



Ray Of Hope

**Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."**

(Isaiah 56:7)

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-first year of Ministry.**

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,  
and make disciples of every person  
everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

We extend a special welcome to our visitors. You  
are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed  
you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We are building  
a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in  
our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is December 10, 2023, Advent 3 Gaudete Sunday, Eschatology 5 of 6 Year B  
Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins,  
a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

***"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."***



World AIDS Day Remembrance

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:** Is. 61:1-2a, 10-11 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 691

**Psalm:** 33:1-5 and Philippians 4:4

**Second Reading:** I Thess. 5:16-24 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 204

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8,19-28 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament pg. 91

**\*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament.  
The NRSV Bible, 1st Testament numbers, are in the front, and the 2nd Testament  
numbers are in the back of the book. If this confuses you, ask someone around  
you to assist you. Thank you.**

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

### **Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.**

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As the bell rings, please find your seat and pray silently for the next few minutes. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



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

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject box.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome ■ (\*\* Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.\*\*) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

**Leader-1:** Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



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

(The Congregation amended this By-law on September 18, 2011, and used to read: We believe that Salvation is available to all who call on the Name of Jesus Christ, and are re-born into the Life of Christ.)([Article 10 STATEMENT OF FAITH 10.01 Short Form Statement Lines 1140 – 1143](#))

 Bell's 2<sup>nd</sup> ring will announce the start of the worship

**event.**

**Leader – 2:** (\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\*) Thank you for spending time with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

**Leader -1:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (\*\* Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.\*\*) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**Pastor:** Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

**ALL: We meet in the name of God our Creator, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and in the name of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor:**

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

**Today is December 10, 2023, the Third Sunday of Advent, year B in the church calendar in our 41st year of ministry.**

**Today's theme: Joy, Pride Sunday in the Winter**

**Today is also week 5 of 6 weeks on the theme of Eschatology.**

**FIRST SONG:** Praise To The Lord, the Almighty. G&P#686. Tune: Lobe Den Herren, Composer: Joachim Neander 1658 - 1680. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127. Performed by Rev. Clyde McLennan. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer

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## + The Advent Wreath Week 3, 2023 – The Candle of Joy.



**Leader -2:** Please be seated. Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Gaude is Latin for Rejoice! Gaude, Gaude. The Alleluia Joy of God has set us free. Even the dark of winter night is transformed in the joyful Light of Christ.

**ALL: Rejoice! Everybody Rejoice! God has called every person of every ethnicity, gender, orientation, and state in life into the eternal family of God. Behold what love the God of all creation has bestowed upon us by creating us to be God's family.**

**Leader -3:** O God of deep and profound Joy eternal, we open before you our hearts weighed down by the burdens of life. We open ourselves to receive the healing and acceptance that you give to all who ask. Your healing is so refreshing and lovely.

**Leader -1:** With the lighting of this rose candle we begin the third week of our four-week Advent journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a new embrace of our potential.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** As you light your three Advent candles we invite you to show your Advent wreath or Advent log in your camera so we may all enjoy it. (\*wait to see candles in the camera\*) Thank you. You may return your camera to the normal position.

**Leader -1:** Together we say the following prayer out loud.

**ALL: Lord Jesus, you promised to give us your joy. You said that in you our joy would be complete. Help us carry your joy into every area of our lives. Empower us to practice a radical Alleluia love that embraces all people at all times. With you, we can lift the burdens of those around us by sharing your eternal presence, compassion, peace, and profound joy. Help us in our mission of healing. We ask this in the name of (\*+\*) God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Leader -2:** Please rise as you are able and sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

**O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

**Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.  
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Day-spring from on high and cheer us by your drawing  
nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds on night, and death's dark shadow  
put to flight.**

**Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.  
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## Amen, Alleluia.

**Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent; verses: 1, 3-6, para. In *Psalterolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7, tr. fr. *Hymnal*, 1940, alt. Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL, *Processionale*, 15th cent. French: adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I. Public Domain. Glory & Praise Second Edition #293 Onelicense Song #84028. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

**Leader -3:** Together, we continue forward in joy, holy joy.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Leader - 3:** Please be seated now.



## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) So far, we assembled, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

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

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

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

(silent prayer)

**Leader -2:** We pray together:

**ALL: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended anyone, and God, in any way. Therefore, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

The dignity of the Human person is lost in the use of war. When people assert aggressive acts of war on others hundreds and thousands of innocent people suffer, are thrust into poverty, lose shelter, employment, and are killed; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** The joy of the message of Christ returning is difficult to communicate when people are so concerned with work, status, and competition; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** The message of Christ and His Church is peace and respect between all people, but the messengers in the Church continue to stay quiet, or when they do speak, Christ is often left out of the discussion in the name of dialogue; 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, grant us peace, may all people seek the true peace of Christ.**

**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.**

**SONG Of Praise** : Led by soloist Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: **"I Love The Lord"**

Words: Isaac Watts (1791, alt.) © Words: Public Domain. Music: Richard Smallwood © 1971 Century Oak Publishing Group (Admin. by Conexion Media Group, Inc.) Richwood Music (Admin. by Conexion Media Group, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1168957. Performed with Professional Backing Tracks Greatest Karaoke Sing The Hits of Whitney Houston. Label: Cooltone Karaoke, Artists: Cootone Karaoke, Cootone title: I Love The Lord (originally Performed by Whitney Houston) [Karaoke Version] Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader 5:** Eternal Word of God, fill us with your eternal joy as we listen to your Word. We need to understand your Word to be witnesses by example of the joy you give. We desire to give you honor and glory in all we do through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Leader 5:** Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

**ALL: We read God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.**



**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

+ First Reading:

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

The first reading is the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 61, verses 1-2a, 10-11, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 691 in the First Testament. Here begins the reading.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and release to the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

my whole being shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

[Read full chapter](#)

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

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

The Psalm today is 33, verses 1 – 5 with the sung refrain Philippians 4:4.

**Refrain: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,  
with a ten-stringed lute play your songs.

**Refrain: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.**

Sing to the Lord a song that is new,  
play loudly, with all your skill.  
For the word of the Lord is faithful  
and all God's work is done in truth.

**Refrain: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.**

The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with love.  
Praise God the Christ and Holy Spirit  
both now and forever AMEN.

**Refrain: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice.**

+ 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 First Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 16-24 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 204 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

Brothers and sisters:

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise

prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound<sup>[a]</sup> and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

#### **Footnotes**

a. [5.23](#) Or *complete*

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

**Reader:** We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

### **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 1:6-8 and 19-28, in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 91 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 Mark.

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

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

## The Testimony of John the Baptist

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the **Messiah**." <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the **Messiah**, <sup>[b]</sup> nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

### Footnotes

- a. [1.20](#) Or *the Christ*
- b. [1.25](#) Or *the Christ*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A6-8&version=NRSVUE>.)

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## 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 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**

**Here is a quick Premillennial understanding of today's readings.**

Today's readings are eternal in scope, as shown with Scripture that has been historically fulfilled, spiritually fulfilled during our life journey now, and prophecies yet to be fulfilled literally in the future. Here is where the strict definitions of the four schools of eschatology become blurred. God is in the eternal existence where the past, the present, and the future are always happening. The expression God will be and is "all in all" is an excellent example. So, creation continues, the coming of Christ at his birth continues, everything He did continues, the sacrifice, resurrection, ascension, and every part of God's will is eternal. We are stuck in Earthly time, and we know from Science that no other planet or star measures time the way we do since our measurement is based upon our perception of the speed of the rotation of this planet we call the Earth. So, while we seek to understand these prophecies on a timeline, remember the eternal state is also a reality where they are already being fulfilled. To be clear, as we sing songs that refer to Jesus as the King of Kings or on His Throne, we are speaking of the glory of His Eternal Realm and the future glory of His Kingdom on Earth as it is in the heavenly realm now. We are NOT claiming that He is ruling in this earthly worLd system at this hour. However, as each believer finds Him in their heart, Jesus is, in fact, then the true King of Hearts in this present moment as



we are in the worLd but not of the worLd.

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

The selected verses almost place the reading out of context. The historical aspect is the Prophet Isaiah indeed experienced a vocational call to be a Prophet, to teach, and to "do" the work of God. Jesus also declared in his home synagogue that these verses were fulfilled. The event is recorded in Luke 4:14-30, and by the end of just a few sentences, the congregation attempts to run Jesus off a cliff. In the present moment, all of these principles are valid in the church of Jesus Christ. As members, we are called to live these same principles of the Word. In the future, these verses will be fulfilled even more in the Kingdom of Christ. So, we have here an excellent outline for the principles of ministry:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and release to the prisoners,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my whole being shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
(\* we are no longer naked as Adam and Eve were, without  
salvation.\*)

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Today's Psalm, #33, has a timeless theme: we respond to the Living God by rejoicing, by praise, by being loyal, giving thanks, play instruments and sing songs, singing even new songs, playing loudly - I have that one down - "with all your skill."

Why? because the Word is faithful, done in truth, and God loves the right thing, and promises to fill the earth with Agape Love.

