



**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-eighth 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 including  
Rev. Leanne Zeck of the United Methodist Church  
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 they feel comfortable.  
After the Worship Service, please join us for a time of refreshments and sharing.

June 20, 2021 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year B – special readings  
Father’s Day & the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination and Solemn Profession  
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:** Ezekiel 34:1-10 NRSV 1st Test.pg. 803

**Psalm:** 116 selected verses with responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 5:1-5 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. pg. 235

**Gospel:** John 14:11-17 2nd Testament pg. 109

**\*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.**



## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.**

**Bells 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** Once the bell rings please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

\*\* We will welcome the Facebook Live guests before the second bells are rung.\*\*

**Bells 2<sup>nd</sup> ring to announce the start of the worship event.**



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

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Kaiden Rae Benedict :** Good morning. We welcome you 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 extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests. We invite you to participate in this worship event as you feel comfortable and we are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us.

**Moderator Veronica Floyd:** We welcome The Reverend Leanne Zeck to our worship event today as our guest Celebrant and Preacher. Rev. Zeck serves as a Chairperson in her United Methodist Church district's leadership and is the Pastor of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Bath, NY. When she was the Pastor at New Beginnings United Methodist Church here in Elmira, she was a very enthusiastic participant in all things ecumenical. We all were enriched by her time in our area. Rev. Zeck is a friend of Ray Of Hope Church. She has shared in our Holy Week Services and even helped with Pastoral Leadership at the Resurrection Vigil on March 26, 2016. Brother has this to say about Rev. Zeck: "I, Br. Benedict, consider Pastor Zeck to be a very dear friend, someone I can share my deepest spiritual

thoughts with, and someone I can relate to as she works for equality throughout the Christian Church. When I asked her to help me with this paragraph, she asked me to add: 'I have found sanctuary and hope in worshiping with Ray Of Hope Church and in our friendship.'" Please, let's give Pastor Zeck a warm welcome.

**\*\*Veronica continues by introducing other people in the chapel and online as appropriate\*\***

**Kaiden Rae Benedict:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

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

**Kaiden Rae Benedict :** Please take a moment now to welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. **\*\*During COVID we may simply wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.**

**Pastor Benedict:** We begin in the name of God, Christ Our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Pastor Zeck:** Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Veronica Floyd:** Today is Father's Day when we celebrate the ministry of parenting and fathering at Ray of Hope. God is the ultimate example of love that a parent has for their children and it is that love of God that we share and enjoy. Today is the third Sunday of Pride Month and we give God thanks and praise for the rainbow, a symbol to reflect the diversity of the LGBTQSIA2SS+ community and a sign of the covenant established between GOD and all life on earth. It is also the

25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination and the Solemn Profession of Benedictine Vows for Br. Benedict. All the scripture verses today are the same ones presented at the 1996 ordination service and much of today's music was co-authored or written by Br. Benedict. It is truly a day of celebration and gratitude. Again, we are so blessed and happy to have Pastor Leanne Zeck from Centenary United Methodist Church participating with us today.

**Pastor Zeck:** We begin now to worship God in the beauty of holiness, in spirit, and in truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

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

**SONG: The Church's One Foundation (Music Insert Song #1)**

#### **+ The Candle Of Hope**

**Kaiden Rae Benedict:** Please be seated. At this time we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope. This is a testimony to our anticipation of the resurrection of all the dead, and the transformation of the living faithful, when Christ returns.

**ALL: Jesus said: "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)

**Kaiden Rae Benedict:** Our faith community is looking forward and waiting "for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ." (Titus2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of Hope in honor of the "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

**Frank Ward:** It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to help us remember those who died of AIDS, especially since many who were very sick and dying were rejected by the churches, were very much alone, and needed spiritual guidance. We remember them here and pray for their families.

