



**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 Fortieth 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 October 1, 2023, Year A

World Communion Sunday and Feast of St. Francis

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: Exodus, chapter 16, verse 1 - 5 NRSV 1st Test.
Pg. 62

Psalm: Canticle of the Creation by St. Francis of Assisi

Second Reading: Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 1 - 8 NRSV 2nd
Test. Pg. 193

Gospel: John 6:27-35 NRSV 2ND Testament page 98

*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 1st 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. 1st 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 can 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.

To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Good morning, and welcome. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us later in this worship event. Membership in this or any church is not required. We celebrate the Lord's open table. **Internet participants, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare: 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 the music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. At our website, look in the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. This morning, Ed Askins will play a prelude, "**More Love More Power,**" **Words and Music by Jude Del Hierro.** We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and refrain from visiting. Thank you.

Prelude played by Ed Askins on the piano. "**More Love More Power,**" **Words and Music by Jude Del Hierro.**
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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) (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 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

Leader – 2: 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. Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: 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: Jesus promised to be with the Church to the end of the age. We joyfully give God thanks and praise.

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

Pastor: We come here to pray. The definition of the word liturgy is the "prayer-work" of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving those present and God.



Ray Of Hope Church officially began on 10/31/1983.

Today is October 1, 2023, the nineteenth week of Pentecost,
the Forty-ninth Sunday in our 40th year of ministry.

World Communion Sunday and the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Pastor: With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: All Creatures of Our God and King.

Text: LM with additions; St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; Laudato sia Dio mio Signore; tr. by William H. Draper, 1855–1933, alt. Music: Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623. Glory and Praise Second Edition #672. Onlicense Song # 80362. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," 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 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 Names Project 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 _____. Looking up at the screen, we see the panel names on
Block # 92



NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 92

- Doug Dickinson (1)
- Arthur J. Bressan Jr. (2)
- Bobby Reynolds (3)
- David Pasko (4)
- Buck (5)
- Patrick Claude Brown (6)
- Ignacio Zuazo (7)
- Dan Rilet (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-related illness** and other causes of death. Pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) We hope this candle's flame will 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

(NAMES Project 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: Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless Text: CM; verses 1, 2, James Montgomery, 1771–1854; verses 3, 4, anon. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876. Glory and Praise Second Edition #501. Onlicense Song # 84164. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278



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 _____.

Francis of Assisi was determined to build up the Church by sharing the Gospel with the poor, the sick, and the rejected. In our day some people who attend church are uncomfortable being around the poor, the sick, and the rejected; and we therefore miss opportunities to share the message of the liberating Gospel of Christ; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: Francis of Assisi was born into wealth. He was a knight and went to war for his city and his church. When he saw the ravages of war he became sick and disillusioned. After a time of healing he set out to help people find their way through the world's chaos by guiding them to Christ. Sometimes, we fail to guide others to prayer, and Christ, and we even walk away embarrassed or ashamed; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: Francis, Clare, and many other youth of Assisi formed a new community, a new congregation that truly threw open the doors of a rebuilt chapel to welcome every person of every state in life to be the Body of Christ together. Sometimes we could promote the unifying mission of the church and the Gospel with more convincing enthusiasm; 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 5: Eternal Word of God, help us to hear your Holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness, seeking your honor and glory in all that 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 reading is in the book of Exodus, chapter 16, verses 1 through 5 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 62 in the First Testament. Here begins the reading.

Bread from Heaven

16 The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+16%3A1-5&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.)

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

Today's Psalm is

The Canticle of Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi

All: Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,

Voice 1: Yours are the praises, the glory,
and the honor and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.

All: Praised be you, my Lord,

Voice 2: with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day,
and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful
and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High one.

All: Praised be You, my Lord,

Voice 3: through Sister Moon and the stars,

in heaven You formed them
clear and precious and beautiful.

All: Praised be You, my Lord,

Voice 3: through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather
through which you give sustenance to your creatures.

