



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Fortieth year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,
and make disciples of every person

everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a very 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)

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel 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 5, 2023 Black History WK 1 Year A

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.

St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20 Not in pew editions

Psalm: 119 selected verses - responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 2:6-10 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 167

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 NRSV 2ND Testament page 4

*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 of the Bible and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you just ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. 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) The bell is rung 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 __. We welcome you 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. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the Chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject. Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the

hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

Everyone is invited to participate in some or all the parts of this worship event as they feel comfortable. At Ray Of Hope Church, we assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Today, those participating through the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You do not need to be a Member of this church or any church to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. We celebrate the Lord's open table, where everyone is welcome. Those celebrating at home, please prepare the following items at this time and bring them to your table; 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. We will use these items for Holy Communion during the second half of the worship service.

Leader-1: The bulletin with the worship order is available in multiple ways. Click on the "Featured Link" in the window on Facebook Live. The bulletin will appear in a second window. Flip or slide between the Order of Worship bulletin and the webcast. On Skype, the "Order of Worship" is posted in the Chat window. Please right-click on the link and open it in a new window or tab. Finally, the Order of Worship bulletin and the Skype link is posted in the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. This morning, Ed Askins will play a piano prelude for our service. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and not visit during the music. Thank you.

- **Music Prelude played by Ed Askins.** "There's Something About That Name" Words and Music by Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither

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

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



Bell's 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.

Leader – 2: We are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. 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: God is glorified when we welcome one another and introduce ourselves to those around us. You are truly welcome here. **During COVID, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: I ask you, in whose Name we are 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: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: We come here to pray. You are an equal and active partner in all we do in the next 90 minutes. This worship event is not an activity where you come to hear some good music and hear a message. You are here as active participants in every aspect of this worship event, with the most considerable responsibility being actively praying each portion of the "service."

Today is the second Sunday of Black History Month. Earlier this week, Kaiden and I remembered some of the Religious Sisters we have known through the years. Kaiden remembers some of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, NY, particularly Sr. Katherine, and their great ministry. We visited their website and found significant content for Black History Month. We want you to be aware of the following letter.

[Statement from the Institute Leadership Team on the killing of Tyre Nichols \(https://sistersofmercy.org/news/statement-on-the-killing-of-tyre-nichols/ \)](https://sistersofmercy.org/news/statement-on-the-killing-of-tyre-nichols/)

The Institute Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas strongly condemns the extrajudicial killing of Tyre Nichols.

Tyre Nichols was a father, son, friend who loved photography and skateboarding. He was pulled from his car and beaten by police during a routine traffic stop and did not resist as blows rained down on his body by multiple police officers, several almost twice his size. And then, when his body could take it no more, he used his last words to call for his mother.

After every police or vigilante killing of a Black person, a predictable cycle begins; hashtags, an inundation of news pundits and misinformed persons asking, "what did he/she do to cause this?" and throngs of allies peacefully protesting calling for justice and asserting "never again."

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We have witnessed this cycle of police or vigilante killings of a Black person after four Los Angeles police officers beat Rodney King on **March 3, 1991**; again, when George Perry Floyd, Jr. was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer who knelt on his neck and back for nine minutes and 29 seconds on **May 25, 2020**. We are in this cycle now with the beating of **Tyre Nichols** by five Memphis police officers **on January 7th** who later succumbed to the injuries of the beating on **January 10, 2023**.

...and we must acknowledge all incidents of police brutality, killings, and vigilante killings in between, seen and unseen.

Just as predictable as the cycles, is the aftermath of the cycles. As time passes the hashtags appear less, protests stop, and the media moves on to the next story.

Members of the Black community live with an acute awareness — *knowing* there will be another killing, *praying* it will not be them or a loved one, *hoping* "to just make it home" alive and *wrestling* with the reality, that **home** does not keep a **Black person safe** from being killed by the police, **even while sleeping**.

But Justice has not come.

Arrests and convictions are not **justice**, these are forms of **accountability!**

Black people are killed by the police at a higher rate than any other group.

