



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 22, 2023, Year A

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: Genesis 35:1-15 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 32

Psalm: 69 with selected verses and a response.

Second Reading: Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14 - 22 NRSV
2nd Test. Pg. 247

Gospel: Luke 21:5- 289 NRSV 2ND Testament page 85

*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.

This online presentation is covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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

10-22-23 Corrected 3rd Sunday Hamas and Israel War. Year A Page 3 of 40
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. **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; 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) (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 22, 2023, the twenty-second week of Pentecost, the Fifty-second Sunday in our 40th year of ministry.

Today is the third Sunday of the war between Hamas and Israel.

Next Sunday is the 40th Anniversary and the beginning of our 41st year of ministry.

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: Hosea. Contributors: Gregory Norbet, Weston Priory
Tune: Text: Based on Hosea. Text and music, Gregory Norbet, OSB, © 1972, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 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 _____. Scroll to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 95.



NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 95

- Elizabeth Prophet (1)
- Jed Prewit (2)

- Alan Renoud (3)
- Clyde Phelps (4)
- John Gretz (5)
- Jim O'Connell (6)
- Frank Cook (7)
- Gary Reuthinger (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: You Are Near Words and Music: Dan Schutte. Text based on Psalm 139. Text and music © 1971, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #619. Onelicense Song # 80528. 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 _____.

Violence and war result from our lack of appreciation for the spectrum of gifts in humanity; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: Care for humanity and the dignity of life is often lost in the fog of war: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The message of the Church should be peace and respect between all people; 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 Genesis, chapter 35, verses 1 through 15, in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 32 in the First Testament. Here begins the reading.

35 God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and settle there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." ² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your clothes; ³ then come, let us go up to Bethel, that I may make an

altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." ⁴ So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had and the rings that were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak that was near Shechem.

⁵ As they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities all around them, so that no one pursued them. ⁶ Jacob came to Luz, that is, Bethel, which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, ⁷ and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel,^[a] because it was there that God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. ⁸ And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So it was called Allon-bacuth.^[b]

⁹ God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him. ¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he was called Israel. ¹¹ God said to him, "I am God Almighty:^[c] be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. ¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴ Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. ¹⁵ So Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Footnotes

- a. [35.7](#) That is, *God of Bethel*
- b. [35.8](#) That is, *oak of weeping*
- c. [35.11](#) Traditional rendering of Heb *El Shaddai*

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+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.)

+ 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 69 selected verses with a responsorial verse. The response today is, "Lord, in your great love, answer me."

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

For your sake I bear insult,
and shame covers my face.

I have become an outcast to my brothers,
a stranger to my children,
Because zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God!
In your great kindness answer me with your constant help.
Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness;
in your great mercy turn toward me.

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad;
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!
For the LORD hears the poor,
and God's own who are in bonds will not be spurned.
Let the heavens and the earth praise the LORD,
the seas and whatever moves in them!"

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

** 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 Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14 - 22, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 247 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin^[a] of God's creation:

¹⁵ "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ Therefore I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white robes to clothe yourself and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. ²¹ To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

a. [3.14](#) Or *beginning*

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3%3A14-23&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!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

Reader: The Gospel reading is Luke, chapter 21:5-28 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 85 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 Luke.

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.

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

Signs and Persecutions

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' ^[a] and, 'The time is near!' ^[b] Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words ^[c] and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.

The Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold

²⁰ "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ^[d] ²¹ Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it, ²² for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfillment of all that is written. ²³ Woe to those who are pregnant and

to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; ²⁴ they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the nations, until the times of the nations are fulfilled.

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." [e]

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 21.8 Gk *I am*
- b. 21.8 Or *at hand*
- c. 21.15 Gk *a mouth*
- d. 21.20 Or *is at hand*
- e. 21.28 Or *at hand*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+21%3A5-28&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

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!

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

=====

Jacob lived approximately 1652 – 1505 BCE (Quora <https://www.quora.com/When-did-the-patriarch-Jacob-live>)

Jesus did not question the authorship of Moses.
Jesus did not question the historicity of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob/Israel.
Jesus did not question the twelve patriarchs of Israel (12 sons of Israel).
Jesus did not question Jacob having FOUR wives for the 12 sons of Israel and one daughter Mothers: Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpah.

