



**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 4, 2024, Epiphany Week V Year B

Black History Month 1st 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:** Job 7:1-7 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 457

**Psalm:** 147:1-6 responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** 1Cor. 9:16-23 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 171

**Gospel:** Mark 1:29-39 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> 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 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 until the bell rings.

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

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



## WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

### + Pastoral Welcome

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



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



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

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

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

**the glory of God."** (NABRE)

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

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

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

**Pastor:**

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

Today is February 4, 2024. We are assembled for worship as we continue the Season of Epiphany in our 41<sup>st</sup> year of ministry. During these short six weeks, we ask ourselves: What is the epiphany in our personal lives and in the life of this Congregation that God is calling us to respond to?

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

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

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

In my humble observation and opinion, I (Br. Benedict) make the following observations at the start of this Black History Month, 2024. The fact of

undeniable links between theologies, biblical interpretation, the formation of laws that enabled enslavement and then emancipation, growth to an 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:** **We Are Called.** Words and Music by David Haas. (Ntbk. #94)  
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Text: © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship 720 Onelicense Song #00174  
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## + 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)

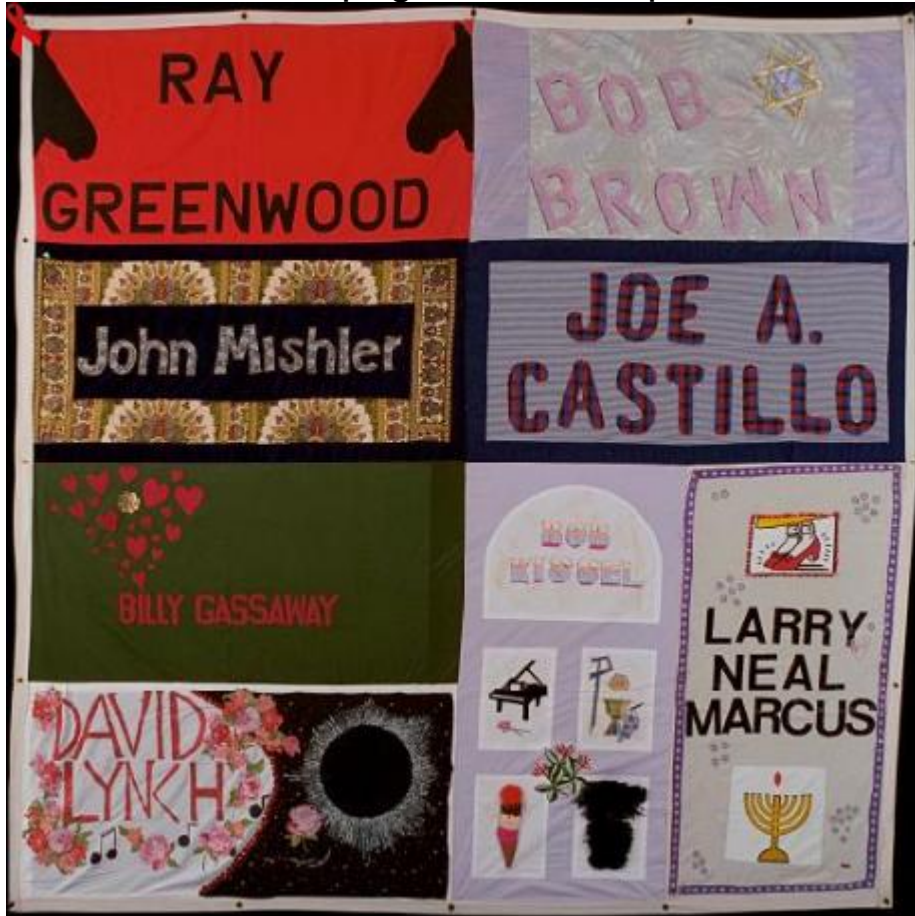
**ALL:** "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25, 26)

**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 to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 102.



Names(panel number) on Block # 102

- Ray Greenwood (1)
- Bob Brown (2)
- John Mishler (3)
- Joe A. Castillo (4)
- Billy Gassaway (5)
- Bob Kissel (6)
- Larry Neal Marcus (7)
- David Lynch (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: He Is Exalted** Words and Music by Twila Paris (Ntbk 62)

Twila Paris © 1985 Jubilee Communications Inc. (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Mountain Spring Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

**+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.**

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

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

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>)

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

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

(silent prayer)

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

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

**Leader -4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_.

The wars, the devastation, the tensions, the poverty, and the loss of life caused by human government have increased this week. More innocent people are subjected to suffering and death as Nations look to overpower one another; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Ethnic or racial discrimination, sexism, and numerous ideologies are often used to devalue the lives of others and create a false superiority. People are losing the value of human life as God's gift. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** The message of the Church should promote peace and equality between all people. Churches must do more to help advance human civil rights and the fundamental rights to food, shelter, and safety; we pray, Lord, have mercy.



