



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 Thirty-eighth year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:10,33)

April Struhm, Moderator

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

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

March 30, 2024, The Great Vigil of the Resurrection – Year B

The Rite of Membership for Ian McLaughlin

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."



Liturgy Of Gathering And Call To Worship

Welcome: Kaiden Rae Benedict: Everyone is welcome to the continuation of our celebration of Holy Week, "the week that changed the world." Tonight, we celebrate the Great Vigil of the Resurrection of Our Lord. We invite you to participate in all parts of the worship as you feel comfortable. To prepare for this evening, you may want to bring to your table:

- 1) a taper or votive candle for each person at the service,
- 2) a second special candle – a pillar candle or one in a glass of you have it,

- 3) a piece of bread or cracker or matzah,
- 4) a cup and some grape juice or wine,
- 5) a small cup of water and some side napkins
- 6) a small bowl of water,
- 7) a small branch to sprinkle your water,
- 8) some side napkins.

We will use all of these items during the worship tonight. We will pause a few moments now so all our viewers at home may gather these items. When you hear the chimes ring we will start the service.

+ Chimes Ring

Welcome continued: Christina McLaughlin: You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans 15: 7 we are commanded to:

ALL: "*Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God*" Romans 15:7



The Service Of Light

Lisa Frost: The first part of the Great Vigil centers around fire and light, a visible sign of Christ, who proclaimed Himself the Light of the World, and who has baptized us in the fire of the Holy Spirit as He promised. Jesus also declared we are the Light of the World in Matthew 5:14 and then sent us out to be that Light in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the fire and passion of this divine love, we are called to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. So now we celebrate light and fire, the True Light, and the source of the Fire of our Divine Love, our Christ.

Pastor Benedict: Dear friends in Christ,

+ **Blessing Of The Fire** * * * * EPICLESIS* * * *

ALL: O Loving, Only One and Eternal TRUE God, who was, who is, and lives forevermore; with grateful hearts, we share in the light of your glory through your Only Begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus

the Only and True Christ, the light of the World.

We ask you to make this new fire holy by the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In flame us with new hope. Holy Spirit, purify our minds by this Resurrection celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light without the loss of any of your people.

We humbly ask these things and we make these prayers in Your name oh God, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

+ Dedication Of The Candle Of Hope

Veronica Floyd: Now we dedicate the Resurrection Candle Of Hope for another year of ministry. This candle stands in the midst of our worship assembly as a constant reminder of our eternal destiny in the fullness of the resurrection when all will be made one in God. Then there will be a new Heavens, Earth, and Life for all created beings. Friends here is another * * EPICLESIS * * as we make this prayer of blessing and dedication together.

ALL: O God, we dedicate this candle as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of all people in the fullness of time. By the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, bless and make holy this candle that proclaims: Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to Christ and all the ages. To Christ be glory and power through every age forever. Amen.

Ian McLaughlin: By His holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us, and keep us, today and always. Amen.
Together we proclaim;

ALL: Light of Christ, continue to rise in glory, dispel the darkness of the World, cleanse the desires of our hearts, and cleanse the thoughts of our minds so that we may love and serve God more perfectly now and always. Amen.

LIGHT THE CANDLES:

"Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light, shine in your church gathered today." (three times)

"You are Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness, my God, that is who you are."

"That is who you are."

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Veronica Floyd: Please extinguish your taper candles at this time. Dear friends in Christ, we have begun our solemn Vigil. It is time to listen attentively as we remember the wonderful works of God. Tonight, we review how God has saved the people throughout the story of humanity on Earth, and how God sent the Only Begotten Son to be our Redeemer in the fullness of time.

Through this celebration tonight, may God bring the saving work God has begun in us to perfection.



Liturgy Of The Word

Lisa Frost: The first reading is a meditation and embellishment of Genesis Chapter 1:1, 26-31a. Br. Benedict composed this meditation and he takes sole responsibility for the theology presented here. Be comfortable and

meditate on the images as I read this narration.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Yes, as a single act of love, God gave and moved into reality the Universe with all of its star systems, all of its galaxies, moons, and planets coming and going in all directions of an ever-living, ever becoming, and evolving Creation. Truly there is God's living presence everywhere throughout this Universe and it all started with one act of Divine Love.

After a period of time not disclosed in our Scriptures, after the time described by St. Peter in Chapter 3, verses 5,6,and 7 as "the world that then existed" God set out to refashion and reorder anew the previously fallen world system that had perished under God's Divine Judgment. Jesus witnessed this when He said: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven," as recorded in Luke 10:18. This World is affectionately known as the Pre-Adamite, Pre-Adamic World, and other names.