All: Praised be You, my Lord,

Voice 4: through Sister water,
who is very useful and humble
and precious and chaste.

All: Praised be You, my Lord,

Voice 4: through Brother fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful
and robust and strong.

All: Praised be You, my Lord,

Voice 5: through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit
with coloured flowers and herbs.

All: Praised be You, my Lord,

Voice 5: through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed those who endure in peace,
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

All: Praised be You, my Lord,

Voice 1: through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death
will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

**All: Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.**

** Inclusive language and prose added by Br.
Benedict, based on multiple translations.

+ 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 Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 1 - 8 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 193 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

Unity in the Body of Christ

4 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴ there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ^[a]

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive;^[b] he gave gifts to his people.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [4.6](#) Other ancient authorities read *in us all*
- b. [4.8](#) Or *he led captive a host of captives*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A1-8&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.)

+ 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.

Opening 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 John, chapter 6:27-35 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 98 in the Second Testament.

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

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: 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.

²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it

and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' ” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir,^[b] give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [6.33](#) Or *he who*
- b. [6.34](#) Or *Lord*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A27-35&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.)

Closing 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
 5 Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!
 9 You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our
 13 joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!
 17 For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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 GLBTQSA2ss+ 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

The readings are selected for our celebration of World Communion Sunday

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Communion_Sunday

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several [Christian denominations](#), taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and [ecumenical](#) cooperation.^[1] It focuses on an observance of the [eucharist](#). The tradition was begun in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the [Shadyside Presbyterian Church](#). According to *Presbyterian Outlook*:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park

Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.^[2]

It was then adopted throughout the [US Presbyterian Church](#) in 1936^[1] and subsequently spread to other denominations. In 1940, the [Federal Council of Churches](#) (now the [National Council of Churches](#)), led by [Jesse Moren Bader](#), endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide.^[1]

First Reading: Exodus, chapter 16, verse 1 - 5 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 62

The title "Bread From Heaven" comes from this reading.

Exodus 16:4 ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day.

In the Gospel today, John 6:30 -33

What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'
" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Therefore, the Manna that God gave to the believer's in the desert was a foretaste of the "True Bread From Heaven" a new bread that Jesus would give in His own Name, no longer in the name of Moses. This New and eternal Bread From Heaven would give eternal life to anyone who ate of it. This, Jesus said, is the True Bread from Heaven.

Psalm: Canticle of the Creation by St. Francis of Assisi

Second Reading: Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 1 - 8 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 193
Last Sunday, Ed Askins said he felt like he came to his family the minute he

came through the door. This second reading brings the challenge directly to the table of the Eucharist. The Holy Spirit, through St. Paul, tells us to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you were called..." ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴ there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Gospel: John 6:27-35 NRSV 2ND Testament page 98

John 6:27 ²⁷" Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

Working for food that perishes. Most young people think the goal in life is to "go to work," earn money, and "buy things." Most people value others based almost completely on what those people own, or, appear to own. So many people today are leasing the stuff you see them with. There are so many monthly subscriptions these days for dog food, clothing, cable, Internet, cars, etc. All of these things are perishing. The Food that does not perish is the last thing discussed these days with young people growing up, even in many churches.

Introduction of St. Francis.



- **St. Francis of Assisi** (artist [Cimabue](#) (1240–1302) <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=St.+Francis+of+Assisi&title=Special:MediaSearch&go=Go&type=image>)

(September 26, 1182- October 4, 1226 44 years) His feast day is October 4.
St Francis died at [Portiuncula](#), Italy on October 4, 1226.