**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World, grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** Through confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our hearts to accept the renewal God offers when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together.

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able to sing "The Gloria."

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

*2. = 6/8* *Refrain*

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

*Verse 1*

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

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

VERSE 2

The Gloria, Pg 2

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

Verse 3

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

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

Verse 4: Amen

The Gloria, Pg 3

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

We give you thanks and praise

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

ALL: PRAISE!

A —————

We give you thank and praise

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

ALL: men

men al-le-lu-ia

Primo

@ 7/25/17 - 11/24/17

Gaudete!

Quia

Behm

## + Opening Prayer

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

**ALL: AMEN.**

ies

**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 Job, chapter 7, verses 1-7. The reading is on page 457 in the front of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. \*\*\*Pastoral Introduction Here.\*\*This reading is replaced in most lectionaries today.\* We begin the reading:

### **Job: My Suffering Is without End**

7 "Do not human beings have a hard service on earth,  
and are not their days like the days of a laborer?

<sup>2</sup> Like a slave who longs for the shadow,  
and like laborers who look for their wages,

<sup>3</sup> so I am allotted months of emptiness,  
and nights of misery are apportioned to me.

<sup>4</sup> When I lie down I say, 'When shall I rise?'  
But the night is long,  
and I am full of tossing until dawn.

<sup>5</sup> My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt;  
my skin hardens, then breaks out again.

<sup>6</sup> My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle  
and come to their end without hope.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> "Remember that my life is a breath;  
my eye will never again see good.



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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. 7.6 Or as the thread runs out

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+7%3A1-7&version=NRSVUE>  
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**+ Psalm**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. The Psalm today is 147 selected verses. Today's response is, "Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted."

**R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

Praise the LORD, who is good;  
sing praise to our God, who is gracious;  
it is fitting to praise the LORD.  
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;  
and gathers the dispersed of Israel.

**R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.  
The LORD tells the number of the stars;  
and calls each by name.

**R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.  
The LORD sustains the lowly;  
and casts the wicked to the ground.

**R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: I Surrender All

Text: Judson W. VanDeVenter, 1896, alt. Music: Winfield S. Weeden, 1896 © Words:

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## + Second Reading

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is First Corinthians, chapter 9, verses 16-23. You will find this on page 233 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version. Here begins the reading:

<sup>16</sup> If I proclaim the Gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel! <sup>17</sup> For if I do this of my own will, I have a wage, but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup> What then is my wage? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the Gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the Gospel.

<sup>19</sup> For though I am free with respect to all, **I have made myself a servant to all**, so that I might gain all the more. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. **I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.** <sup>23</sup> **I do it all for the sake of the Gospel, so that I might become a partner in it.**

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+9%3A16-23&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version

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

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

## We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is Mark, chapter 1, verses 29-39 on page 170 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 Man with an Unclean Spirit

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, "What have you to do with us,

Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He<sup>[a]</sup> commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. [1.4](#) Other ancient authorities read *John was baptizing*
- b. [1.8](#) Or *in*
- c. [1.8](#) Or *in*
- d. [1.11](#) Or *my beloved Son*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+1%3A4-11&version=NRSVUE>  
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## Gospel Acclamation



## Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - 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 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."***

During Year B, we are reading the Gospel of Mark. On Wednesday, there was a conversation after Mass about how the Lectionary works. Looking at the schedule, we get an idea of how the readings are arranged around the Gospel of the year, which is then arranged around the themes in Christ's life that shape the Liturgical Year. **\*\*The following information is also presented in the INQUIRIES CLASS: Common Threads.\*\***

<https://catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/1998USL-OrdinaryB.htm>

[What is the Revised Common Lectionary?](https://catholic-resources.org/Lectionary/1998USL-OrdinaryB.htm) <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/faq2.php>

United Church Of Christ <https://www.sneucc.org/lectionary>

### What is the Revised Common Lectionary?

A three-year cycle of scriptures used to varying degrees by the vast majority of mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States, and is built around the [seasons of the Church Year](#). The readings for each

## 2-4-24 Epiphany V, Black History Month Week 1, Year B Page 20 of 36

Sunday include a reading from the Hebrew Bible, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading.

