



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 18, 2024, Lent Week 1 of 5, Year B

Black History Month 3rd 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: Genesis 9:8-15 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 7

Psalm: 25 selected verses with responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-25 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 234

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15 NRSV 2ND Testament page 35

***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.**

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. Copyright credits and US Copyright Fair Use statements are found throughout the presented materials. Every effort is being made to be in compliance with all regulations. Please contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.



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 18, 2024, the First of Five Sundays of Lent, in our 41st year of ministry. The sixth Sunday is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. During these five weeks Lent, we take time to look within ourselves to find those areas in our spiritual life that we could grow and begin to do those things to facilitate that growth.

February 18 is also the third Sunday in 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: Hosea. G&P 471 Text and Music Weston Priory and Gregory Norbet. Contributors: Gregory Norbet, Weston Priory

Tune: Text: Based on Hosea. Text and music, Gregory Norbet, OSB, © 1972, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Onlicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ 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 # 104.



Names on Block # 104

- Michael Bowers (1)
- Frederic Abrams (2)
- Lionel Cowan (3)
- Roy Cohn (4)

- M. R. (5)
- Gary Scarberry (6)
- Justin Mickler (7)
- Arnold Robinson (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: 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.



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. time to confess our sins. count to 20)

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 is growing daily because of war and aggression; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: The Church's message must be used to guide people 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 uni-ty of
 God. (TO REFRAIN)

© 7/25/17 1/124 Gaudete! Liturgical Arts Ben Bernier

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 B. Brown

+ 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 Genesis, chapter 9, verses 8-15. The reading is on page 7 in the front of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. ***Pastoral Introduction Here.** We begin the reading:

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.^[a] ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Read full chapter

Footnotes

- a. 9.10 Gk: Heb adds *every animal of the earth*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+9%3A8-15&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,
_(State)_____. The Psalm today is 25, with selected verses. The response is;
“Your ways, O Lord, are the keys to life.” 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. Your ways, O Lord, are the keys to life.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

R. Your ways, O Lord, are the keys to life.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

R. Your ways, O Lord, are the keys to life.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.

R. Your ways, O Lord, are the keys to life.

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+25&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.)

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _____(State)_____. The second reading is First Peter, chapter 3, verses 18-25. You will find this on page 234 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered^[a] for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you^[b] to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for^[c] a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

[3.18](#) Other ancient authorities read *died*

[3.18](#) Other ancient authorities read *us*

[3.21](#) Or *a pledge to God from*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+3%3A18-25&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 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!"

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

Reader: The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 1:12-15, on page 35 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.

The Testing of Jesus

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news^[a] of^[b] God ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the

kingdom of God has come near;^[c] repent, and believe in the good news.”^[d]

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [1.14](#) Or *gospel*
- b. [1.14](#) Other ancient authorities add *of the kingdom of*
- c. [1.15](#) Or *is at hand*
- d. [1.15](#) Or *gospel*

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

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

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



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)

During the Season of Lent the Lectionary goes through the Covenants. Today's first reading, Genesis Chapter 9, verses 8 - 15 is the Covenant with Noah. The notes on the Noahic Covenant are on page 189 of the NKJV Scofield, III study Bible. The notes are racist and add much to the meaning of the text.

Unfortunately, it is from the interpretation of these verses that we have the tradition of justification for slavery of dark-skinned people by light-skinned people.

As stated in the introductory words of this bulletin: 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.)

First Peter, chapter 3, verses 18-25.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered^[a] for sins **once for all**, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to **bring you^[b] to God**. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ **in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,** ²⁰ **who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah,** during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for^[c] a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² **who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

God's symbol, God's insignia, the rainbow is a sign of this Covenant.

The Rainbow Flag Is God's Gift To Our Community
by Rev. Br. Shawn Francis Benedict, Appointed Pastor of Ray Of Hope Church [sermon given 6/25/2000](#)

The four schools of eschatology have four different answers for what the Bible has to say regarding being and time, past, present, and future. 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 the collected writings in the Bible is all too confusing since

they are nearly all deemed to myth and allegory in purpose. The purveyors of this school tell us there is nothing of value to glean from apocalyptic literature.

Last Sunday, 2-11-24 the second reading included Peter writing about the Transfiguration reading years after the experience, much later. On the mountain of Transfiguration, Jesus is confirmed to be this very personage written about in the Book of Daniel, Chapter 7, by the presence of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus himself in a state of glory. The Apostles, Peter, James, and John, are allowed to 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 letter of Peter is further proof that the Transfiguration is a historical event.

Second Peter, chapter 1, verses 16-19. You will find this on page 236 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. This is 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.

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

(https://www.splcenter.org/news/2024/02/09/florida-voting-rights-bill-honors-civil-rights-martyrs?fbclid=IwAR1Yyj6o3A4d6sB0uotvuzaN8WLLHwzx_IzoX1-QKI6kX7DKhtHObai1qKw)

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/>)

=====
*****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
CCLI SONG # 17566 COPYRIGHTS ©1973 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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

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

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

+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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

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

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

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

+ 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.

COMMUNION 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.

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License 218241, our Onelicense Black History Month License 12, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. Copyright credits and US Copyright Fair Use statements are found throughout the presented materials. Every effort is being made to be in compliance with all regulations. Please contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ. Copyright Information "Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

New Revised Standard Version – 1989

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Up to 500 verses of the RSV or NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission...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 21 \$1,488.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

General Offering for the week of January 28 \$112.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 4 \$810.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 11 \$340.00.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 4 Sunday; Ash Wednesday, February 14, Attendance 13

****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.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

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

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 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

2-18-24 Lent Week 1, Black History Month Week 3, Year B Page 32 of 36
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

Thursday, March 7, 2024 begins **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

Leader - 2: **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Leader - 2: 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

Leader - 2: 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: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Text: CM; Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898, alt. Music: The Whole Psalmes in Foure Partes, 1563, alt. Contributors: ST. FLAVIAN Onelicense Song# 84254 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

Small Church Music smallchurchmusic.com

Organist: Clyde McLennan, organist, producer of *“good quality accompaniments for congregational singing available at no cost. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted. For permission to use them for any other purposes, please contact manager@hymnary.org.”*

(<https://www.smallchurchmusic.com/About-New.php>)

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)