The Second Reading, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, every sentence of this reading is a commandment, not a suggestion. This reading deserves regular review and study so we can implement it.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

In all circumstances, give thanks,  
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise prophetic utterances. (study prophecy)

Test everything; retain what is good.

Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy  
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,  
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful,  
and he will also accomplish it. (Accomplish what? The second  
coming and every detail revealed in Scripture; therefore, we had  
better study prophecy.)

THE GOSPEL READING: The religious leaders sent  
representatives to ask John, who are you? He answered: "I am  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him,  
"Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,<sup>[b]</sup> nor  
Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with  
water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one  
who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his  
sandal." <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where  
John was baptizing.

We are called to do all of these things today as they were done historically.

Further, we are to look forward to the fullness of the Kingdom of Christ that is yet to come "on Earth as it is in Heaven." We are not called to force the creation of that Kingdom now, through Law as Postmillennialist attempt or through spiritual conversion. The Church is not the Kingdom. The Church is on the way to the Kingdom.

=====

\*\*\*\*\*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:** We thank God for brave men and women who established churches like ours in the United States of America's turbulent times in the late 1960s. They were moving in the Spirit of prophecy and believed what they had started would continue. We ask God to help us understand God's desire for us as Ray Of Hope Church so we can bring others along as we wait in joyful hope for the Kingdom of Christ; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** The war in Ukraine continues past the 624th day. Today marks the tenth Sunday of the War between Hamas and Israel. Tension is rising on all sides of this and other conflicts. We pray for leaders to 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 reports of those who have experienced healing. We continue to pray for the people we know who are facing treatments, surgeries, hospice, and recovery. We pray for families who will go through these holidays and Holy Days for the first year following the death of loved ones. May they find the deep and lasting peace that only Christ can provide. We add to this list those we hold in our

silent prayers 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 continue praying that the leaders of world Governments will recognize and respond to the environmental emergency of Climate change with compassion and plans for change that are short and long-term in scope; 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,

**OFFERTORY SONG:** NTBK #95 **Lion Of Judah. Words and Music by Ted Sandquist.** © 1976 Lion Of Judah Music. Renewed 1981. CCLI Song # 16990. Lyrics appear here solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

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**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; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Pastor:** As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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.

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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**

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

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

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

**Pastor:** I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

**Pastor:** 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,**

### + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Together, we pray:

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

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to \_\_\_\_ You. Al - migh - ty  
5 God \_\_\_\_ world with - out end. \_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia  
11 A \_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men! \_\_\_\_

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### + Sign Of Peace

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

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

**Veronica Floyd:** Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

**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:**

**General Offering** for the week of November 19 \$168 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)  
Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of November 26 \$88 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)  
Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of December 3 \$1,564.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly)  
Attendance 9

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

**New Gifts This Week:** Kaiden has been donating many extra hours of help this week decorating and preparations. April assisted with decorating the chapel. Council members are spending extra time preparing new officers who will begin their terms after the Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who is donating time and talent.

There is a new door installed at the exit from the Carley Room. An anonymous donation of \$675.57 was made for the purchase and installation of a new secure exit door after the previous door was vandalized. We are very grateful to the donor and thankful for the skills of Jerry and Travis who installed the new door.

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

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

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 Eschatology - 6 of 6

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 28, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Kwanzaa Celebration.

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

January 7, 2024 Annual Reports Due to Veronica

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

January 21, 2024 Annual Meeting Dinner also

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.

\*\*\*\*\* INTERESTING WEB INFORMATION TO KNOW:

<https://www.loreal.com/en/articles/commitments/our-partners/>

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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:** **SAINTS** 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:**

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)

=====STUDY TEXT =====

The Holy Quran's Message To Jews & Christians. Sixth Edition 2001  
Compiled and Edited by: Dr. Arafat El-Ashi COPYRIGHT © 1996 By Arafat El-Ashi First published Dec. 1995 5,000 copies Second reprint February 1996 10,000 = Third Edition May 1996 10,000 = Fourth Edition June 1997 10,000 = Fifth Edition 1999 10,000 = Sixth Edition 2001 10,000 = Printed in Canada All Rights Reserved. For permission to reprint contact the author at Muslim World League  
191 The West Mall, Suite# 1018  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 5K8, Canada

EL-Ashi, Arafat. The Holy Quran's Message to Jews & Christians . UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

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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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is not open to the general public as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here..](#) Visit our Facebook page [Click Here.](#) We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

(Optional) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I would like to be included on the church Email list.

\_\_\_ I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered Love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own Love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the World,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the World around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

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Visit us online:

Our website: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Mobile-Friendly website version: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#). Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

