



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)

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed  
you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (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 January 14, 2024, Epiphany II, The Baptism of the Lord and  
Civil Rights Sunday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday Year B  
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:**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 42:1-7 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 670

**Psalm:** Psalm 29 responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** 1 John 5:1-9 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 241

**Gospel:** Matt. 1:4-11 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 34

**\*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament.  
The NRSV Bible, 1st Testament numbers, are in the front, and the 2nd Testament  
numbers are in the back of the book. 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 the 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.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, 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 that 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 \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of\_\_in the State of \_\_. 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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of

\_\_\_\_\_in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome ■ (\*\* Reader, stop, look up 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.



**ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. ([www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm)) ([www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm))**

(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 spending time

with us. 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 -1:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (\*\* Reader, stop, look up 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.**

Today is January 14, 2024, the second Sunday of Epiphany, The Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of His public ministry at about 30 years old. Today is also Civil Rights Sunday as our Nation celebrates the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during our 41st year of ministry.

**FIRST SONG: Lift Every Voice And Sing.** Words: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938. Music J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954 Onelicense song# 85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition #561. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**+ The Candle Of Hope**

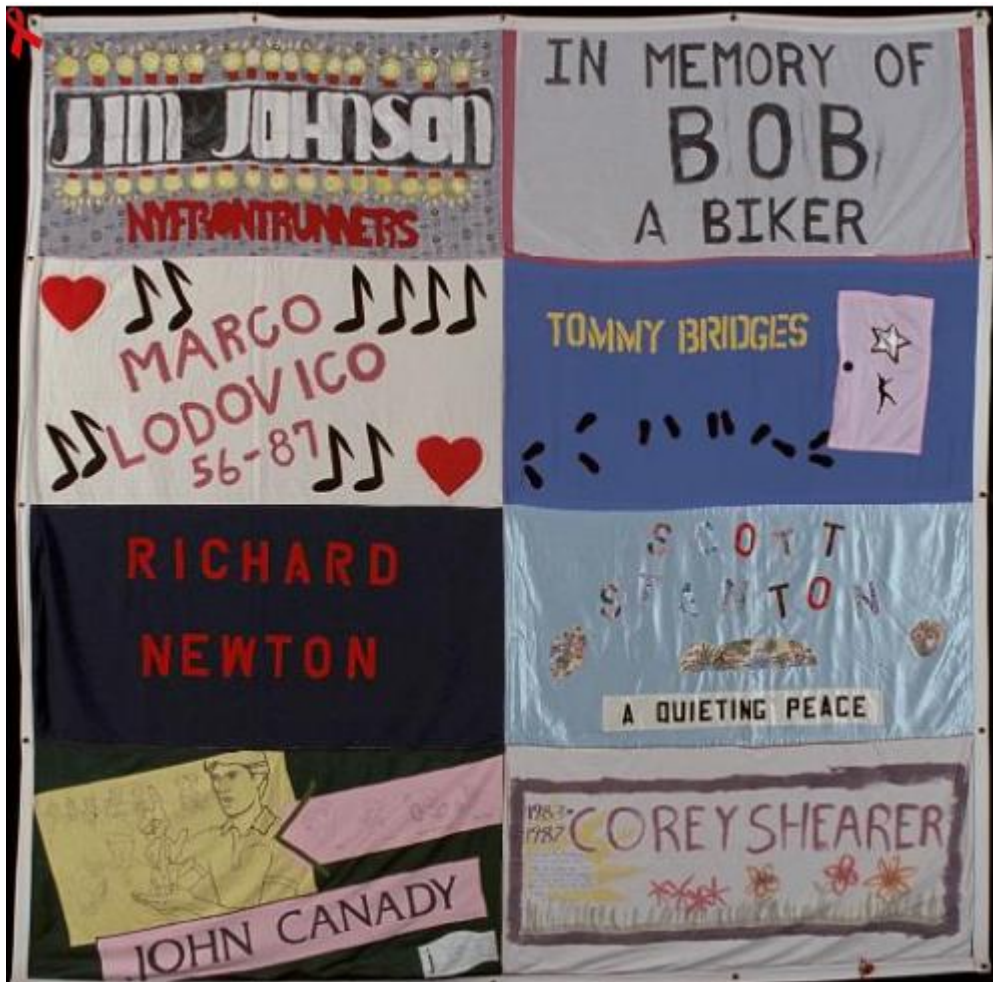
**Leader -1:** Please be seated. Today, we resume our Candle Of Hope lighting to celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)



**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/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even countries still reject the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Scroll to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 100.



AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 100

- Bo Fox (1)
- Bob (2)
- Charles Schrader (3)
- Robert "Bobby O'Lina" Watson (4)
  - Dick Scott (5)
  - Michael B. Wilson (6)
    - Joe Frattini (7)
    - Tom Foley (8)

(source: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. Pray for their families to 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 "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: Shine Jesus, Shine** Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 30426 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Leader -2:** 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.

**Leader – 3:** Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses eight and nine: "8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&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.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, consider our relationships with God and others. Then, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who will forgive us immediately.

**(silent prayer)**

**Leader -2:** 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.

**Leader -4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The war between Hamas and Israel continues, the devastation of Gaza, tensions at the West Bank, tensions at the southern entrance to the Red Sea and surrounding Countries continue to rise. Hundreds and thousands of innocent people are suffering and being killed as Nations look to overpower one another; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** As Nations attempt to overpower others, ethnic or racial discrimination is often used to devalue the lives of others. We pray: Christ,

have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** The message of the Church includes the promotion of peace and respect between all people as valued persons created by God. Churches frequently choose to stay quiet and not participate in advancing human civil rights out of fear; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

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

**Pastor:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** Through confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our hearts to accept the renewal God offers when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together.

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able, and we pray.

**Spoken:**

**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**

**Leader:** Eternal Word of God, fill us with your eternal love as we listen. We need to understand your Word to be witnesses by example of the love you give. We desire to give you honor and glory in all we do through Christ, our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Leader 5:** 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 first reading is in the Book of Isaiah, chapter 42, verses 1-7. You will find this on page 670 in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

## **The Servant, a Light to the Nations**

**42** Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,<sup>[a]</sup>  
a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

### **Footnotes**

- a. [42.6](#) Meaning of Heb uncertain

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+42%3A1-7&version=NRSVUE>  
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permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

**+ Psalm**

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

The Psalm today is number 29, selected verses. The response today is the song "The Lord will bless the people with peace."

**R. The Lord will bless the people with peace.**

Give to the LORD, you beloved of God,  
give to the LORD glory and praise,  
Give to the LORD the glory due the Holy Name;  
adore the LORD in holy attire.

**R. The Lord will bless the people with peace.**

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,  
the LORD, over vast waters.  
The voice of the LORD is mighty;  
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

**R. The Lord will bless the people with peace.**

The God of glory thunders,  
and in the temple, all say, "Glory!"  
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

**R. The Lord will bless the people with peace.**

## + 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 First Letter of John, chapter 5, verses 1-9. You will find this on page 241 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

## **Faith Conquers the World**

**5** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ<sup>[a]</sup> has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, **4** for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. **5** Who is it who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

## **Testimony concerning the Son of God**

**6** This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. **7** There are three that testify:<sup>[b]</sup> **8** the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. **9** If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

### **Footnotes**

- a. 5.1 *Or the Messiah*
- b. 5.7 *Other ancient authorities read (with variations) There are three that testify in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. And there are three that testify on earth:*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John+5%3A1-9&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 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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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 1, verses 4-11 on page 34 in the second testament of the NRSV Bible.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared<sup>[a]</sup> in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have



baptized you with<sup>[b]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

## The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[d]</sup> with you I am well pleased."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

### Footnotes

- a. [1.4](#) Other ancient authorities read *John was baptizing*
- b. [1.8](#) Or *in*
- c. [1.8](#) Or *in*
- d. [1.11](#) Or *my beloved Son*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+1%3A4-11&version=NRSVUE>  
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## 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 - sus 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 LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQISA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th 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

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."**

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm>

Keeping our eyes on the Bethlehem Star of Jesus. The Star of God, the Superstar, Christ Our Lord. We continually hasten to His Throne.

God said: <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[d]</sup> with you I am well pleased." (NRSVUE)

Matthew 17:5 <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[a]</sup> with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (NRSVUE)

Isaiah 42:1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

As time allows, read the rest of the verses.

Only Begotten Son Of God.

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm> then:

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Jesus%20the%20Only%20Begotten%20Son%20Of%20God.pdf>

It is simple, the leap from here to Civil Rights is almost without any space between the two.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist Minister, political philosopher, and activist. (Source: Martin Luther King Jr. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_Luther\\_King\\_Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr.)) He clearly could see the call and summary of the Gospel, the Church of Jesus Christ, demanding he speak out on all of the social ills he could see with the eyes of the Holy Spirit.