Thursday through Saturday readings help prepare the reader for the Sunday reading, and Monday through Wednesday readings help the reader reflect on what they heard on Sunday.

Common Lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

TABLE OF READINGS FOR THE CURRENT SEASON [Epiphany \(January 6, 2024 - February 11, 2024\)](#)

Presbyterian Common Lectionary: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/2024/2/4/>

Episcopal Lectionary <https://lectionarypage.net/>

- [Who compiled the Revised Common Lectionary?](#)

The Revised Common Lectionary was produced by [The Consultation on Common Texts](#) (CCT). At the time the RCL was compiled, the CCT was composed of representatives from the following denominations (taken from Consultation on Common Texts. *The Revised Common Lectionary*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992):

- The Anglican Church of Canada
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Reformed Church in North America
- The Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- Free Methodist Church in Canada
- Bishops) International Commission on English in the Liturgy (an Agency of 26 Roman Catholic National or International Conferences of Bishops)
- The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
- Polish National Catholic Church
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- Reformed Church in America
- Roman Catholic Church in the United States
- Roman Catholic Church in Canada
- Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship
- The United Church of Canada
- United Church of Christ
- The United Methodist Church

- American Baptist: <https://www.abc-usa.org/resources/resources-for-churches-and-leaders/congregational-tools-administrative-resources/>

The Epiphany in last Sunday's Gospel, January 29, was even the demonic world recognized Jesus, saying, "We know who you are, the Holy One of God. Have you come to destroy us?"

### Mark 1:24b-28 NRSVUE

I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He<sup>[a]</sup> commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Notice the people identified Jesus as establishing the "NEW TEACHING." Jesus is the dean of the new school of Theology. To look to any other is to abandon the Theology Jesus was sent here to establish. There is nothing else to look for; He is the Image of the Invisible God....(Colossians 1:15 + canticle)

These are all epiphanies. All of them require a response from us.

Today's Gospel, February 4, 2024, Jesus heals many, Jesus preaches, and people throng to him to hear him. Jesus heals the mother-in-law of Peter. This is an epiphany. \*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* The Denomination, which claims to be Peter's direct succession, mandates a single and unmarried life for its clergy, though not all. Peter himself was married. So, why claim a succession back to Peter and yet insist your clergy not be married?

SOURCE: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/father-josh-married-catholic-priest-celibate-world> TITLE: Father Josh: A married Catholic priest in a celibate world. AUTHOR: Tim Sullivan DATE: 2-22-2020 National Catholic Reporter

"While married priests were common in Christianity's first centuries, the Latin Rite — the largest of Catholicism's branches, and the dominant rite in the West — has enforced a tradition of a celibate priesthood since the 11th century, in part as a way to keep priests' assets inside the church, instead of being passed to their heirs. It's also in part a way to keep down costs, since maintaining a family is more expensive.

Francis has walked a careful line on celibacy, noting that it is a tradition, not theological dogma, and as a result is open to change. His statements range from the clear-cut — "I don't agree to allow optional celibacy, no" —

to the more nuanced, saying married priests might be allowed "when there is a pastoral necessity" in remote areas with dire clerical shortages.

That possibility worries conservatives and thrills liberals, both of whom believe that allowing married priests in such areas as Amazonia or the Pacific Islands could crack open the door to a married clergy.

Whitfield, 41, became a Catholic priest in 2012 through the Pastoral Provision, a set of rules crafted by Pope John Paul II in 1980 that gives married Episcopal priests who have converted to Catholicism the chance to apply for ordination in the Catholic church.

The process, which can take years, includes everything from psychological interviews to exams on Catholic theology and, in the end, a special dispensation from the pope.