**Lisa Frost:** (Names are read at this time.)

(visit the interactive NAMES Project Quilt <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

**Frank Ward:** We also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have passed. May the candle's flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

**SONG: This Is Why We Are Here: the theme song of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (Music Insert Song #2)**



**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Whitney Tipton:** Please be seated. (wait) At this time we prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in Word and Sacrament by confessing our sins to Christ in silent prayer.  
(silent prayer)

**Whitney Tipton:** 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 God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

**Veronica Floyd:** Almighty and Eternal God, creator of the Heavens and Earth, it is in your image that we all are created. In God's eyes we are all wonderfully and uniquely made. We pray that we see and recognize you, God, in all people we encounter daily and give you thanks and praise. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Cheryl Allen:** Christ Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Forgiver of sins, you are with us at all times. Help us to imitate your love and be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Kaiden Benedict:** Holy Spirit, you are with us as the Helper, the Comforter, our Advocate, our Intercessor, our Counselor, our Strengthener, the one who will always stand by us. Help us to see these gifts as ways we can show forth God's gift of Fatherhood to those who need it most. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor Zeck:** May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor Zeck:** Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

**ALL:       Glory to God in the highest,  
                  and peace to God's people on earth.  
              You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,  
                  we give you thanks,  
                  we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,  
                  Lord God, Lamb of God,  
                  you take away the sin of the world:  
                          have mercy on us;  
                  you are seated at the right hand of God:  
                          receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
                  you alone are the Lord of all,  
                  you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
                  with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the  
                  Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

**+ Opening Prayer: From the original Ordination service.**

**Lisa Frost:** The opening prayer is the same prayer we prayed 25 years ago at our first Ordination service. I invite you to all pray it aloud with me:

**ALL: O God, we come together this day as your Holy People. We give you praise that you have brought us to this moment and this place from so many life journeys. Bless our worship with the power of your Holy Spirit, and authority in the Name Of Jesus. Amen.**

**Lisa Frost:** Please be seated. We will now listen to the Holy Scriptures.



**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**+ First Reading**

**Michael Quinnell:** The first reading is in the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 34, verses 1-10 which may be found on page 803 in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

**34** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? <sup>3</sup> You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. <sup>4</sup> You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. <sup>5</sup> So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. <sup>6</sup> My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>8</sup> As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; <sup>9</sup> therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: <sup>10</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

**Michael Christian:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

#### **+ Psalm**

**Cheryl Allen:** The Psalm today is number 116, selected verses with a responsorial verse. The response is “My vows to the Lord I will fulfill in the presence of all God’s People. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord”

**R. “My vows to the Lord I will fulfill in the presence of all God’s People. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”**

How can I repay the Lord for all the goodness poured out to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

**R. “My vows to the Lord I will fulfill in the presence of all God’s People. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”**

I love the Lord, the Lord heard my cry.  
The Lord listened to me in the day when I called.  
Though I was surrounded, by the snares of death,  
I was caught in sorrow and in distress.  
I called on the Lord’s name. O Lord, my God, deliver me!



**R. “My vows to the Lord I will fulfill in the presence of all God’s People. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”**

How gracious is the Lord, how just: our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearted; I was helpless,  
God saved me.

Turn back, my soul, to your rest for the Lord has been good,  
and has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from  
stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

**R. “My vows to the Lord I will fulfill in the presence of all God’s People. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the name of the Lord.

**R. “My vows to the Lord I will fulfill in the presence of all God’s People. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill before all the people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

**R. “My vows to the Lord I will fulfill in the presence of all God’s People. I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”**

**ALL: Glory to the One God, to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.**

#### **+ Second Reading**

**Lisa Frost:** The second reading is in the Book of the First Letter of Saint Peter chapter 5, verses 1-5, found on page 235 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. At the Rite of Ordination in 1996, this scripture was presented by my mother Martha Cummings,

who is a foundress of the Southern Tier Extension and entered Paradise on February 15, 2014. Here begins the reading:

### **Tending the Flock of God**

**5** Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you <sup>2</sup>to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. <sup>3</sup>Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. <sup>5</sup>In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for

“God opposes the proud,  
but gives grace to the humble.”

