



**Ray Of Hope
Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

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

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

Everyone is invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as they feel comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is March 12, 2023, Women's History Month Wk. 2

Lent Week 3, Year A

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

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

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

Revised Common Lectionary Lent WK 3 Yr. A

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 64

Psalm: Psalm 95 selected verses - responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 155

Gospel: John 4:5-15, 19B-26, 39A, 40-42 NRSV 2ND Testament page 94

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of ___ in the State of __. We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We welcome our visitors and guests here in the Chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

In this Church, each person decides to participate in some or all the

parts of the worship event as they feel comfortable. We also assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You are not required to be a member here or in any church to receive Holy Communion with us today. We celebrate the Lord's open table. Viewers at home, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare for the Holy Communion portion; 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: The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for today are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Skype, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. Finally, on our website, find the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.

This morning, Ed Askins will play a piano prelude for our service. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and not visit during the music. Thank you.

Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "As The Deer" Words and Music Martin Nystrom © 1984 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1431 *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com* Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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

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



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

Leader – 2: Thank you for spending time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

Leader -1: Glorify God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. **While we are still observing COVID safety protocols, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: 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: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: We come here to pray. Each person is an equal and active partner in all we do in the next 90 minutes. At Ray Of Hope, the worship event is not an observer's activity where people come to hear some good music and then hear a message. Instead, each person's primary responsibility is to actively pray during each section of the "service." The definition of the word liturgy is the prayer-work of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving each person present and God.

Today is the second Sunday of Women's History Month.

(<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>)

Today is also the third Sunday of the Season of Lent. The readings for the first two Sundays of Lent covered, The First and Second Dispensations (Innocence and Conscience. Last Sunday, the readings were in the Fourth Dispensation, Promise, with Abraham being the primary figure. Today the readings are in the Fifth Dispensation, The Law, with Moses being the prominent figure. As a reminder, the Bible does not tell the length of either dispensation. One example is the period of innocence could have been thousands of years, even long enough to build the other nations from which Cain asks God to protect him.

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

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

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

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, "woke" is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive

orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com:

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

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

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information. Right Click Here:

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

Our prayers for Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria will be at the Prayers of the People this morning. We intentionally hold these and so many other people in our thoughts as we progress through this worship event.

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

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: Turn To Me (G&P 342) Words and Music John B. Foley, S.J.

Text: Based on Isaiah 45:22–23; 51:12, 4, 6. Text and music © 1975, John B. Foley, S.J. and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song #81205 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now we celebrate our faith, our trust, in the promise of the "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life by lighting our Candle Of Hope.

Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

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

Leader -2: While lighting the Candle of Hope, we read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS. Ray Of Hope Church started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Unfortunately, some churches, religions, and countries continue to reject sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Looking up at the screen, we see the panel names on Block # 66

- Dignity - Houston (1)
- Randy Ruhlman (1)
- David Burkhart (2)
 - Ron C. (3)
 - Larry Long (4)
 - Rusty Cregg (5)
 - John Standard (6)
 - Bruce (7)
 - Robert Durkin (8)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we remember the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. We pray for their families as they remember their loved ones. 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

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

and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

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

SECOND SONG: *As The Deer* Words and Music by Martin Nystrum

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WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting one another, and praising God in song, we prepare our hearts to accept the renewal offered when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. In silent prayer, take this time to reflect on our relationships with others and with God. Christ is present and listening to receive the sins we are about to confess in silence. He promises to forgive our sins immediately.
(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

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

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

God continues the loving act of creating the Human Race. But, unfortunately, some religions, governments, and societies refuse to give women equal opportunity; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Through the ministry of Christ, we should participate in promoting the equal place of women and girls in the World; Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L-4: We pray that pastors and congregations lead the way to correcting all forms of discrimination; Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

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

ALL: Amen.

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

Spoken:

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

**Only Holy God, we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

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

receive our prayer.

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

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

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: O Loving, Eternal, and Creating God, lead us to the truth in your Word. Through your Word, cause action and change in our lives. We pray that the Word of God transforms and equips us to serve you faithfully.

ALL: AMEN.

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

The first reading is in Book of Exodus, chapter 17, verses 1-7. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 64. Here begins the reading:

Water from the Rock

17 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to

drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah,^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [17.7](#) That is, *test*
- b. [17.7](#) That is, *quarrel*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+17%3A1-7&version=NRSVUE>)

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+ Psalm

The Psalm today is number 95, with a responsorial verse. The response today is "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts."

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to the LORD.

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For this is our God,
and we are the people God shepherds,
the flock God guides.

