



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-seventh year of Min-

istry. 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.

September 20, 2020 16th Sunday Year A

Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Servants of the Eucharist

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 55:6-9 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 685

Psalm: 145 selected verses with responsorial verse

Second Reading: Phillipians 1:20-28 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 196

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16A NRSV 2ND Testament page 21

****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 55:6-9 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 685

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 145 selected verses with responsorial verse

R. You are close to all who call on you from their hearts.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
You are great, Lord, highly to be praised,
your greatness cannot be measured.

R. You are close to all who call on you from their hearts.

You are kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good you are, Lord, to all,
compassionate to all your creatures.

R. You are close to all who call on you from their hearts.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God.

R. You are close to all who call on you from their hearts.

You are just in all your ways
and loving in all your deeds.
You protect all who love you;
let all the peoples bless your holy name for ever, for ages un-
ending.

R. You are close to all who call on you from their hearts.

Second Reading: Phillipians 1:20-28 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 196

20 It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16A NRSV 2ND Testament page 21

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' 9 When those hired about five o'clock came,

each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTES

Matthew 24:6-8

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

Jesus said: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8.32 -----

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Update the terms: There is no longer a selected Nation . (One is not saved by one's ethnicity. Nationality will not cause your condemnation.) It doesn't matter if you are the employer, CEO, Boss of the company or an employee, or a volunteer. (One is not saved by one's status in the society. Status or lack of status will not bring condemnation upon a person.) It does not matter what your gender is, or isn't! (One is not saved by their gender. Gender will not bring condemnation upon you either.) -----

I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38)

“My House shall be a house of prayer for All People.”

(Isaiah 56:7)

God is always ready to receive us when we turn from our ways that are out of step with God’s presence in our lives. God’s entire agenda with us is grace and mercy, forgiveness and rebooting our lives. It is hard for us to understand the eternal agenda of the Creator of all being one of forgiveness, restoration, and strengthening. This is an example of what it means that God’s ways are so far above our ways, the ways of society.

It is an honor to serve God through the Church, the very living and present Body Of Christ. As long as Christ is willing to use our service we are willing to offer all we can offer of ourselves. We do not do this out of some fear of dying, for quite the opposite is true. Paul declares this quite openly in the second reading where he writes: Philippians 1:21-26 “21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.”

Romans 14:7-10 ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹ For to this end Christ died ^[a]and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

We often hear people tell us they are “ready to go home.” We welcome the opportunity to leave this world and be joined with the Church Triumphant, and we welcome the opportunity to remain and serve. In life and in death we do all for Christ. Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Precious because we are His in life and in death and death will not separate us from His presence and His love. As for the Gospel, we should rejoice when anyone comes to an understanding of our place in salvation even if it is at the time of their final breath. This is not a cause for jealousy of any sort because we rejoice at the length of our lives that has been blessed by knowing and celebrating the presence of God among us and within us.

—————Servants Of The Eucharist—————

Lisa Frost, Tami Whatley, Veronica Floyd, and Cheryl Allen.

Regarding the Deposit Of Faith, the Doctrines of the Christian Faith, known to us in the Holy Scriptures, the Church, and the Sacraments you are charged to listen to and follow the Command of St. Paul given to St. Timothy: "Guard the Deposit entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge."

(1 Timothy 6:20) "Guard the good Deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us." (2 Timothy 1:14 NIV) With the whole People Of God you are charged to continue "steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

(Acts 2:42 NKJV)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS

General Offering for last week; Worship September 13, 2020 - Offering: \$264.00. Attendance - 8. Thanks to everyone.

Free COVID-19 Testing Chemung County Fairgrounds 9-21 noon to 6pm; 9-22 11am to 5pm; 9-23 11am to 5pm Open to Chemung County Residents. Register www.chemungcountyny.gov/covid_testing/index.php.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Veronica Floyd is nominated to be considered for a two year position on the Council. Voting will be today during the September 20 Semi-Annual Meeting.

Tuesday September 22 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment Session.
Happy and Blessed Birthday Whitney Tipton September 22
Happy and Blessed Birthday Cheryl Allen September 24

World Communion Sunday 10:00 sign on time October 4
Council Meeting October 25 2:00 p.m.

November 1 The Feast Of All Saints and the celebration of the 37th Anniversary Of Ray Of Hope Church, October 31, 2020 .
The start of the 38th year of ministry.

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 not open to the general public at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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.



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)