**Lisa Frost:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

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

**Pastor Benedict:** The Gospel reading is on page 109 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verses 11-17. It is also printed here in this bulletin.

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  
truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your  
Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our  
hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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**Pastor Zeck:** Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.  
**ALL:** And also with you.

**Pastor Zeck:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John.  
**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 said:** <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in God and God is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to God. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the God may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

## The Promise of the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask God, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees nor knows the Spirit of truth. You know the Spirit, who abides with you, and will be in you.

**Pastor Zeck:** This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

## 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 - sds 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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**+ Sermon: “A Call to Gather”- Rev. Leanne Zeck.**

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## RENEWAL OF VOWS

**Veronica Floyd:** At this time I would like to ask Br. Benedict to come forward for the renewal of his Vows.

**Frank Ward:** Twenty-five years ago we witnessed your promises to God and this Congregation to serve us. We accepted your spoken word that you would give your all to these commitments. Today, we invite you to renew your resolve and our partnership with you in Christ. With these renewed promises you make today we understand you are committing yourself to another twenty-five years of Religious Life according to God's will for you.

**Veronica Floyd: To what do you renew your faithful commitment?**

**Br.** I promise, to be faithful to God, to the Gospel of Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and this Congregation.

**Whitney Tipton: What is your commitment to Sacred Scripture?**

**Br.** I promise to faithfully teach the Sacred Scriptures as the literal revealed truth, the inspired Word of God. I will never hold another religious writing in higher esteem than the Bible.

**Kaiden Rae Benedict: Who will you welcome to the Gospel of Christ?**

**Br.** I promise to welcome and guide all people to God's free gift of salvation made known in Christ Jesus.

**Michael Quinnell: What do you promise to teach regarding Jesus the Christ?**

**Br.** I will always teach Jesus is the only Christ of God, the Only Begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of God, God from God, Light from Light, Very God from Very God, of one being with God, co-equal with God and the Holy Spirit, the only Saviour of Humanity, Lord of the living and the dead, Head of the Church, Chief Bishop of Souls, our personal Lord, and Saviour. Jesus is truly and actually present with us as He promised He would be until the end of the age. He is present in His Body, the Church, in each person, in creation itself, in the spoken and written Word, and the Sacraments of His Church. He is first in all things. All things were created through and for Him and in Jesus, all things consist and continue in being. Every knee in the Heavens, on the earth, and under the earth will bend and every tongue will proclaim Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Lisa Frost: What do you promise regarding the Sacraments?**

**Br.** I promise, to remain faithful to all of the Sacraments, those we understand now and those that may be revealed in our future. I will teach the Sacraments as those sacred moments when God expresses and manifests literal grace present in this world.

**Cheryl Allen: You promised to be a Monk, a disciple, a student of St. Benedict and his sister St. Scholastica of Nursia, St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. You have personally experienced the intercessory prayers of Franciscan Sister St. Marianne Cope of Syracuse, NY, Beloved Mother of Outcasts. You have experienced the power of intercessory prayer from those in Paradise and those here on Earth. What do you promise in response to your lived experience in Religious Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**

**Br.** I am filled with gratitude to Ray Of Hope Church and Fr. John J. McNeill, of the Society of Jesus, who is now in Paradise, for receiving my Benedictine Vows of Obedience, Stability, and Conversion of Life twenty-five years ago. Receiving and then living the name Shawn – Hebrew for God is gracious, Francis – for St. Francis who welcomed all people, and Benedict – for St. Benedict who taught and maintained congregational polity where all are equal in the church, has been humbling, to say the least. Every time I hear “Brother” or “Br. Benedict,” or “Br. Shawn,” I stand face-to-face with my failures, inadequacies, and weaknesses. However, I am committed to the effort of keeping Religious Life relevant in these times as the world grows more secular every day. I find the balance between established traditions such as the beautiful Benedictine habit, Divine Office, and being available to the unchurched modern culture, especially the LGBTQSIA2ss+ young culture is tough and a daily struggle. However, I love the challenge and I enthusiastically embrace twenty-five more years of these Vows with God’s help if it is God’s will. I remind everyone that Ray Of Hope Church is free at any time to no longer receive these Vows, dismiss the Vows, and send me on my way. The Vow of Stability (to remain in the community where Solemn Profession is made) is my commitment to you, not your being tethered to me. 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.