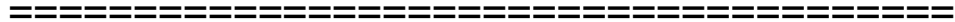
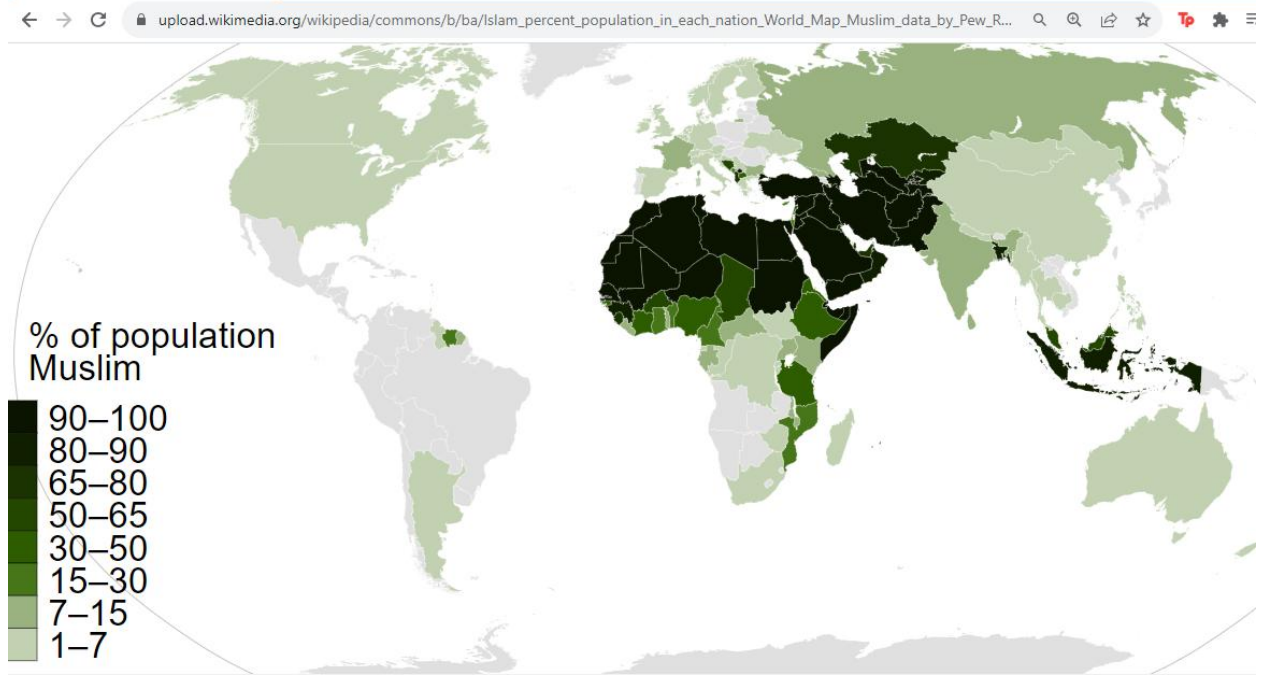
Prophet Muhammad writes the Qur'an in Western Arabian Towns of Mecca and Medina "According to conventional Islamic belief, the Qur'ān was revealed by the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad in the West Arabian towns Mecca and Medina beginning in 610 and ending with Muhammad's death in 632 ce."

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Quran>

=====

(Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/ba/Islam_percent_population_in_each_nation_World_Map_Musli)

[m_data by Pew Research.svg](#))





Mandatory Palestine

1920 - 1948

Source: Wikipedia

([picture: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Palestine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Palestine))

"Further complicating the issue was the [Balfour Declaration](#) of 1917, in which Britain promised its support for the establishment of a [Jewish "national home"](#) in Palestine." (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Palestine)

"The [United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine](#) to divide the territory into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, was passed in November 1947." (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Palestine)

"The [1948 Palestine war](#) ended with the territory of Mandatory Palestine divided among the [State of Israel](#), the [Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan](#) which [annexed territory on the West Bank](#) of the [Jordan River](#), and the [Kingdom of Egypt](#) which established the "[All-Palestine Protectorate](#)" in the [Gaza Strip](#)." (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandatory_Palestine)

=====

Nakba - " **Palestinian Catastrophe**, was the destruction of the Palestinian society and homeland in 1948, and the [permanent displacement](#) of a majority of the [Palestinian Arabs](#). " Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nakba>

=====

c) name the current entities involved in this war and briefly summarize their origin and purpose. There are obvious errors in some of their Doctrines, Dogmas, Teachings, and Practices. Understanding the foundational errors will help us understand the current conflict. (hyperlinks will be provided for each entity for further study.)

=====

Hamas Covenant Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas_Charter

Hamas Charter

Equivalence of anti-Zionism and antisemitism

Historian [Jeffrey Herf](#) argued that unlike the PLO, which has distinguished their national [struggle against Zionism](#) from general antisemitism (rhetorically, at least), Hamas, in their 1988 covenant, purposefully fused these two struggles into one against the Jews and their country.^[37]

In contrast, the 2017 covenant denies the connection in its only direct mention of Jews:

Hamas affirms that its conflict is with the Zionist project not with the Jews because of their religion. **Hamas does not wage a struggle against the Jews because they are Jewish but wages a struggle against the Zionists who occupy Palestine.** Yet, it is the Zionists who constantly identify Judaism and the Jews with their own colonial project and illegal entity.

Hamas rejects the persecution of any human being or the undermining of his or her rights on nationalist, religious or sectarian grounds. **Hamas is of the view that the Jewish problem, anti-Semitism and the persecution of the Jews are phenomena fundamentally linked to European history and not to the history of the Arabs and the Muslims or to their heritage.**^{[38][39]}

=====

=====

The Council of Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. voted on Friday, October 20, 2023, to publish a statement supporting diplomacy and humanitarian preservation and

ending all hostilities in this war between Hamas and Israel. The statement will be formulated and published soon.