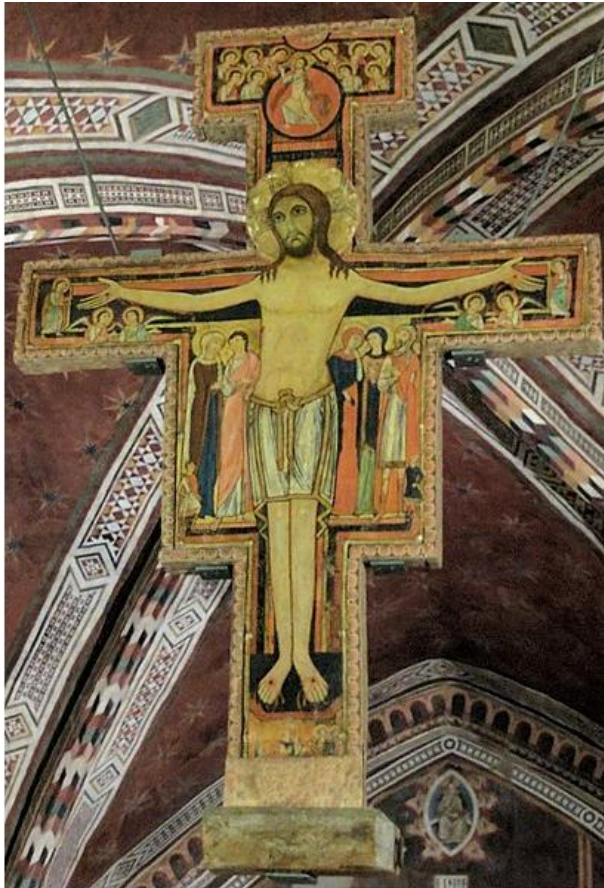
[File:Portiuncula on the Feast of the Pardon.jpg](#)

From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

Francis Bernardone, the son of a prosperous cloth merchant, was born in 1182 in the small mountain city of Assisi, Italy. Loved by his parents and given material privileges, he grew up idealistic, self-confident, and a leader among his teen-age companions. He could always be counted on for joining in the fun and revelry that occurred nightly in the streets of Assisi.

Soon, however, it became apparent that God was calling Francis to a way of life different from that of his companions. With hopes of knighthood dashed after becoming ill as a prisoner of war in neighboring Perugia, Francis looked for direction for his life.

After a time, he realized God was calling him to "rebuild my church" and that his life was to be lived as one of God's "poor ones," sharing what he had with the lepers who were so numerous outside the city and touching people from all



walks of life. San Damiano Cross that spoke to St. Francis. This is the original cross and is in Assisi, Italy ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crocefisso di San Damiano Assisi.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Crocefisso_di_San_Damiano_Assisi.jpg))

Francis would have loved World Communion Sunday because Francis was disturbed by the divisions that were prominent in his day. The most significant one being the wealthy and the working poor. The Church itself was divided between East and West for over 100 years by the time he was an adult. If he was alive today he would welcome a celebration where potentially the Western Church could set aside her 33,000 + denominations for a day and recognize the Body Of Christ extends to all points on the Earth.

Today we have new sad divisions that are even threatening the wellbeing of some of our denominations. We can look to Francis and hear his voice calling us to set aside our divisions and focus on the worship of God, in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

St. Francis and the Gospel

Francis loved the Gospel. He once told the brothers and sisters who were following his example that the only rule of life they needed was the Gospel. Francis openly taught and discussed the Gospel with anyone, of any class or status in life. He saw in the reading of the Gospel Christ becoming truly present



to everyone.

Bondone. Saint Francis of Assisi Preaching to the Birds.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nicolas_Lokhoff._Copy_of_the_picture._Saint_Francis_of_Assisi_Preaching_to_the_Birds_by_Giotto_di_Bondone.jpg])

(Artist: Giotto di

In fact, he was definitely known to go out and preach to the animals in the forest. They loved to hear him and many people witnessed the animals coming together when he called them. Francis looked forward to the restoration of the Earth when we will have more open and unrestrained communion with all



creation and yes, including the animals.

([File:Notting Hill, St Francis of Assisi, pulpit.jpg](#) From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository)

So as we hear the Gospel now, let us receive it with burning hearts resolved to follow Christ with a radical yes.