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice:
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
Where your ancestors tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

+ Second Reading

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

The second reading is in the Letter to the Romans, chapter 5, verses 1-11. Again, this is the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 155 in the second testament. Here begins the reading:

Results of Justification

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have obtained access^[b] to this grace in which we stand, and we^[c] boast in our hope

of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we^[d] also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.^[e] ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [5.1](#) Other ancient authorities read *let us*
- b. [5.2](#) Other ancient authorities add *by faith*
- c. [5.2](#) Or *let us*
- d. [5.3](#) Or *let us*
- e. [5.9](#) Gk *the wrath*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5%3A1-11&version=NRSVUE>)

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+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is John, chapter 4, verses 5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 93 in the second testament.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.
ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to John.
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.

⁵ Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew,

ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^[a] ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew **the gift of God** and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[b] you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but **those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.**" ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[c] give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir,^[d] I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you^[e] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you^[f] will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You^[g] worship what you^[h] do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But **the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,** for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ **God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.**" ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "**I am he,^[i] the one who is speaking to you.**"

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Read full chapter

Footnotes

- a. 4.9 Other ancient authorities lack this sentence
- b. 4.11 Or *Lord*
- c. 4.15 Or *Lord*
- d. 4.19 Or *Lord*
- e. 4.20 The Greek word for *you* is plural
- f. 4.21 The Greek word for *you* is plural
- g. 4.22 The Greek word for *you* is plural
- h. 4.22 The Greek word for *you* is plural
- i. 4.26 Gk *I am*
- j. 4.29 Or *the Christ*
- k. 4.36 Or . . . *the fields are already ripe for harvesting. The reaper is receiving*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A5-42&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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds 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 LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQISA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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



The prices of candles have increased so we can no longer afford to keep using them the way we have. So I promised the Council that I would work on fabricating a way to make electric candle fixtures that closely resemble the candles we are used to seeing. Many years ago, perhaps in 2003, Doug Hall and I made the Advent Wreath with four electric candles. The first new one is finished. It took close to fifteen hours to design and make. Many thanks to Kaiden for working with me, from deciding on the parts to purchasing them, staying up very late nights, and helping to make this first candle.

Last week I mentioned we had progressed through two of eight or nine dispensations in the Bible. What is a "dispensation" in Dispensational Theology? The primary source I will use for this is our Scofield, III Reference Bible, with the Holy Bible, New King James Version © 2002 by Oxford University Press, Inc., page 4; Summary: Dispensations of the Bible. "A dispensation is a period during which man is tested in respect to his obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God. Three important concepts are implied in this definition:

- (1) a *deposit* of divine revelation concerning God's will, embodying what God requires of man as to his conduct;
- (2) man's *stewardship* of this divine revelation, in which he is responsible to obey it; and
- (3) a *time-period*, often called an "age," during which this divine revelation is dominant in the testing of man's obedience to God." (end of quote from page 4)

There is another very good summary on page 22 titled: "Divine Dealing With The Human Race."

The summary for the Dispensation of Promise, the fourth dispensation, we discussed last week is on page 23.

The summary for the fifth one, the Dispensation of Law is on page 113.

We mentioned the Covenant as another way to outline the Bible and there are two excellent summaries on pages 6 and 1674.

We use these external sources so the attendees at Ray Of Hope Church (LGBTQSI+) may have confidence we are not making up a Theology as we go along.

There are many themes in today's readings. Any one particular one I choose to talk about is leaving many others on the sidelines. However, choose I must.

=====

HOLY SPIRIT IS THE GIFT OF GOD referred to in these readings.

Five Verses where the Holy Spirit is referred to as Water:

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on those who are thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

John 4:14 ".. but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give them will never thirst. But the the water I shall give them will become in them a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 7:37-39 On the last day, that great day of the feast, (vs. 2 Feast of Tabernalces) Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink. Those who believe in Me, as Scripture has said, out of His (Christ's) heart will flow rivers of living water." But Jesus spoke concerning the Holy Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

In the prayers for the Feast of Tabernacles found in the Book of Nehemiah there are several references where the priests remembered God's provision for them when Moses struck the rock and God gave the water. (Exodus 17:6) "You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them." (Neh 9:15)

FLOWING WATERS CONNECTED to FEAST OF TABERNACLES before.

AND IN 1 Corinthians 10:4 Paul explained it was always from Christ that the water sprung: "For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ." Jesus clearly was identifying Himself in Exodus, in the Feast of Tabernacles, and in the future of HIS CHURCH THAT HE WOULD BUILD and He would provide the HOLY SPIRIT flowing out of his own HEART.