"I call on the leaders of all three Abrahamic Religions to summon all parties involved in this war to put humanitarian preservation above all religious Doctrine, Dogma, Teaching, and Practices that some are using to justify war." (Rev. Br. Shawn Francis Benedict, Pastor. Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. October 15, 2023.)

=====

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

=====

+ 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 daily. People who feel the pressure of poverty, discrimination, displacement, and ethnic cleansing sometimes believe crime and violence are their only viable options. 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 575th day. Today marks the third Sunday of the War between Hamas and Israel. There are roughly thirty-three Countries at war this morning. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end all wars and find diplomatic solutions to conflict; 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 thank you, Lord, for the praise report that Gillie Waddington is in remission from Cancer. We ask you to continue helping Gillie. At the same time, we continue praying for people we know who need healing and support, including 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: We pray that world leaders will recognize and respond to the environmental emergency of Climate change 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 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

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

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
10 high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
22 Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho -
27 san - na in the high-est.

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ 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
God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia
A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All rights reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ 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](#).

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

General Offering for the week of October 1 \$218.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

General Offering for the week of October 8 \$688.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

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

This week, April Struhm donated another Chromebook to help people see the Order of Worship and Music Edition for Sunday worship. April has donated five computer devices, and one screen to help us with our visual ministry on the Internet. Thank you, April.

okay.

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

Copyright Information

"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. All rights reserved worldwide. Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002."

New Revised Standard Version – 1989

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Up to 500 verses of the R.S.V. or NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission...

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, October 25 Happy and Blessed Birthday to Christina McLaughlin

Thursday, October 26th, 6 p.m., Candidate Forum, EOP building, Elmira.
Presented by the NAACP Elmira Chapter

Sunday, October 29, celebration of our 40th Anniversary. Feast of All Saints.
Sacrament of Anointing for Healing and Confirmation of our Faith.
Refreshments following worship.

Tuesday, October 31, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment. Sacraments, Ordinances, and Rituals part 6.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Noon Traditional Mass in English – in person

Sunday, November 5, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, November 7, VOTE VOTE VOTE

Wednesday, November 8, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person

November 9, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Council Budget Planning Meeting

Sunday, November 12, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Second Tuesday, November 14, 7:15 - 8:45 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 15, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Sunday, November 19, 10:30 a.m. Worship

11/19 at TBD pm. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition.

Sunday, November 19, is Veronica Floyd's Birthday. Happy and blessed birthday, Veronica.

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 22, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

November 26, Advent, week 1 (backed up one week) - World

Peace Sunday

Tuesday, November 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 29, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

November 30, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Council Meeting

December 3, Advent, week 2 – Hope, World AIDS DAY Celebration

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 6, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Thursday, December 7 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 1

Friday, December 8 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 2

Saturday, Decmber 9 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 3

December 10, GAUDETE SUNDAY – GAUDETE PARTY – Joy, Pride

Sunday in the Winter

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 4

Monday, December 11, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 5

Tuesday, December 12, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 6

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 13, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Wednesday, December 13, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 7

Thursday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 8

Sunday, December 17, Advent, week 4 – Love, Holy Women
and Mother's Day in the Winter

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 20, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

December 24, Sunday, 10:30 A.M. NATIVITY – Celebration of
the Birth of Jesus.

December 29, Friday, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

At the regularly scheduled monthly Council Meeting, October 20, 2023, Ed Askins was elected to the Council by its members. Presented here is the written announcement as required by our Bylaws to be added to the bulletin for the following two Sundays, today October 22, and next Sunday, October 29. The Congregation (Members of Ray Of Hope Church, Inc.) may take any of the three following options for action before 1:00 p.m. Sunday, November 5, 2023:

- 1) The Membership may take no action. Taking no action is acceptance of the Council's vote to add Ed Askins to the Council.
- 2) Any five Members of Ray Of Hope Church may call for a Special Congregational Meeting to reverse the decision of the Council. The motion to reverse the Council's decision will be moved, and if seconded, it will be voted on. The result will constitute the final decision on the motion to reverse the Council's decision.
- 3) Any five Members of Ray Of Hope Church may call for a Special Congregational Meeting to ratify, officially approve of, the decision of the Council to add Ed to the Council. A motion to ratify, and thereby elect Ed to the Council will be moved, and if seconded, it will be voted on. The result will constitute the final decision on the motion to ratify - approve the Council's decision.

See Bylaws Section 5.05 and 5.06 <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Gov5.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.

This online presentation is covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A- 741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152

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.

CLOSING SONG: COME TO ME Text and Music Weston Priory and Gregory Norbet. Tune: Text based on Matthew 11:28–30; Psalm 23. Original text and music: Gregory Norbet, OSB; © 1971, 1994 (revised text), The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Onelicense Song # 81269 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

POSTLUDE:

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.

=====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/> 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

—————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)