St. Francis and the Eucharist Francis recognized the Body Of Christ in every person. He realized that all of us are an inseparable part of the living God, the Body Of Christ in the world. Again, he saw no divisions or distinctions in the Body of Christ. In fact, as already noted, he called the church back to celebration of all of creation.

Women followed Francis from the very beginning. The leader of the women was Clare of Assisi.



File:SDamiano-Clara.jpg

From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SDamiano-Clara.jpg>)

Clare had a very special devotion to Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Communion.



(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SDamiano-Clara_og_s%C3%B8stre.jpg)

In fact one night when invaders were climbing the walls of the convent with the intention of violating the women, Clare ran to the place where the Holy Communion bread was stored, she placed it in the vessel to show it and as she walked on the top of the walls of the convent where the men were climbing up the side. All of the invading men were supernaturally pushed to the ground by the Holy Spirit. For this reason artists often depict Clare of Assisi holding the monstrance, the vessel to show the Holy.



St Clare with the Scene of the Siege of

Assisi 2nd half of the 17th Century

([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cavalier_d%27Arpino - St Clare with the Scene of the Siege of Assisi - WGA04703.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cavalier_d%27Arpino_-_St_Clare_with_the_Scene_of_the_Siege_of_Assisi_-_WGA04703.jpg))

Clare and Francis truly believed Jesus to be really present always and everywhere but especially when the blessed wine and bread were shared by the church, on a day just as beautiful as this day of World Communion.



[Arredondo-santa clara.jpg](#) [Isidoro Arredondo](#)

Public domain

St. Francis and the Blessing What is a blessing? There are many answers to that question. Most of us are accustomed to receiving a blessing before we leave public worship and return to our weekday lives. Francis believed in spreading the good will the GOD will far and wide to people of every class and status. He also was very uniquely aware of God blessing all of creation all of the time. The custom of blessing the animals has grown in the church. The custom of blessing the animals is widely known in catholic and protestant circles, even in some Jewish communities.



(**Saint Francis of Assisi preaches to the animals** Date 1626

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/11/Saint_Francis_preaches_to_the_animals.jpg/1024px-Saint_Francis_preaches_to_the_animals.jpg)

Here we see some of our furried friends listening and being very aware. One of the things I often say about our animal friends, especially our beloved pets is taught all of us how love someone and never have to say one word.

So as we leave here today lets take with us the spirit of St. Francis and leave this place with a renewed respect and love for all of creation, all people of every status in life from infant to elderly, all genders, all sexual orientations, all nationalities, all people everywhere. As we see Francis walking out into the world with “brother wolf” we too can take our cue from them and join the song of all creation in declaring God is love, and to love to participate in the eternal



movement of God throughout all of creation.

([File:Statue of Saint Francis at the Cathedral of Saint Francis in Santa Fe New Mexico.jpg](#))

*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

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.



+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 3: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: Violence and Crime are in the news every day, and more is not reported. We pray for increased respect for the lives of others, empathy, awareness, and care among all people; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: The war in Ukraine continues past the 554th day. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end the war in Ukraine and roughly thirty-one additional Countries; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

See this website for more information: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>

Leader – 2: We continue praying for people we know who need healing and support including Gillie, Cheryl, April, Henrietta, Trudy, Gilbert, Jacob, Ed's Sister, and all who have asked for our prayers, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/>)

Leader – 2: As the Earth suffers the effects of climate change, we pray for people who have lost their shelter, jobs, friends and family in these recent natural disasters. We pray that world leaders will recognize and respond to this environmental emergency with compassion and plans for change; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, prayers of thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with _____

Leader: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen




(Visit our moving prayers page [Right Click Here.](#))

+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.

Leader: At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance, taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

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.

Finally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

At this time, we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Internet viewers, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow under leader two.

We still use individual communion kits in the Chapel as part of our COVID safety protocol.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** 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, yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*))

OFFERTORY SONG: "I Worship You Almighty God" Words and Music by Sondra Corbett. ©1983 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music). CCLI Song # 20807 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License

21787152.

