



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 February 11, 2024, The Transfiguration Year B

Black History Month 2nd Sunday

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: Daniel 7:9-14 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 828

Psalm: 97 selected verses and responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 236

Gospel: Mark 8:38 - 9:10 NRSV 2ND Testament page 44

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

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

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. 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. 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 will announce the start of the worship event.

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

ALL: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for

the glory of God." (NABRE)

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

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

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

Pastor:

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

Today is February 11, 2024. Today, we finish the Season of Epiphany that began on Sunday, January 7, 2024, in our 41st year of ministry. During these short six weeks, we ask ourselves two simple questions: What is the epiphany in our personal lives and the life of this Congregation that God is calling us to respond to?

February is also Black History Month. In response to our Statement Of Purpose (<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>) we use the word "racism" to acknowledge the undeniable record of the enslavement of millions of human beings in the Americas. We also acknowledge ethnic discrimination in our current social structures here in the United States and across the world. Unfortunately, much of systemic racism (in all of its forms) traces theories back to a corrupt interpretation of the sons and grandsons of Noah in the Book of Genesis.

" For hundreds of years, the biblical story of the Curse of Ham was marshalled [sic] as a justification of serfdom, slavery, and human bondage. According to the myth, having seen his father Noah naked, Ham's [sic] is cursed to have his descendants be forever slaves." (Source: [The Curse of Ham in the Early Modern Era: The Bible and the Justifications for Slavery \(St Andrews Studies in Reformation History\) 1st Edition](#)

by [David M. Whitford](#) (Author), first published in 2009 and then in 2016.)

In my humble observation and opinion, I (Br. Benedict) make the following

observations at the start of this Black History Month, 2024. The fact of undeniable links between theologies, biblical interpretation, the formation of laws that enabled enslavement and then emancipation, growth to actualized freedom, full citizenship, full rights, and potential granted under the Constitution of the United States puts the entire reality into a central focus point for the Members of Ray Of Hope Church. Ray Of Hope Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. has always been a Church of political reformation caused by our ongoing Spiritual reformation. In my opinion, when our Congregation's political and religious reformation stops, we will grow stale, we will rot, and die as a church. The entire story of these Americas, as we know about these two continents, is intrinsically bound up in a dialogue between religion and politics and the resultant quality of social life. As a church, Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Incorporated, founded in 1983, we walk into the hall of this dialogue and experience and sit down in the seats to take our part in the conversation and the action the Gospels require of us. In this vein, I welcome our participation in Black History Month, 2024.

FIRST SONG: Jesus Is The Answer. Words and Music by Andraé Crouch, Sandra Crouch © 1973 Bud John Songs, Inc. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI Song #14260. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

+ The Candle Of Hope

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

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 103.



Names(panel number) on Block # 103

- Kevin J. Arnold (1)
 - Jim Oliver (2)
- Larry Harrison (3)
- George Denney (4)
- Doug Vogeler (5)

- John Mathieson (6)
- Ralph Troglione (7)
- Johan van der Zwaan (8)

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

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Second Song: WAY MAKER Words and Music by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu © 2016 Integrity Music. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI Song #7115744. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

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

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

Leader -2: Now, we consider our relationship with God and others in silent prayer. 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 _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____.

World Leaders continue to choose war and corrupt government to attempt to overpower other people. The disregard for human life grows daily as a result of war and aggression; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: People are losing the value of human life as God's gift. All forms of discrimination are learned behaviors and chosen lifestyles intentionally taught. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The Church's message is hollow if Christ's divinity is not taught

and if people are not guided to a relationship with the living and present Christ. Without the experience of the living Christ among us, the Church becomes just another social services agency. People are starving for a reality that only Jesus can provide in person. 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 to sing "The Gloria."