It is indisputable that white supremacy and anti-Blackness molds how police officers deal with Black people. And, it is clear that the uniform, the culture and the system of policing that dehumanizes Black people and takes control of Black bodies supersedes the racial, ethnic and gender identity of an individual officer.

To glimpse a path toward Justice, the Sisters of Mercy urge all to begin by contacting their local leaders and lobby them to adopt the framing of the **#8cantwait campaign** that names eight policies for more restrictive use of force, grounded in research. And, then advocate to their federal representatives to pass the **George Floyd Justice and Policing Act**.

And this is just a start.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice..." (Matthew 5:6)

In Mercy,

Patricia C. Flynn RSM *Judith Friker, RSM*
Patricia C. Flynn RSM *Jane Marie Miller, RSM*

Institute Leadership Team

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

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

Today we are celebrating the fifteenth Sunday in our 40th year of ministry. Welcome to the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira, NY, and the World.

Romans 13:11 "Now is the time to WAKE from your SLEEP."

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, the definition of "woke" is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/woke>

In Theological terms: Awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, actively supporting persons of all Religions and faiths and those with no faith or religion.

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information on these ideas.

Right Click Here:

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

Our prayers for the people of Ukraine will be at the Prayers of the People this morning. Obviously, we intentionally hold these and so many other,

people in our thoughts as we progress through this worship event.

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

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: I'm So Glad, Jesus Set Me Free

Text and Music: Traditional African-American

© Words: Public Domain, Music Public Domain.

I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
Jesus set me free.

Prejudice held me down, but Jesus set me free.

The Church told me no, but Jesus set me free.

Now I live rejoicing, 'cause Jesus set me free.

I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
**I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
**I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
*I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
Jesus set me free.

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now, we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope in honor of the "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. **Jesus said:** (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

ALL: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and

believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

Leader -2: While lighting the Candle Of Hope, it is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS. Unfortunately, some churches continue to reject sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Today we are reading the names on Block # 62

- Perry Norris (1)
- Willie "Winnie" (2)
- Greg Smith (3)
- Gerry Parker (4)
- Rafael Pinto (5)
- Michael J. Lamberta (6)
- Marty Cox (7)
- Sam Williams (8)

We remember them here and pray for their families.

Leader -2: At this time, we also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. We pray for their family members as they remember their loved ones. May the candle's flame remind everyone of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000

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panels and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

SECOND SONG: I Surrender All

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WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting one another, and praising God in song, we now prepare our hearts to accept renewal when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. In preparation, we silently confess our sins to Christ and receive the forgiveness He promises to give us.
(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 _____.

God has created or started one Human Race on this planet. While there may be life on other planets, we are responsible for this planet. Here, on Earth, people have created religious and political "Tradition" to put forth a false narrative that there are many human races by

using the tones of skin color as evidence. For dividing ourselves into groups instead of enjoying the entire spectrum of this Human Race, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Through the ministry of Christ, we should celebrate every ethnic and cultural identity; Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L-4: We come here to study the Scriptures and live by what we learn. Scripture has been used as a weapon to justify division and prejudice in all of its forms. We pray that pastors and congregations would lead the way in correcting discrimination; 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 united in God's Kingdom without the loss of 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.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to give God thanks and praise for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria. The Church has prayed this prayer since the earliest records of worship services.

Spoken:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on Earth.
You are the One God, Sovereign of the Universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,
we give you thanks,**

we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the World:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of God:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord of all,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: O Loving, Eternal, and Holy God, our hearts and minds are open to being led into your truth. So, Word of God, cause action and change in our lives. Word of God, transform and equip us for many more years of ministry, we pray.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader 5: Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.
ALL: We read the Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

The first reading is in Book of Sirach, also known as Ecclesiasticus, chapter 15, verses 15-20.