In the acts of restoring the Earth, God said: "Let us create a new humanity, the new human race in our own image, after our very likeness. We intend to give to humanity the restored Earth and We intend to bring from this humanity our Own Self in human form to live and reign and rule over this restored and new creation.

And We commission our created humanity to take care of, to cherish, and in this way to have custodial parental divine charge over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, yes over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

So God did as stated in these intentions and God created the human race in the very likeness and image of God; in the image of God's own Divine Being; both male and female, God created our human race. We are made out of the very clay, the very soil and dust of this planet. Having made us out of the dirt, the clay, the dust, and elements of this planet, God breathed God's own breath into our clay physical bodies. With the very breath of God within our earthen bodies, we are like earthen vessels, earthen jars, clay pottery and we hold and have the breath of life, the very presence of God within us. We shall return to the dust of the Earth at our last breath until the divinely appointed time when we are resurrected by the all-powerful and glorious; "glory" of God in Christ, Jesus, the Resurrection, and the Life. Stop and consider, stop and right now look around at each person in this holy place of worship and realize, we are that same human race, the very creation of God in God's own image.

God blessed us, and gave us commandments, saying:

"Be fertile and multiply; replenish the earth and take care of it, take custodial care of my gift to you, this beautiful Planet Earth."

Additionally God also said to us, the human race:

"See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food."

And so it happened. God provided for every living thing not only for that age, but for all ages going forward so that we would have life and as Jesus said, we would have it more abundantly.

God looked at everything created out of love, out of a self extension of God's own creating self, and found it very good. God has given us this beautiful place the planet we call Earth. The Earth is a gift and will never come to a full end according to the Sacred Scriptures, the Holy Bible, the very Word Of God.

Reader: This is a meditation and explanation of the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Song: I Worship You Almighty God. Ntbk #4

Reader: **Veronica Floyd:** The second reading is in the book of Isaiah Chapter 55:1-11 with John 4:13-14 and John 7:38-39.

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

We pause here and remember our Creating God has chosen water to sustain us, to refresh the earth, and Jesus gives us Himself as the Living Water. Jesus said to the woman at the well of Jacob: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it was who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.'... Whoever drinks of the natural water of the well will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst. The water that I shall give will become a fountain of water springing up to everlasting life." (John 4:13-14)

And in John Chapter 7, in verses 37 – 39 we hear the voice of Jesus saying: "If anyone thirsts, let them come to Me and drink. Those who believe in Me, as Scripture has said, out of their heart will flow rivers of living water." John, the Beloved Disciple then writes: Jesus was

speaking concerning the Holy Spirit, whom those believing in Jesus would receive: "for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

So, now, lets go back to this universal prophecy in Isaiah inviting the whole human race to the Christ of God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Living Water.

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!

You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.

Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,
the benefits assured to David.
As I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of nations,
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
because of the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my Word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my Word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Ian McLaughlin: The third reading is in the book of Acts, the Day Of Pentecost when God the Holy Spirit used the WIND and the FIRE to refresh

our covenant relationship and give birth to the Church Of Jesus Christ. John said the living water was the Holy Spirit that had not yet been given. In this reading, we hear the testimony of the giving of the Holy Spirit, the Living Water of Christ, and the start of the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Acts 2:1-8 and 11-21

Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Crowd's Response

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

Michael: Now we begin at verse 11

¹¹ we hear them speaking in our own languages of the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" ¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Peter's Sermon

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not

drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day.

¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days;

And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above

And signs in the earth beneath:

Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness,

And the moon into blood,

Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

²¹ And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD

Shall be saved.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC TBA

Reader: **Lisa Frost:** The fourth reading is in the book of Romans 6:3-11

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead

by the glory of God,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with Christ through a death like His, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.

Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Response: Kaiden Benedict: Our responsorial tonight is Psalm 99 and the response is: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

¹ The Lord is King;

let the people tremble;

The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim;

let the earth shake.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

² The Lord is great in Zion;

and is high above all peoples.

³ Let them confess God's Name, which is great and awesome;
for God alone is the Holy One.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

⁴ "O mighty King, lover of justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God

and fall down before God's footstool;

For God Alone is the Holy One.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

⁶ Moses and Aaron are among God's priests,

and Samuel among those who call upon the Name of The Lord,

they called upon the Lord, and were answered.

⁷ God spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept God's testimonies and decrees given to them.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

⁸ "O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them,

yet punished them for their evil deeds."