Ray of Hope Church, Inc. *The Gloria* Wnds and Music
10th Annual Meeting "Music for Worship" 7/25/17
Handwritten: *Handwritten Liturgical*
7/25/17
1/21/24

2. = 6/8 *Refrain*

GLO-RY to God in the high-est, AND
peace to all peo-ple on Earth
GLO-RY to God in the high-est
We give You thankS - and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

Verse 1

You are the One God, Sov-ereign of the
Uni-verse, On-ly Ho-ly God, We wor-ship You, We
give you thanks, We praise You for Your great glo-ry! (Refrain)

7/25/17, 1/1/24 *Handwritten Liturgical Arts by [unclear]*

VERSE 2

The Gloria, Pg 2

LORD, Jes-us Christ-, The on-ly Be-got-ten Son of God, You are
 LORD God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the
 world: HAVE MER-cy on us; you are seated at the
 right hand of God: re-ceive our prayer. (TO Refrain)

Verse 3

For You a-lone are the hol-y one, You a-lone are the
 LORD of all, You a-lone are the MOST High,
 Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly
 spir-it, in the glo-ry of God, in the
 Ho-ly spir-its, in the Ho-ly un-i-ty of
 God. (TO REFRAIN)

© 7/25/17 1/124 Gaudes! Liturgical Arts Ben Berner

Verse 4: Amen

The Gloria, Pg 3

ALL: A ————— men; we give you thanks and

We give you thanks and praise

LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you, we give you thank we give you praise

ALL: Praise!

A —————

We give you thank and praise

We give you thank and praise LORD, we praise you LORD we bless you

ALL: men

men al-le-lu-ia

mine @ 7/25/17 - 11/24/18
Gaudete! - 1/19/16
Pete Behm

+ Opening Prayer

Leader: Eternal Word of God, fill us with your eternal love, joy, and wisdom as we listen to your spoken Word. We need to understand your Word to be witnesses by example of the love you give. Loving, Eternal God, 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

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____. The first reading is in the Book of Daniel, chapter 7, verses 9-14. The reading is on page 828 in the front of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. ***Pastoral Introduction Here.** We begin the reading:

Judgment before the Ancient One

⁹ As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One^[a] took his throne;
his clothing was white as snow
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹¹ I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with

fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³ As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being^[b]
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One^[c]
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 7.9 *Aram an Ancient of Days*
- b. 7.13 *Aram one like a son of man*
- c. 7.13 *Aram the Ancient of Days*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+7%3A9-14&version=NRSVUE>
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+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,
_(State)_____. The Psalm today is 97 selected verses. Today's response is, "God
will set the Christ as King over all the earth."

R. God will set the Christ as King over all the earth.

Praise the LORD, and rejoice all people of the earth;
from sea to sea, let your rejoicing be heard.

Every light, cloud, and darkness surrounds the throne of God.

The foundation of God's throne is justice and judgment.

R. God will set the Christ as King over all the earth.

The LORD is so awesome; even the mountains melt like wax at the presence of The LORD.

The sky, the Universe, declares the order of God's Creation. All the people see this and cry, "Glory to God."

R. God will set the Christ as King over all the earth.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; and the Most High over all creation.

The God of all creation, time, and space, is exalted far above all other spirits and gods.

R. God will set the Christ as King over all the earth.

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. The second reading is Second Peter, chapter 1, verses 16-19. You will find this on page 236 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved,^[a] with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 1.17 Other ancient authorities read *my beloved Son*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+peter+1%3A16-19&version=NRSVUE>
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+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!"

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 8:38 through 9:10, on page 44 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. This reading is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel.

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.

³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^[a] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." **9**¹ And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with^[b] power."

The Transfiguration

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one^[c] on earth could brighten them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved;^[d] listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 8.38 Other ancient authorities read *and of mine*
- b. 9.1 Or *in*
- c. 9.3 Gk *no fuller*
- d. 9.7 Or *my beloved Son*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+8%3A38+-+9%3A10&version=NRSVUE>)

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church
for the 1996 New Year,
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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

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Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.



The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.