We are reading from the New Revised Standard Version Updated

Edition of © 2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The New Revised Standard Version pew bibles do not include this book. Here begins the reading:

- ¹⁵ If you choose, you can keep the commandments,
and to act faithfully is a matter of your choice.
- ¹⁶ He has placed before you fire and water;
stretch out your hand for whichever you choose.
- ¹⁷ Before each person are life and death,
and whichever one chooses will be given.
- ¹⁸ For great is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power and sees everything;
- ¹⁹ his eyes are on those who fear him,
and he knows every human action.
- ²⁰ He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly,
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Sirach+15%3A15-20&version=NRSVUE>)
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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Psalm

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

The Psalm today is a rendition of Psalm 119, selected verses, written by Br. Benedict, with a responsorial verse. Today's response is, "Blessed are they who live by the wisdom of the Lord."

R. Blessed are they who live by the wisdom of the Lord!

We are blessed when we live according to the Lord's ways, and our lives will be blameless.

We are blessed when we observe God's decrees, and seek the LORD wholeheartedly.

R. Blessed are they who live by the wisdom of the Lord!

O God, you have commanded we keep your precepts diligently.
It is our goal to remain firm in your ways
and keep your statutes!

R. Blessed are they who live by the wisdom of the Lord!

O God, be kind to your servant, that I may dedicate my life
to keep your word.

O Lord, open my eyes to see and understand the wonders of your
law.

R. Blessed are they who live by the wisdom of the Lord!

Teach me your statutes, O LORD, so I may live them exactly.
To observe your law and keep it with all my heart, I ask you for
the gift of discernment so that I may walk every day of my life
circumspectly.

R. Blessed are they who live by the wisdom of the Lord!

+ Second Reading

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

The second reading is in Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians,
chapter 2, verses 6-10. Again, we are reading from the New Revised
Standard Version Updated Edition of ©2021 (See the citation below
the reading.). The New Revised Standard Version pew bibles have a
similar translation on page 167 in the second testament. Here begins
the reading:

The True Wisdom of God

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a
wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being
destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery,
which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which
none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they
would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"— (Isaiah 64:3
and Jeremiah 3:16-18)

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit
searches everything, even the depths of God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+2%3A6-10&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.

+ 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 on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines 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 Matthew, chapter 5, verses 21-24. We are reading from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of © 2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The New Revised Standard Version pew bibles have a similar translation on page 4 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 Matthew.

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.

Concerning Anger

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or

sister,^[a] you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult^[b] a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell^[c] of fire.²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 5.22 Other ancient authorities add *without cause*
- b. 5.22 Gk say *Raca to* (an obscure term of abuse)
- c. 5.22 Gk *Gehenna*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A21-24&version=NRSVUE>)
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Gospel Acclamation

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Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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

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 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.** 
The LGBTQIA2SS+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2SS+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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

+ Sermon

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as **"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."**

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

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

First reading: choices

Second reading: Heavy duty wisdom is there when needed, however, not necessary for salvation.

1 Cor 2:6b yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

1 Cor. 2:10 ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Gospel: Understanding Adultery and Divorce in modern terms. Shortened the scheduled reading.

Matthew 5:22 This verse has also recently become part of the debate over the New Testament view of [homosexuality](#). Some scholars have argued that *raca* can mean [effeminate](#), and was a term of abuse for homosexuals. Similarly *moros* can also refer to a homosexual aggressor; as [Genesis 19:4-6](#). From [Semitic](#) cognates Warren Johansson argued that the word was an [Aramaic](#) pejorative, similar to the English words *faggot* or *fairy*. By these interpretations Jesus could be specifically condemning [homophobia](#). (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_5:22)

SOCIAL CONCERNS

More from the Sisters Of Mercy of Rochester, NY

<https://express.adobe.com/page/yE2Zc9CFjyuSc/>

NAACP Legal Defense Fund (source:

<https://www.naacpldf.org/about-us/>) "The Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Using the power of law, narrative, research, and people, we defend and advance the full dignity and citizenship of Black people in America." *LDF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

HOW WOKE WENT FROM "BLACK" TO "BAD"

By Ishena Robinson (READ THE ARTICLE HERE: <https://www.naacpldf.org/woke-black-bad/>) SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"Ask yourself: What exactly is "the woke?" Where did "woke" come from? And how did it become apparently worthy of gag orders instituted by politicians and administered with the might of the government? When did it transform from its

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roots in Black American vernacular to a supposedly all-encompassing, terrifying
force emblazoned across **increasingly fear-mongering headlines** in the United
States and even now in parts of Europe?