Tim Alberta: In his article introducing his new **December 5, 2023** book by the same title, "The Kingdom, The Power, And The Glory," Tim Albert writes: "For millions of conservative Christians, America is their kingdom—a land set apart, a nation uniquely blessed, a people in special covenant with God. This love of country, however, has given way to right-wing nationalist fervor, a reckless blood-and-soil idolatry that trivializes the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Alberta retraces the arc of the modern evangelical movement, placing political and cultural inflection points in the context of church teachings and traditions, explaining how Donald Trump's presidency and the COVID-19 pandemic only accelerated historical trends that long pointed toward disaster. Reporting from half-empty sanctuaries and standing-room-only convention halls across the country, the author documents a growing fracture inside American Christianity and journeys with readers through this strange new environment in which loving your enemies is "woke" and owning the libs is the answer to WWJD.

Accessing the highest echelons of the American evangelical movement, Alberta investigates the ways in which conservative Christians have pursued, exercised, and often abused power in the name of securing this earthly kingdom." (SOURCE: <https://www.bytimalberta.com/>)

## Vocabulary

Patriotism

Political ideology

Description

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion, and a sense of attachment to a country or state. This attachment can be a combination of different feelings for things such as the language of one's homeland, and its ethnic, cultural, political, or historical aspects. [Wikipedia](#)

**Nationalism** In practice, nationalism is seen as positive or negative depending on its ideology and outcomes. Nationalism has been a feature of movements for freedom and justice,<sup>[22]</sup> has been associated with cultural revivals,<sup>[9]</sup> and encourages pride in national achievements.<sup>[23]</sup> It has also been used to legitimize racial, ethnic, and religious divisions, suppress or attack minorities, and undermine human rights and democratic traditions.<sup>[13]</sup>

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalism> )

Evangelical -- good news, Gospel NOT A BAD WORD

White - Black – Mixed-Race

D.E.I.

search:

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=DEI&i=stripbooks&crd=3AVRYNV2T1JT3&srefix=dei%2Cstripbooks%2C127&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_2](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=DEI&i=stripbooks&crd=3AVRYNV2T1JT3&srefix=dei%2Cstripbooks%2C127&ref=nb_sb_noss_2)

## [Historical race concepts](#)

### [Rustin: A film by George C. Wolfe Paperback – November 24, 2023](#)

by [Text by Thulani Davis](#) (Author)

Rustin: A Film by George C. Wolfe sheds light on Bayard Rustin, the unsung hero behind the 1963 March on Washington, directed by George C. Wolfe and featuring Colman Domingo. Rustin, a fearless activist, challenged authority without apology and made history, only to be forgotten. The film, produced by Bruce Cohen and supported by a star-studded cast including Chris Rock and Audra McDonald, captures Rustin's journey alongside civil rights giants. The book, guided by Thulani Davis, provides an in-depth behind-the-scenes glimpse, delving into the real-life heroes who inspired the civil rights movement. Accompanied by visuals and contributions from George C. Wolfe, Michelle Obama, and Walter Naegle, Rustin's partner, the title pays homage to a remarkable filmmaker, a committed cast and crew, and a man who bravely stood for what is right.

## Till

- 2022 | PG-13 | CC Starring: [Danielle Deadwyler](#) , [Jalyn Hall](#) and [Frankie Faison](#)
- Directed by: [Chinonye Chukwu](#)
  - In this emotional true story, Mamie Till-Mobley relentlessly pursues justice for her 14-year-old son who, in 1955, was lynched while in Mississippi.
  - 8162 h 10 min2022

### [White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity](#)

by [Robert P. Jones](#) | Jul 28, 2020

### [Black Faces in White Places: 10 Game-Changing Strategies to Achieve Success and Find Greatness Hardcover – October 27, 2010](#)

by [Randal D. Pinkett](#) (Author), [Jeffrey A. Robinson](#) (Author), [Philana Patterson](#) (Author)

### [The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism Paperback – January 7, 2020](#)

by [Jemar Tisby](#) (Author), [Lecrae Moore](#) (Foreword)

### [The History of White People Illustrated Edition, Kindle Edition](#)

by [Nell Irvin Painter](#) (Author)

Telling perhaps the most important forgotten story in American history, eminent historian Nell Irvin Painter guides us through more than two thousand years of Western civilization, illuminating not only the invention of race but also the frequent praise of "whiteness" for economic, scientific, and political ends. A story filled with towering historical figures, The History of White People closes a huge gap in literature that has long focused on the non-white and forcefully reminds us that the concept of "race" is an all-too-human invention whose meaning, importance, and reality have changed as it has been driven by a long and rich history of events.