The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10

+ Sermon

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

Here is the Roman Lectionary for weekdays that was not provided to you last week. Notice how it is all formulated from the Gospel reading each week and then according to the season calendar.

<https://catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/2002USL-Weekdays-OT-II.htm>

Today, Sunday, February 11, we end the Season of Epiphany with the Transfiguration, and now we hear the voice of God saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; LISTEN TO HIM."

The Gospel readings of the last six Sundays of Epiphany demand a season of epiphanies if one emphasizes the divinity of Christ. The six weeks of the Season of Epiphany is why we kept the Gold color out and did not switch to Green, for this is not "Ordinary Time." Instead, this is a season to reveal that he was and is fully human and divine. Though the name ordinary time comes from using ordinal numbers for this season on the liturgical calendar, Ordinary Time is practiced as a less important time. At Ray Of Hope Church, we take these six weeks to focus on the readings showing us God proving who the Beloved Son is, **not for Jesus' sake, but for us**, you and me. This six-week concentration is all done so we can hear The Word of God and respond.

Revelation and Response; R&R.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-14. The Book of Daniel was written in the 6th Century B.C. (600 BC - 501 BC). King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, according to the book's second chapter. In the seventh chapter, the Prophet Daniel has a vision that interprets the dream and lays out significant prophecies for the birth and death of Jesus and for the events of the Gentile world that would lead up to Christ establishing his Kingdom "on Earth as it is in Heaven."

Daniel's vision is confirmed seven centuries later with the writing of the Book of Revelation. There, the events of this vision are similar. In the vision, God over all creation clearly gives power and dominion to the Son, who, after the Gentile kingdoms revealed in the dream have come and gone, establishes a divine Kingdom "on Earth as it is in Heaven."

The four schools of eschatology have four different answers for what these prophecies are concerned about. The four schools of eschatology are symbolic, amillennial, postmillennial, and premillennial. The symbolic school claims a "higher criticism" of the biblical text and concludes that it is all too confusing when your car is parked on the corners of Myth and Allegory Lanes.

The purveyors of this school tell us there is nothing of value to glean from apocalyptic literature.

Reading these lections for today from a premillennial view, one can see Jesus in the prophecy of the Book of Daniel. On the mountain of Transfiguration, Jesus is confirmed to be this very personage by the presence of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus himself in a state of glory. The Apostles, Peter, James, and John, can see into the Heavenly realm and see Jesus, Moses, and Elijah glorified and sanctified. With this mountain-top experience, Peter, James, and John have confirmation that Jesus is the Son of God. Then God clearly says, "Listen to Him."

The second reading is Peter writing about the Transfiguration reading years after the experience, much later. The letter of Peter is further proof that this is a historical event.

More notes from 2023:

In Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses declares, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a prophecy: **A New Prophet Like Moses**

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet."

Hebrews 3:1-6 Moses a Servant, Christ a Son

3 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, partners in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in all^[a] God's ^[b] house." ³ Yet Jesus^[c] is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's ^[d] house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. ⁶ Christ, however, was faithful over God's ^[e] house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm^[f] the boldness and the pride inspired by hope.

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [3.2](#) Other ancient authorities lack *all*
- b. [3.2](#) Gk *his*
- c. [3.3](#) Gk *this one*
- d. [3.5](#) Gk *his*
- e. [3.6](#) Gk *his*
- f. [3.6](#) Other ancient authorities add *to the end*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+3%3A1-6&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.)

Moses and Jesus seem to pray for about six days. In both cases the glory of God was known and manifested in light and clouds.

Strong's # **G3339**

μεταμορφώω

metamorphoō

met-am-or-fo'-o

From [G3326](#) and [G3445](#); to *transform* (literally or figuratively "metamorphose"): - change, transfigure, transform.

Total K.J.V. occurrences: 4 Matthew 17:2; Mark 9:2

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Transfiguration

The word for *transfigure*—μεταμορφόομαι—is used both of Christ and Christians.

