in the fact that every human who has ever lived, was at that time, is now, and will be one of

a kind, totally unique, and without copy. Only the Divine Creator of Life could do such a thing as this, to make all persons and living things a unique creation. Therefore, every single human being carries a unique image of the invisible God never before revealed to humanity just as Christ did. Therefore, every human being deserves our respect as a unique revelation of God among us. With this in mind, stop and reflect how tragic it is when we allow the anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-life, racist, sexist, ageist, classist, homophobic, xenophobic, trans-phobic, or any expression of discrimination, etc., that feeds these forces to warp our understanding and weaken our mental health to the point that we dehumanize another human being, think of ourselves as superior, better, more valuable and therefore entitled to control the space they occupy, or the hours of their breathing on this planet, or even our own life span.

Jesus gives us life. John 10:10b “I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.” In John 10:10a Jesus tells us evil intends to destroy life, to steal it, to kill life and to weaken life.

Jesus comes to give us Christ Joy, endless Joy, eternal Joy.
John 15:11

Consider each person you have ever known and understand their unique place in time and space and how special each and every person is, being a once-in-a-universe creation. If we see human persons from this perspective we will understand the equal and full rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that each person has. When a society, be it the whole human race or a small group of persons limits these God-given gifts then “civil” rights have been constrained.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday marking the birthday of Dr. King. It is observed on the third Monday of January. Dr. King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement. The movement successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and local laws. While efforts to gain a federal holiday in Dr. King’s honor began soon after his assassination in 1968 it was passed into law in 1983.

It was not celebrated until three years later, 1986 and it was not celebrated in all fifty states until the year 2000. Since August 23, 1996 the King Holiday and Service Act calls on everyone to transform the day of citizen action volunteer service in honor of Dr. King.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS

General Offering for the week of January 12, 2020— \$1015.00 Attendance— 6. Donation for pastor SE taxes - Veronica \$150, Lisa \$150. Additional special donation from Veronica \$2,226.50. Thank you all very much. For all these gifts we give thanks and praise.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bible Enrichment Session Tuesday January 21 6:30 PM

Thursday January 23 Elmira LGBTQIS Social Group Movie : Boy Erased - more on reparative therapy [Click Here](#).

Council Friday, January 31 2:00 PM

** ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2020 Worship 7 pm

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 web site; 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 open daily from about 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM most days of the year. When the door is unlocked the public is welcome to come in and pray, read a book, meditate, read Scriptures, and enjoy the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Visitors are invited to use the kneelers or sit in the chair or couch of their choice. Please maintain holy silence in the chapel.

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*.

Name: _____

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.

Visit us on line:

Our website: www.rayofhopechurch.com

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs

—————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 The **grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all**.

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)