**The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: and the Path to a Shared American Future Hardcover – September 5, 2023**

by [Robert P. Jones](#) (Author)

**The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America Hardcover – April 4, 2017**

by [Frances FitzGerald](#) (Author)

**Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation Paperback – June 8, 2021**

by [Kristin Kobes Du Mez](#) (Author)

**The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism Paperback – January 7, 2020**

by [Jemar Tisby](#) (Author), [Lecrae Moore](#) (Foreword)

**Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope Paperback – September 1, 2020**

by [Esau McCaulley](#) (Author)

**The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song Hardcover – February 16, 2021**

by [Henry Louis Gates Jr.](#) (Author)

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

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**+ The Prayers of the People**



There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. Anyone



may use the QRCode or press control + click or tap on this link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

**Offertory Song: Thank You Lord**, © Words: Public Domain, Music Public Domain. Arranged by Stephen Key © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. Gather Fourth Edition #694 Onelicense #95004 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

(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:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and 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 bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and 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), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), 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)

**Pastor:** Please set down your communion kit.

**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:** It is truly right and just....

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of 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, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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

**Leader:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that 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:** 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.



**The Reception of Holy Communion**

**BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD BEHOLD HIM WHO TAKES BEHOLD THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP**

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

**Pastor:** Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

**Pastor:** 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, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

**Pastor:** 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.

## **+ The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader -4:** 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**



## + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** 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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## + Sign Of Peace

**Veronica Floyd, Moderator:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.

**General Offering** for the week of December 24 \$208.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 15  
**General Offering** for the week of December 31 \$193.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8  
**General Offering** for the week of January 7 \$1,343.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9



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

April Struhm made a \$200.00 toward the Pastor Self Employment Tax line in our budget. Thank you April.


Veronica Floyd made a special gift to be used at the Treasurer's discretion of \$375.00. Thank you Veronica.

**Recent Special Gifts:**

**We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.**

 **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION**   
Virtual

"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DREAMER AND A VISIONARY IS THAT A DREAMER HAS HIS EYES CLOSED AND A VISIONARY HAS HIS EYES OPEN."



Speaker  
**Rev. Terrance A. King**  
Pastor, St. James A.M.E. Zion Church  
Ithaca, NY  
PhD. Student (Special Education)  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**  
**6:00 – 7:00pm**

Register in advance for this meeting:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEKf-CopjwHdQfAKcgMrAxSKePwDjtF\\_PZ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEKf-CopjwHdQfAKcgMrAxSKePwDjtF_PZ)  
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Sponsored by  
Elmira/Corning Branch of the  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

For Further Information, Please Call  
(607) 962-8298, (607) 936-6770, (607) 962-5362, (607) 733-7963

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEKf-CopjwHdQfAKcgMrAxSKePwDjtF\\_PZ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEKf-CopjwHdQfAKcgMrAxSKePwDjtF_PZ#/registration)

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.\*\*

January 14, Sunday, Civil Rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10:30 a.m.

January 14, 2024 Reports for Annual Meeting will be distributed.

January 16, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment

January 17, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

January 18, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration - virtual

January 21, 2024 Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Mother Marianne Cope, "Beloved Mother of Outcasts" The 40th Annual Meeting with Dinner. For details [RIGHT CLICK HERE](#).

(Marianne Cope was born on January 23, 1838, in Darmstadt, Germany. In 1862, she entered the Sisters of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York. In 1883, she led a group of sisters to the Hawaiian Islands to care for the poor, especially those suffering from leprosy. She died on August 9, 1918.)

January 23, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment

January 24, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

January 26, 2024, Friday, at 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting.

The Third Annual Prayers At Noon Together on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day will take place Saturday, January 27, 2024 at NOON. It will be in-person and virtual. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

January 28, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.

February 14, Wednesday Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

HOLY WEEK, 2024

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:00 p.m. 8:15 p.m. silent prayer 8:30 p.m. Benediction

Good Friday, March 29, 2024 The Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024 7:45 p.m.- 9:15 p.m. The Vigil Of The Resurrection Of Christ

No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024



## We Are Sent Forth To Serve

**Pastor Benedict:** Kaiden Benedict wrote today's final blessing.

**Kaiden Rae Benedict:** **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Kaiden Rae Benedict:** We bless you 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

**Kaiden Rae Benedict:** 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.

**CLOSING SONG:** **Precious Lord, Take My Hand.** Thomas Andrew Dorsey© Words: 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1983 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI License # 706121 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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

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## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

**Bible Enrichment-** Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage  
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign  
on by 6:15 p.m. [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 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 and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [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)

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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)