1. Of Christ. Jesus Christ's Transfiguration is reported in each Synoptic Gospel (Matt. 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36). Related to the prophetic office of Christ as it is, every report of this transfiguring records the command from heaven, "Hear ye him."

2. Its Meaning. The record of Christ's Transfiguration is preceded every time by the words: "There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom" (Matt. 16:28). Note as agreeable to this word Peter's interpretation of the meaning of the transfiguration episode (2 Peter 1:16-18). The elements of the Messianic kingdom were surely present for the Transfiguration: (a) a glorified Christ, (b) glorified saints like Moses and Elijah—one having left the earth by death and one by the process of translation earlier, (c) Jews still on the earth but enjoying all the light of the glory—as seen in the three disciples.

3. Its Purpose. As the kingdom preaching was coming to its end because of the rejection and imminent death of the King, it became necessary to encourage the disciples in the expectation that the Messianic kingdom would yet be set up according to covenant promise, later if not at once. The Transfiguration bore out this certainty.

4. Of the Saints. The word *transfigure* is used twice as an appeal to believers (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18). How is it to be distinguished from the word "transform"? A thing may be transformed by a light shining on it from without, of course, but a transfiguration is the shining forth of a light from within. The first appeal to believers, then, is for them to let the light of the divine nature shine forth unhindered (see Christology) from within, now that they have become partakers thereof. In the 2 Corinthians passage is revealed the nature of the divinely wrought change being enjoined.

Volume 7: Doctrinal Summarization. Lewis Sperry Chafer.
Systematic Theology. © 1947, 1953, 1980 Dallas Theo. Seminary.

Pew Research Center 2-16-2021 Faith Among Black Americans. [A brief overview of Black religious history in the U.S.](#)

BY BESHEER MOHAMED, KIANA COX, JEFF DIAMANT AND CLAIRE GECEWICZ



Promising Florida voting rights bill honors little-known civil rights martyrs

Houthis sentence 13 to public execution on homosexuality charges - report

"The [Houthis] are ramping up their abuses at home while the world is busy watching their attacks in the Red Sea," said Niku Jafarnia, a Yemen researcher for Human Rights Watch.

By **JERUSALEM POST STAFF** FEBRUARY 8, 2024

10:03 Updated: FEBRUARY 8, 2024 15:46 (SOURCE:

<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-785766>)

Amnesty International: Yemen: Huthis must stop executions and release dozens facing LGBTI charges

The Huthi de facto authorities must urgently halt planned executions and end the persecution of people based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, said Amnesty International, after two Huthi-run courts in Yemen sentenced more than 40 individuals either to death, flogging or prison over charges related to same-sex conduct. (SOURCE: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/02/yemen-huthis-must-stop-executions-and-release-dozens-facing-lgbti-charges/>)

Make America Straight Again MASA [RIGHT CLICK HERE](#).

Amazon page MASA [RIGHT CLICK HERE](#).

A word about **Valentine's Day** and Ash Wednesday

=====

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

=====



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 4: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others, prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart. Please keep the prayers brief so that as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and in truth. So, we begin with _____

(The person leading will invite prayers from the various rooms in the service.)


Leader – 4: (when all prayers have been heard) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen.

Leader - 5: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. 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.

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



may use the QRCode  or press control + click or tap on this link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY

14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

Offertory Song: Bless His Holy Name. Words and Music by Andraé Crouch
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A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made.

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John

6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28,
Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Leader: At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus

Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

Leader: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

WORDS OF INSTITUTION SONG: Remember Me. Words and Music by Gerrit Gustafson and Martin J. Nystrom © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 16813, Mobile, AL, 36695. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. CCLI Song # 451177 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion based upon a prayer in a Prayer Book at the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Leader -4: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

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NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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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.

General Offering for the week of January 7 \$1,343.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of January 14 \$168.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 10

General Offering for the week of January 21 \$1,488.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

General Offering for the week of February 4 \$112.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 11 \$810.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

****Additional Special Gifts****

An anonymous \$1,000.00 donation was given to Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. "In memory of William and Jean Houser, from their Special Memory Fund." This donation was given to the Building Improvement Fund especially for the exterior paint and clapboard repair project we will do this summer.