Put simpler: How did woke go from meaning "Black" to "Bad?" (Ishena Robinson)

WHAT IT MEANS TO "STOP WOKE"

To some, woke is now a derisive stand-in for diversity, inclusion, empathy and, yes, Blackness. So, when legislators pass a law to "stop woke" in light of the word's true history as well as its commonly understood meaning, what are they really saying?

"Governor DeSantis' nefarious attack on truth, history, and public education cannot be masked by a fatuous acronym mocking a Black colloquialism," Janai S. Nelson, LDF's President and Director-Counsel, emphasized **in a press release** announcing the organization's lawsuit challenging the Stop W.O.K.E. Act. "[This law] seeks to deprive future generations of knowledge, information, and the ability to appreciate the humanity of their fellow citizens. It is also a direct and unlawful assault on the bedrock principle of free speech in a democracy." (SOURCE: article: How Woke Went from "Black" To "Bad": <https://www.naacpldf.org/woke-black-bad/>)

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Frequently Asked Questions (Legal Defense Fund) (<https://www.naacpldf.org/critical-race-theory-faq/>)

To help you learn more about Critical Race Theory, LDF has compiled answers to the most frequently asked questions about it. This resource also includes information on the laws banning racial justice discourse being enacted across the country and how they fit into a larger effort to suppress the voice, history, and political participation of Black Americans.

Stop Wrongs Against Our Kids and Employees ("Stop W.O.K.E.") Act

On August 18, 2022, a group of higher education students and educators **filed a lawsuit** challenging Florida's HB 7 — also known as the Stop Wrongs Against Our Kids and Employees ("Stop W.O.K.E.") Act — a classroom censorship bill.. (Source: <https://www.naacpldf.org/critical-race-theory-faq/>).

SPECIAL MUSIC Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: "Shepherd Of My Heart" Words and Music by Mark Baldwin and Dick Tunney, © 1985 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Pamela Kay Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI Song # 14679 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

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

Leader – 3: Lord Jesus, we intercede for all the people, animals, and land affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria on Monday this week. We pray for the families of the 28,000 confirmed deaths. The grief, shock, and sorrow these families are experiencing must be immeasurable. We also pray for the medical professionals as they treat at least 85,276 people who sustained bodily injury and are trying to recover. We pray as well for workers tasked with restoring utilities and facing the realities of at least 6,590 buildings destroyed. With all of these concerns in mind, we pray to the Lord;

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war any place in the world. The war in Ukraine has raged on for 353 days. Our Scripture readings today indicate we have the choice between evil ways that bring destruction or your paths to holy peace and prosperity. We understand how these terrible times have also caused many people in the attacked regions to doubt your existence, Lord. So yet again, we ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by the loss of loved ones, the destruction of their homes, schools, hospitals, power sources, places of worship, and towns. For these intentions, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: Some churches have used Tradition to justify the institutions of slavery, and the denial of full citizenship rights to persons said to be

descendants of the sons of Noah. There is no basis to determine the genetic lines of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth by skin pigment color. We pray that all churches openly reject this error, and teach the truth as stated in the Bible regarding racism; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: This week, we witnessed President Biden resetting ambitious goals to reduce incurable cancer by at least fifty percent in the next 25 years. The President also immediately renewed the commitment to resources to improve the experience of people living with and surviving cancer and their families. We pray for all persons involved in these efforts. We add our effort through prayer for our friends, family members, and associates we know who need healing, support, and encouragement as they fight cancer. We especially continue to pray for Heather's mother Henrietta Bower, our Ray Of Hope member Cheryl Allen, and other people we remember right now. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide their doctors and medical teams as healing and wholeness is sought. We give God thanks and praise for each day of life we have together. We trust in God's presence today and always, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Veronica: We ask your blessing on people suffering from the effects of climate change, especially the loss of food, heat, water, and shelter. We pray the leaders of the World will respond to this emergency with empathy and compassion as well as short and long-term planning. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: At this time, we will add our shared prayers. Please speak your prayer loud enough so everyone may hear you. Your prayers may be for yourself or others, prayers of thanksgiving, praise or whatever is on your mind. We begin with _____