**Rev. Leanne Zeck: What is your commitment to the wider Body Of Christ, the Church Universal?**

**Br.** I promise to maintain a solid commitment to working together with the Church wherever she is found. I will continue to work for that same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus described by St. Vincent of Lerins in the fifth century as “what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all.” At the same time, I will bring the particular charisms of Ray Of Hope Church to the ecumenical table, sometimes stretching the boundaries of others teachings, but always providing the place where I can bring a freedom to other clergy members that they may only be able to enjoy when they are guests of Ray Of Hope. The highlight of this entire first twenty-five years has been those ecumenical experiences where all the local pastors have stood together at one Communion Table surrounded by representatives of our congregations for worship. Ray Of Hope has been a significant influence on those activities locally. I will continue to support these efforts.

With all of these intentions I ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Grace of God, and the direction of Jesus, Chief Bishop, and Shepherd of my Soul.

(\*\* Brother will kneel behind the altar for the following prayer.\*\*)

**Veronica Floyd, Moderator:** It has been our privilege to witness your renewal and your stated intentions. (\*\*continue as led by the Spirit). In conclusion, we pray together our Holy Thursday renewal of promises prayer:

**ALL: O God, we thank you and we praise you for the Church and all those you call to serve you in the church. Having heard these promises of faithful service to you we ask you to accept these promises and bless your servant all the days of his life. We ask this in the Name of God, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**



## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

### **+ The Prayers Of The People: Shared Prayer**

**Whitney Tipton:** Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others with prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart.

Please keep the prayers brief so as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and in truth. So, we begin with \_\_\_\_\_

**Whitney Tipton:** (when all prayers have been heard) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**

### **+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altars/tables.**

**Lisa Frost:** At this time we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Those in the chapel may use the offering plate, while those worshipping with us on the internet may go to our website and use the PayPal link or you may mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira NY 14901. Please give what you can, but never give your last.

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together,



an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*)

Each of you in the chapel will find at your seat a small plate, communion wafer, plastic chalice of grape juice and a napkin. Please take the plate and wafer from the baggie and shake the chalice gently in case there has been settling of the contents. Please do not remove the top from the chalice until the Celebrant announces that Communion is served. Once you have received Communion, place the plastic chalice on top of the plate and someone will collect it while the Table of the Lord is being cleared.

(\* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set.)

### **SONG: Prayer of St. Francis (Music Insert Song #3)**

**Cheryl Allen:** (\*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.\*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

**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 Zeck:** Lord God, we ask you to receive our worship this day. We pray that you will be pleased with our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

**ALL: May the Lord accept our lives as a sacrifice for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's people. Amen**

**Pastor Benedict:** Please lift your bread at this time. Frank Ward will lead this prayer.

**Frank Ward:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that 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.**

**Pastor Benedict:** Please set down your bread.

Now pour your wine or grape juice into your cup, if you have not done so already. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human, and with this fruit of the vine we remember He is divine forever.

Now, please lift your cup together. Veronica Floyd will lead this prayer.

**Veronica Floyd:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that 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.**

**Pastor Benedict:** Please set down your cup.

**Kaiden Rae Benedict:** We offer ourselves, with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind unto you Almighty God. Accomplish your desires for us in our lives. Mold us to be more like you every day. Receive us along with these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine to be made holy, and through them make us into a perfect offering to you, One and Only Holy God. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.  
**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor Zeck:** Truly present and risen among us, the Lord is with you!  
**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor Zeck:** As His Body, we lift up our hearts!  
**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Pastor Zeck:** As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!  
**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Pastor Benedict:** It is right that we should give you thanks and praise always and everywhere through our Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus.