Brother Benedict purchased a \$180.00 second tier to the copyright license for sheet music.

Annie and Gary donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund.

We are grateful for these special gifts received this week.

****Recent Special Gifts****

April Struhm donated \$100.00 to the Building Fund. Brother donated \$60.00 to the Building Fund. Kaiden donated \$400.00 to the Building Fund. Veronica donated two exterior motion LED Porch Lights.

Kaiden donated \$25.00 for the gift card to Mr. Martin. Lisa donated \$100.00 toward copyright licenses. Lisa donated \$100.00 toward the sewer tax. Br. Benedict donated \$800.00 to the Building Fund.

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 and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

February 11, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Week 6 Black History Month Wk 2

February 13, Tuesday, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by April Struhm. April invites all to participate in this meeting, one may join the committee or attend occasionally. The meeting is both in-person at the monastery and virtual on Skype.

February 13, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #4** Worship and Common Threads

February 14, Wednesday Ash Wednesday Noon (only service of the day)

February 18, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. **Lent Week 1 of 5** Black History Month Wk 3

February 19, Monday, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by April Struhm. April invites all to participate in this meeting, one may join the committee or attend occasionally. The meeting is both in-person at the monastery and virtual on Skype.

February 20, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #5** Worship and Common Threads

February 21, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. **Lent Week 1 of 5**

February 25, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. **Lent Week 2 of 5** Black History Month Wk 4

February 26, Monday, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by April Struhm. April invites all to participate in this meeting, one may join the committee or attend occasionally. The meeting is both in-person at the monastery and virtual on Skype.

February 27, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #6** Polity and Practice (an explanation of the By-Laws and operational procedures to govern Church administration).

February 28, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. **Lent Week 2 of 5**

February 29, 2024, Friday, at 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting.

Sunday, March 3, 2024 Worship at 10:30 a.m. **Lent Week 3 of 5**

March 4, Monday, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by April Struhm. April invites all to participate in this meeting, one may join the committee or attend occasionally. The meeting is both in-person at the monastery and virtual on Skype.

March 5, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #7** Polity and Practice (an explanation of the By-Laws and operational procedures to govern Church administration).

March 6, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. **Lent Week 3 of 5**

Friday, March 8, 2024 **Cabrini**, the movie In Theaters International Women's Day: <https://www.angel.com/watch/cabrini/episode/5fd84450-f6df-4caa-8abd-e7d2efd812e4> "Cabrini, you would have made an excellent man." (Mayor of New York City)

Sunday, March 10, 2024 **Laetare Rejoice** Sunday in **Lent Week 4 of 5**

March 11, Monday, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by April Struhm. April invites all to participate in this meeting, one may join the committee or attend occasionally. The meeting is both in-person at the monastery and virtual on Skype.

March 12, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #8** Sexuality and the Bible.

March 13, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. **Lent Week 4 of 5**

Sunday, March 17, 2024 St. Patrick's Day Worship at 10:30 a.m. **Lent Week 5 of 5**

March 18, Monday, 3:00- 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by April Struhm. April invites all to participate in this meeting, one may join the committee or attend occasionally. The meeting is both in-person at the monastery and virtual on Skype.

March 19, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #9 Final** Sexuality and the Bible.

March 20, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person. **Lent Week 5 of 5**

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

March 27, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

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

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

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

Christ.

No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

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

ALL: And also with you!

Kaiden Rae Benedict: We bless you and praise you God for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (*+*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Kaiden Rae Benedict: We pray Romans chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together saying:

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

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

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

CLOSING SONG: He Is Exalted words and music by Twila Paris © 1985 Jubilee Communications Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.

We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.

We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.

We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

WE ARE YOU!

THIS is the Church where YOU belong.

Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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)