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God

and worship God upon this holy hill;

for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

R: The Lord is My King forever and ever.

+ The Holy Gospel of the Resurrection+

Reader: We sing an acclamation before and one after

3-30-24 Vigil of the Resurrection, Year B Page 14 of 38
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 on page 90 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 1 through 12.

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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.**

At daybreak on the first day of the week
the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus
took the spices they had prepared

and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered,

they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.

They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them,

"Why do you seek the living one among the dead?

He is not here, but he has been raised.

Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee,
that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners
and be crucified, and rise on the third day."

And they remembered his words.

Then they returned from the tomb
and announced all these things to the eleven
and to all the others.

The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother
of James;

the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles,
but their story seemed like nonsense
and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb,
bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone;
then he went home amazed at what had happened.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Benedict: Together we once again make our proclamation of faith:
Christ Our Lord is risen from the dead.

ALL: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gloria is sung.

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

2. = 6/8 *Refrain*

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

Verses 1

You are the One God, Sov-er-ign 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 Jennifer...*

$\frac{3}{8} = \frac{6}{8}$ *Refrain* $\frac{1}{2} \text{ or } \frac{1}{4}$

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 thank- and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give You thanks and praise

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)

$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{6}{8}$ Refrain 1/21/24

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 thank- and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
 We give You thanks and praise

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 spi-rits in the HO-ly uni-ty of

(TO REFRAIN.)
 © 7/25/17 1/24 Gaudes! Liturgical Arts *Rubén Beras*

$\frac{2}{4} = \frac{6}{8}$ *Refrain* $\frac{1}{2} \text{ } \frac{21}{24}$

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 thank- and praise. Al-le-lu-ia.
We give you thanks and praise

The Gloria, Pg 3

Verse 4: Amen

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 praise

ALL: PRAISE!

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 - 4/1/24
 Gaudete! Liturgy
 Obit Bishop Johnson

+ Sermon +

SPECIAL MUSIC Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: **"Was It A Morning Like This"** Words and Music by Jim Croegaert © 1978 Heart Of The Matter Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song# 68522 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



Liturgy Of Response to the Word Of God

+ The Rite / Sacrament of Membership.

Today, we celebrate the sacrament of Membership with Ian McLaughlin. Ian has requested to come alongside us in this testimony for Christ. We are very grateful, and we say thank you to God, to Our Lord and the Holy Spirit, to Christina and to Ian.

Pastor: April, Kaiden, Veronica, Ed, and I participated in the eight sessions of the Inquiries Class with Ian, and we all agree that Ian is an excellent candidate for Membership in Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. The Council has also accepted Ian for Membership.

Ian, if you are prepared to make your promises to Christ and this Church's Members and Friends, please step forward and stand with us at the Communion Table, the Altar.

Ian, do you desire to become a Member of this Congregation?

Ian answers.

Veronica Floyd, Council Member, Clerk: According to our By-Laws, section 3.03 it is agreeing to support the Statement of Purpose that is required for Membership. Ian will be asked the questions; however, this is a perfect time for each Member present to silently renew your commitment to these goals we stated when we joined this Church.

Pastor: Ian, we invite you to join us in these promises we are living out:
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,

April Struhm, Council Member and Moderator: Will you join us in this goal, Ian?

Ian: I will, with God's help.

Christina McLaughlin, Council Member: Ian, at Ray Of Hope Church we

- **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,

April Struhm, Council Member and Moderator: Will you join us in this goal, Ian?

Ian: I will, with God's help.

Ed Askins, Council Member and Treasurer: Ian, at Ray Of Hope Church we

- **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,

April Struhm, Council Member and Moderator: Will you join us in this goal, Ian?

Ian: I will, with God's help.

Kaiden Rae Benedict, Member: Ian, we promise to put our religion into action in ways that will

- **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,

April Struhm, Council Member and Moderator: Will you join us in this goal, Ian?

Ian: I will, with God's help.

Pastor: Finally, Ian, we promise to

- **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.

April Struhm, Council Member and Moderator: Will you join us in this goal, Ian?

Ian: I will, with God's help.

Pastor: Please sign the Statement Of Purpose.

Veronica Floyd, Clerk: Members of Ray Of Hope Church, please rise as you are able or raise your hand for all to see. Now, I ask the Members present, having renewed your own promises silently and heard the new promises made today, will you assure Ian, our new Member of your support, prayers, and holy friendship?

Members: We will, with God's help.

Veronica Floyd, Clerk: Congratulations, Ian and welcome to Membership.