The convert priests see themselves as narrow exceptions to centuries of Catholic rules, part of a drive in the Catholic church to reunite with some branches of Anglicanism. They live with special restrictions, including that they cannot become bishops. They also cannot remarry if their wives die, and must spend the rest of their priestly lives as celibates." (END OF ARTICLE QUOTATION)

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

These Gospel readings demand a season of epiphanies if one emphasizes the divinity of Christ. The six weeks of the Season of Epiphany is why we are keeping the Gold color out and not going to Green; this is not "Ordinary Time." Though the name is from the use of ordinal numbers for this season, it has been practiced as a less important time. At Ray Of Hope Church, we take these six weeks to focus on the readings showing us God proving who the Beloved Son is, **not for Jesus but for us**, you and me. This is all done so we can hear and respond.

Revelation and Response; R&R.

If time permits, go back to the readings.

**TWO RESOURCES FOR THIS WEEK.**

# Historical Context: Facts about the Slave Trade and Slavery

by Steven Mintz

**Quotation from this source:** DOMESTIC SLAVE TRADE

The domestic slave trade in the US distributed the African American population throughout the South in a migration that greatly surpassed the Atlantic Slave Trade to North America.

Though Congress outlawed the African slave trade in 1808, domestic slave trade flourished, and the enslaved population in the US nearly tripled over the next fifty years.

The domestic trade continued into the 1860s and displaced approximately 1.2 million men, women, and children, the vast majority of whom were born in America. (<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/teacher-resources/historical-context-facts-about-slave-trade-and-slavery#:~:text=Over%20the%20period%20of%20the,all%20long%2Ddistance%20global%20migrations.> )

# Eldorado: Everything the Nazis Hate - 2023 - Netflix Documentary Trailer (English Subtitles)

FROM WIKIPEDIA: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eldorado:\\_Everything\\_the\\_Nazis\\_Hate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eldorado:_Everything_the_Nazis_Hate)

**Eldorado: Everything the Nazis Hate** is a 2023 [documentary film](#) directed by [Benjamin Cantu](#).<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

Synopsis<sup>[edit]</sup>

The film is about the lives of [LGBT](#) people in the [Weimar Republic](#) and during the reign of [Nazi Germany](#). The documentary film explores the titular [Eldorado](#), a queer night club in [Berlin](#). The film discusses queer figures in [Germany](#) during the 1920s and 1930s, such as [Ernst Röhm](#), [Magnus Hirschfeld](#), [Gottfried von Cramm](#), [Manasse Herbst](#), Charlotte Charlaque, and [Toni Ebel](#).<sup>[3]</sup> The film includes interviews with [Walter Arlen](#), who grew up as a young gay Jew in [Interwar Austria](#),<sup>[5]</sup> and discusses the use of [Paragraph 175](#) in Weimar Germany, in Nazi Germany and, in narrative [closing credits](#), in post-War [West Germany](#).

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





\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**+ The Prayers of the People**

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

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


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

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader - 5:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry.

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



may use the QRCode  or press control + click or tap on this link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box

next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

**Offertory Song: Bless His Holy Name.** Words and Music by Andraé Crouch  
**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

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.

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### **+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit**

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

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

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

**Leader:** You may relax your arms and hands.

**+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist**

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



**The Reception of Holy Communion**

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

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

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

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

## **+ The Lord's Prayer**

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

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



## + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Together, we pray:

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

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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## + Sign Of Peace

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

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

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

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**NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)**

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**New Revised Standard Version – 1989**

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

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

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

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

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

**\*\* Additional 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.

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

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](mailto: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 4, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Week 5 Black History Month Wk 1

February 6, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #2** The Statement of Faith of Ray Of Hope COOLJC during Bible Enrichment see <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm>  
Prologue to the Statement of Faith see <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Prologue%202014.pdf>

February 7, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

February 8, Thursday, 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 11, Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Week 6 Black History Month Wk 2

February 13, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #3** Worship and Common Threads

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

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

February 20, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #4** Worship and Common Threads

February 21, Wednesday 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 27, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. **Inquiries Class #5** Polity and Practice (an explanation of the By-Laws and operational procedures to govern Church administration).

February 28, Wednesday 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

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

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

**ALL:** And also with you!

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

**ALL:** Amen

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

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

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

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

**CLOSING SONG: Walking Up The King's Highway** Words and Music Mary E. Gardner | Thomas A. Dorsey © Words: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI Song # 78385 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.





## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