1 Corinthians 12:13 "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit." (NKJV)

Matt 16:18 and upon this rock I will build my church. Christ and out of his heart would flow the Holy Spirit to ANYONE

<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/holy-spirit-as-living-water-st-cyril-of-jerusalem/>

This wonderful meditation on the Holy Spirit as living water, so called by Jesus in his conversation with the Samaritan woman, is taken from a catechetical instruction by St. Cyril of Jerusalem who was bishop of Jerusalem around the year 360 AD.

The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of living water, welling up into eternal life. This is a new kind of water, a living, leaping water, welling up for those who are worthy. But why did Christ call the grace of the Spirit water? Because all things are dependent on water; plants and animals have their origin in water. Water comes down from heaven as rain, and although it is always the same in itself, it produces many different effects, one in the palm tree, another in the vine, and so on throughout the whole of creation. It does not come down, now as one thing, now as another, but while remaining essentially the same, it adapts itself to the needs of every creature that receives it.

In the same way the Holy Spirit, whose nature is always the same, simple and indivisible, apportions grace to each man as he wills. Like a dry tree which puts forth shoots when watered, the soul bears the fruit of holiness when repentance has made it worthy of receiving the Holy Spirit. Although the Spirit never changes, the effects of his action, by the will of God and in the name of Christ, are both many and marvelous. The Spirit makes one man a teacher of divine

truth, inspires another to prophesy, gives another the power of casting out devils, enables another to interpret holy Scripture. The Spirit strengthens one man's self-control, shows another how to help the poor, teaches another to fast and lead a life of asceticism, makes another oblivious to the needs of the body, trains another for martyrdom. His action is different in different people, but the Spirit himself is always the same. In each person, Scripture says, the Spirit reveals his presence in a particular way for the common good.

The Spirit comes gently and makes himself known by his fragrance. He is not felt as a burden, for he is light, very light. Rays of light and knowledge stream before him as he approaches. The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend and protector to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen, to console. The Spirit comes to enlighten the mind first of the one who receives him, and then, through him, the minds of others as well.

As light strikes the eyes of a man who comes out of darkness into the sunshine and enables him to see clearly things he could not discern before, so light floods the soul of the man counted worthy of receiving the Holy Spirit and enables him to see things beyond the range of human vision, things hitherto undreamed of.

This meditation on the Holy Spirit as living water from the Catechetical Oration of St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Cat. 16 De Spiritu Sancto 1, 11-12, 16: PG 33, 931-935, 939-942) is used in the Roman Liturgy's office of Readings for Monday of the 7th week of Easter, as a reflection to prepare us for the great Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was born just about the time the Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire (313 AD) and became bishop of the Holy City of David about 349AD. St. Cyril was banished from his Jerusalem see a total of three times for his bold proclamation of faith in Christ's full divinity during a time when many bishops and emperors favored various forms of the Arian heresy.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem is one of the most important sources we have for how the church celebrated the liturgy and sacraments during the first few decades after the legalization of Christianity. In his famous 24 lectures commonly known

as the Jerusalem Catecheses, Saint Cyril instructs new Christians in the days immediately before and after their initiation into the life of the Church at the Easter Vigil. In these catechetical instructions, which are the only documents that survive by St. Cyril, we find very strong insistence on the value and efficacy of the sacrament of baptism as well as heavy emphasis on the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist. St. Cyril of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the Early Church Fathers and is also reckoned among the number of the Doctors of the Catholic Church. St. Cyril of Jerusalem died about 386 AD, shortly after the First Council of Constantinople which completed the Creed often known as the Nicene Creed. (bio by Dr. Italy)

=====

So if the Holy Spirit is our source of water, for refreshment and power to do the Lord's work, we should draw our inspiration for all of our ideas.

How do you know you are at a

Restaurant –

Music Store –

Clothing Store –

Library –

Hospital –

School –

Art Museum –

Fast Food –

Church –

How have we improved our presentation?

paperless programs and meetings, improved broadcast capabilities, updating our Music choices, secured copyright licenses for print and broadcast, making better use of computers to increase the abilities to webcast. what else?

On the building we recently updated the electric system. Our utilities are more expensive than ever before. Rather than pay out more money for candles, we are making them.

Painted the walls, took out the shag rug, painted the floors, painted the entrance way, working on cement on foundation painted doors.

What else comes to mind?

=====SOCIAL PIECE=====

Center for Human Rights in Iran February 22, 2023

[Iran: Scores Blinded as Security Forces Aim Guns at Protesters' Eyes](#)

Protesters: "We Aren't Afraid of the Darkness"

"In their violent drive to crush the anti-state protests that have roiled Iran over the last five months, Islamic Republic security forces have shot scores of young protesters directly in the eyes, resulting in the loss of sight in one or both eyes in numerous individuals.