Leader -2: (* **Improvise a prayer for the offerings received, giving thanks and praise.***) (When your prayer is complete, please say:) " Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology."

(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

Leader: Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

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; 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 wellbeing. 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

(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

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: 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. Together...

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.

+ 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

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Leader: 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.

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.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion: Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the Salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).

Communion Song: Alleluia composed by Jerry Sinclair

- 1) Alleluia
- 2) Lord, we praise you.
- 3) Lord, we thank you.
- 4) Alleluia

Alleluia composed by Jerry Sinclair © 1972 Manna Music, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management). CCLI Song #16811. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

General Offering for the week of September 3 \$943.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of September 10 \$488.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of September 17 \$468.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of September 24 \$1068.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

****Special Gifts recently given.****

Lisa Frost donated altar wine for Holy Communion in thanksgiving for the life of Rodney Brewer. Thank you Lisa.

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

**** See the Q.R. Code on last page. ****

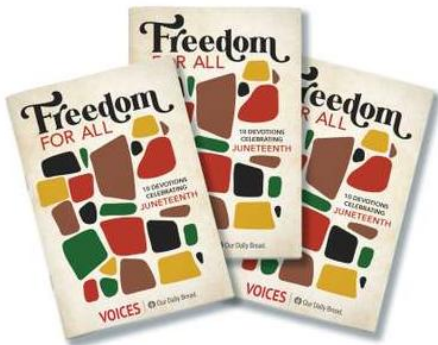
Thursday, September 29 was Heather Austin's birthday. A blessed Birthday, Heather.

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 - 8:00 .m. Bible Enrichment. Sacraments, Ordinances, and Rituals part 3.

The series on Angels will resume soon.
The series on Judgments will resume soon.

October 12, 2023, is the 25th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's murder in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. The Southern Finger Lakes Pride presents The Laramie Project, a play by Moises Kaufman, and The Tectonic Theatre Project on October 11 (National Coming Out Day) and October 12 at the Rockwell Museum. For more information go to

<https://facebook.com/events/s/the-laramie-project/1977687032573315/?mibextid=RQdjgZ>



https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm_source=reading-

[plan&utm_medium=unbounce&utm_campaign=juneteenth-23](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm)

June 1, 2023, was the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.



<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> In celebration, we launched the new mobile-friendly version of our website.

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NOTE: Whitney Tipton recommended the 2016 Documentary "13th" which may be found on Netflix. The caption reads; "In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U. S. prison boom. I have watched it and found it to be very informative and I recommend it as well. Thank you, Whitney.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (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)

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

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

Last Song: Prayer Of St. Francis words and music by Sebastian Temple. Dedicated to Mrs. Francis Tracy. Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascr. to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226. Text and music © 1967, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #650. Onlicense Song # 80478. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

POSTLUDE: Organ How Great Thou Art.

BROTHER: All of our freedom of Scientific inquiry, social studies, psychological research, Biblical research, and laws came to us by voting. All of it can be overturned by vote; that is how a democracy works.

Religion is invoked in the presentations of the rationale for reversing rights gained in social, educational, healthcare, and even religious settings. The only way to protect what we have is to stay informed and involved in the process. (Br. Benedict 8-5-23)

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

We have to EDUCATE and ACTIVATE the young adult LGBTQSINAE2ss+ Electorate! This is an Electorate Emergency. This is not a drill! (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser:

https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia?_t=8UgoVv5ekqg&_r=1 Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

=====

Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

***** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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

=====**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**=====

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.

Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)



WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it, or right after so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in, through, with us, and made known in breaking the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole World.

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told

"no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here.](#)

See this in a PDF format from our website, share it with others, or download it to your computer/device. [Right Click Here.](#)

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. 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.

Visit us online:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

—————Scripture verses to share with others:—————

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing Salvation **to everyone**.

John 5:24 Those who hear my Word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