He is the image of you the invisible God, He is the first-born over all creation. In Him, all things consist and have their being.

Christ has called us into this place, into his very Body, the Church. Christ continues to build His Church as He said He would, and be with us until the end of this Age.

We are grateful to celebrate Christ's Lordship over our lives and our deaths. In Christ, we have experienced the power of your love, Almighty God. Through that love, we are now able to join our voices with all the Beloved Community from every time and every place who have already passed through the valley of the shadow of death and are forever secure in your eternal presence. Accept our song as we join in their unending hymns of praise. We sing holy to You our God, holy to You our Christ, and holy to you the One Holy Spirit of God as we move and have our being in your Divine Presence.

## 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 two sharps (F# and C#) 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, eighth notes, quarter notes, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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

**Lisa Frost:** Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time, I 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 together.

**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 Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

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

**Pastor Benedict:** Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

**ALL:** Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.**

**(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)**

**Pastor Benedict:** Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

**ALL:** When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

**(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)**

**Pastor Benedict:** Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

**+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith (To the tune of We Shall Overcome)**

**ALL:** Jesus Christ has died for us, Christ our Lord is risen, Christ will come again someday. Oh deep in my heart, I do believe that Jesus Christ will come again.

**+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.**

**Pastor Zeck:** While we are gathered here together, we ask your blessing Almighty God on all religious leaders of every religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere would recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for freedom and respect for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

**+ Final Doxology**

**Pastor Benedict:** Please elevate the Holy Eucharist as a gesture of praise, thanksgiving, honor, gratitude, and the offering of the entire Church, the Body Of Christ, to God.

**Pastor Benedict:** Together we pray:

**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to \_\_\_\_ You. Al - migh - ty

5  
God \_\_\_\_ world with - out end. \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11  
A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! \_\_\_\_

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### The Reception of Holy Communion

#### + The Lord's Prayer

**Pastor Benedict:** Having heard the Word of God and having remembered 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**

**+ Sign Of Peace**

**Pastor Zeck:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Veronica Floyd:** Please take a moment now to share a sign of Peace with those around you. \*\*During COVID we may simply wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**+ The Lamb Of God**

**Pastor Benedict:** Please break the bread as we pray together:

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

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

**Pastor Benedict:** You may set the bread down and pray silently as I pray this prayer.

**+ Priestly Prayer For All People**

**Pastor Benedict:** Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that our participation does not bring us condemnation as St. Paul warned, but brings us sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit. We pray that all God's people will one day be reassembled without the loss of anyone in your kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN**



## + Invitation to the Lord's Table

**Pastor Benedict:** At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

**Pastor Benedict:** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Behold Jesus 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. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

**ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word I am healed.** (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)

**Pastor Benedict:** Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

**Pastor Zeck:** I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

**PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.** Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception.

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I 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, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

**Pastor Benedict:** Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet

**SONG: I Am The Bread Of Life (Music Insert Song #4)**

**A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

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**Announcements and Special Presentation**  
**Frank Ward and Lisa Frost**  
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**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Pastor Benedict:** Before we depart today, I invite everyone to participate in a special blessing for Reverend Zeck, Mother Jenny Scott-Jones, Father Arthur Jones, and any other Pastors, Clergy, or Religious who are present at this worship event.

(..... through Christ, Our Lord.)

**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor Zeck :** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor Benedict:** (a prayer is said) .... In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**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)

**Pastor Zeck:** We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

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

**SONG: Once We Were Not A People (Music Insert Song #5)**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**General Offering** for the week of June 13 \$963.00 Attendance 8. Special gift of \$125 for the new chapel air conditioner from Veronica Floyd and Tami Whatley. **We give God thanks and praise for all the gifts given.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lgbtqisia2ssByYou/>  
The next Bible Enrichment will be on July 6, 2021 6:30-8pm



**June 15, 1996 with James Ward**



**Holy Week 2018**



## 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 on line:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#).  
Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs](http://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, 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)