So far, 26 people (names below) have made their visual-impairment public, while many others have chosen to remain silent out of fear of state reprisals, the Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) has learned.

Many protesters fear treatment in hospitals, which are patrolled by security forces, and there have also been consistent [reports](#) for months that wounded protesters have been denied treatment or arrested after treatment. [Doctors tending to the wounded](#) have also been arrested by Islamic Republic security forces."

MARCH 10, 2023

[Teachers Across Iran Protest Government's Inaction on School Gas Attacks](#)

Government Dithers While Thousands of Schoolgirls Sickened

"Amid ongoing [poison gas attacks reported at girls' schools](#) in dozens of cities in Iran, the [Coordinating Council of the Iranian Teachers Trade Association](#) (CCITTA) [held](#) nationwide protests in Iran on March 7, 2023, demanding protection for children's access to education.

"The authorities and perpetrators involved in these incidents must know that students are the teachers' red line," warned the teachers' association in its call for protests. A final [resolution](#) was read aloud at the protests."

=====



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

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

Leader – 4: We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war anywhere in the World, especially in Ukraine, where war has raged on for 381 days. So, again we pray and ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: Lord, we pray that your comfort and peace be with the families who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Kaci Corbin and her daughters Alexis and Aliyah, as Kaci has taken up residency in your heavenly kingdom. We pray to the Lord;

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 2: We pray for people we know who need healing, support, and encouragement as they go through stages of healing and recovery. We especially pray for people fighting cancer, including Heather's mother, Henrietta Bower, Sue Lemak, Portia Rawles, Bernell Hooker, our Ray Of Hope members Cheryl Allen and April Struhm, and others we are thinking of right now. To this list, we add those in need of general healing, including Ed Askins, Phillpa Askins, and who else????_____. We also pray for everyone in our Congregation who has requested our prayers. With all these people in mind, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide the doctors, medical teams, and scientists as we seek healing and wholeness. Finally, we thank God for each day of life we have together. We trust in God's presence today and always; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end->

Leader – 2: We ask for your blessing on people suffering from the effects of climate change, especially the loss of food, clothing, heat, water, and shelter. We pray the leaders of the World will respond to this emergency with awareness, empathy, compassion, and plans for the short- and long-term. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

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

Lisa: Together we give all these silent prayers, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen



(Visit our moving
prayers page [Right
Click Here.](#))

**+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion
Altar/tables.**

****** Leader:** At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has real expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, and so on. A church is a private organization in the United States. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants.

There are many convenient ways to make your donation. Use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event in the Chapel. There are donation envelopes available on the hospitality table by the door.

Internet participants may use the [PayPal link](#) in your bulletin, or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. Additionally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

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

In the chapel use the individual serving communion kit, shake it gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday,

December 13, 2020.*))

SONG: He Is Exalted words and music by Twila Paris

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Leader -2: (* Improve a prayer over the offering, giving thanks and praise.*) (When your prayer is complete please say:) " Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology."

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Kaiden: Please gently hold the communion kit in your hands for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

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

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the

Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(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; the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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

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

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

Cheryl: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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



The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

Pastor: Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral

Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion.
This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a
physical reception. Together...

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

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

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

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+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

SPECIAL MUSIC Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: "I Love The Lord"

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

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

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

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

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

Ash Wednesday February 22 Attendance: 11

General Offering for the week of February 26 \$468.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 12

General Offering for the week of March 5 \$1,418.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

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

Thank you to April Struhm for a \$200 donation toward the 2023 Pastor Self-Employment Tax line in the budget made this week.

Many thanks to Ed Askins for the hours spent on repairing the interior walls and ceilings in the monastery. Visit the refinished kitchen, restroom, Fraiser Room, and the Chapel Entranceway, before leaving today.

Anonymous Gift for the Liability Insurance: \$751.75. We are very grateful. Thank you.

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

Copyright Information

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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

March 14, Tuesday Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m. (Brother turns 64. What a great birthday present you could give by attending Bible Enrichment Tuesday.)

Sunday, March 19 **Laetare Sunday, Rose Sunday** in Lent, 4th Sunday of Lent, celebration day.

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

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

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

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

No service on Sunday, April 9.

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We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: Amen

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

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

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

SONG: SHINE JESUS, SHINE Words and Music by Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 30426 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser: <https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud, and a larger project day for removal of carpet and replacement with new carpet. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

***** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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

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



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.
We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.
WE ARE YOU!
THIS is the Church where YOU belong.
Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

=====**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**=====

Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.
Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

=====**WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?**=====

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church, to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope

Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

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

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot

receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told "no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/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)