Veronica: We invite you to add your petitions in silent prayer.
(silent prayer)

Veronica: We pray to the Lord for these silent prayers.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: Here is a prayer from the First-Century Bishop of Rome known as, Clement of Rome, Bishop from 88 – 99AD, that we are adding to our prayers again today.

"We pray to you, O God: be our helper and protector. Save the afflicted, have mercy on the lowly, raise up the fallen, help the needy, humble the proud, return the lost, feed the hungry, release the captive, heal the sick, revive the weak, and comfort those in fear. All this we ask for the sake of the world you love, and in the name of the one you sent to save us: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

—Based on a prayer of Bishop Clement of Rome, I (1st century c. 35 AD – 99 AD. He knew some of the Apostles, including Peter source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clement_of_Rome)

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (pp. 1100-1101). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Leader – 3: 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. In the Chapel, use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event. In addition, there are donation envelopes available on the hospitality table by the door.

Internet participants may use the [PayPal link](#) in your bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. Additionally, 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.

We also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Folks viewing on the Internet, please turn to page three and follow the instructions under leader two.

We are using the small Communion set at your seat in the Chapel. Shake the kit gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup.

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, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on

Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*))

SONG: THANK YOU, LORD. © Words: Public Domain, Music Public Domain. Arranged by Stephen Key © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. Onelicense #LMGM2489-1-95004 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

Leader -2: (*Pray a prayer over the offering, giving thanks and praise.*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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

Kaiden: Please gently hold the communion kit in your hands 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.

January 29, 2023 Memorial Service page: 26

(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 cup.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

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

Cheryl: 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**

Cheryl: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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



The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together...

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd: 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.

SONG:

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

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

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

General Offering for the week of January 29 \$25.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 5 \$1,556.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

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

Thank you, Ed and Phillipa for a \$100 gift toward the copyright licenses. Thank you, Lisa Frost for a \$100.00 gift toward the copyright licenses. Thank you, Veronica Floyd for a \$100.00 gift toward the copyright licenses.

Many thanks to Ed Askins for the hours spent on repairing the interior walls and ceilings in the monastery. Visit the refinished kitchen, restroom, and Fraiser Room before leaving today. Ed has donated over \$608.00 in building materials.

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

Happy and Blessed Birthday April Struhm, yesterday, Saturday February 11, 2023.

February 14, Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m

February 16, Thursday 5:45 – 8:10 p.m. movie TILL @ Steele Memorial Library

February 21, Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 7:00 p.m. at Ray Of Hope Church

February 23, Thursday 5:45 – 8:10 p.m. movie TILL @ Steele Memorial Library

February 24, Friday 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Holy Week 2023: Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Vigil of the Resurrection Saturday, April 8, 7:45 p.m.

No service on Sunday, April 9.

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We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

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

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and love to serve all the 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.

SONG: Precious Lord, Take My Hand. by Thomas Andrew Dorsey

CCLI Song # 7205306

Thomas Andrew Dorsey © Words: 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1983 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI License # 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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, and a larger project day for removal of carpet and replacement with new carpet. 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 is invited to 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.

It is not required that you 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 really 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 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 would 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.

I have thought about this extensively and have decided to 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 teach people about this gift. I have stated in other places, **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 in that life.

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

We begin by inviting those who are on the fringe of Society, those who have been pushed aside, those who are poor, who are not accepted, who are sick, who need God's help in special ways. We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone who has been

told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to all persons who have ever been 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)

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30–8 p.m.-380 W. First St. Parsonage
/Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign
on by 6:15 p.m. [Click Here](#).

**** to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374***

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our website;
http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public at this time 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. All of 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](#). As soon as it reasonably safe and prudent the Chapel will be reopened.

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs

—————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)