+ Statement of Faith, Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Leader: The first part of our service was begun with fire. Now we begin the second part of our service with water. We have heard the Revelation of the Light of God, all of Creation, and the Fire of divine love in the Word, now we Respond with the renewal of our commitment in the waters of Baptism. ** If you are at home you may stop and bring a small bowl of water to the table at this time, and a branch if you want to sprinkle it or you may touch it when it is time. ***(Wait to see if anyone goes to get water ready.)*** At this time we ask the Holy Spirit to make this water Holy for God's action in our lives, just as we asked the Holy Spirit to make the fire Holy at the start of our worship tonight.

PASTOR BENEDICT: We pray together:

ALL: O Loving God we ask your Holy Spirit to come into this water and make it Holy as we set this water aside to renew our Baptism. Give to us the Holy Spirit as Living Water to well up from within us forever as we rededicate our lives and our will to your service, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Leader: At this time we invite anyone who wishes to renew your statement of faith and rededicate your life to Christ to rise as you are able and answer the three sections of the Apostles' Creed. After each question please respond by saying aloud the text that is in bold print. We begin.

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

PASTOR BENEDICT: Do you believe in God?

**I believe in the One Eternal, Loving, Life-Giving,
Forgiving, Good, and Gracious God,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

PASTOR BENEDICT: What do you understand and testify to concerning Jesus, born in Bethlehem, the Christ of God?

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
our Lord and Saviour.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.**

**Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead.**

PASTOR BENEDICT: Do you proclaim the Holy Spirit as God and the power of God in the Church of Christ?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is equal with God and the
Son.**

**I believe in the one, holy, Christian Church, the Body of
Jesus Christ that is universal/catholic, and apostolic.**

**I believe in the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen**

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

PASTOR BENEDICT: Now we sprinkle the water on each other as a reminder of our baptism into Christ.

+ Silent Prayers of Intercession+

Preparation of Holy Communion Tables at Home.

+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion

Altar/tables.

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

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

At this time, we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Internet viewers, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow under leader two.

We still use individual communion kits in the Chapel as part of our COVID safety protocol.

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, 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.*)

(* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set. A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. *)

SONG: ALLELUIA

Leader -2: (* **Improvise 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."

(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

Kaiden: Please gently hold the communion kit 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

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

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Lisa Frost: 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

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

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+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

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](#).

COMMUNION SONG: I Am The Bread Of Life. Words and Music by Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b.1927 Contributors: Suzanne Toolan Tune: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Based on John 6 and 11; © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Onelicense Song # 00044 Lead Me, Guide Me 2nd Edition 755 Used with permission. Onlicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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General Offering for the week of March 3 \$1490.00 Attendance 11 Sunday; Wednesday, March 6, Attendance 5

General Offering for the week of March 10 \$30.00 Attendance 7 Sunday; Wednesday, March 13, Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of March 17 \$30.00 Attendance 8 Sunday; Wednesday, March 13, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of March 24 \$760.00 Holy Thursdaury March 28 special offering for Liturgical Supplies: \$30.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8 Sunday; Holy Thursday Attendance 6, Good Friday Attendance 13

****Special Gifts****On March 25 we received a special gift from Matthew and Carol Papkov of Endicott, NY. Matt is a friend of April Struhm. Matt and Carol have participated on the Internet. We thank them both for their generous donation.

We are grateful for these gifts received this week.

****Additional Special Gifts****We received a letter dated March 6, 2024 from The Winston-Salem Foundation, North Carolina, signed by Shelia Virgil, Vice President, Development & Donor Services. In part, the letter reads as follows: "On the advice of Dr. Elwood Robinson, The Winston-Salem Foundation has awarded Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ a grant of \$500.00 from .. the.. Novant Community Benefit Fund....on February 28, 2024...please note the advisor's preferred designation is as follows: general support in honor of my sister-in-law Veronica Floyd."

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

***** <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/>
Christians Against Christian Nationalism

HOLY WEEK, 2024

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024, 7:45 p.m.- 9:15 p.m. **Celebrating The Vigil Of The Resurrection Of Christ.** Rite of Membership: Ian McLaughlin. *This is our "Easter Service."

* * No worship on Sunday morning, March 31, 2024 * *

** April 1, Monday, no By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

April 2, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment.

April 3, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.



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)

Pastor: We go forth in peace and love to serve 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: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today G&P #37

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

Bible Enrichment- Tuesday 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery.
Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15
PM. [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 web site;
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. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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*.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

Other _____



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 on line:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtgs

—————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)