



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

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

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

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

Today is March 5, 2023 Women's History Month Wk. 1

Lent Week 2, 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 2 Yr. A

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 10

Psalm: Psalm 121 with responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 154

Gospel: John 3:1-17 NRSV 2ND Testament page 93

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

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

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

In this Church, you decide to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as you 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. 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. "Surround Me" Words and Music by Clint Brown. © 1996 Curb Dayspring Music (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.) CCLI Song # 931965. 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 choosing to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

Leader -1: Glorify God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. **During COVID, 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, we are here as active participants in every part of the worship event. The primary responsibility is to actively pray during each portion 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 God. The people are actively praying and serving each person present, and God.

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

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

Today is the Sunday closest to March 7, the 58th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

[Statement by President Biden on the Anniversary of Bloody Sunday](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/06/statement-by-president-biden-on-the-anniversary-of-bloody-sunday/#:~:text=On%20Sunday%2C%20March%207%2C%201965,by%20batons%20and%20tear%20gas.)

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/06/statement-by-president-biden-on-the-anniversary-of-bloody-sunday/#:~:text=On%20Sunday%2C%20March%207%2C%201965,by%20batons%20and%20tear%20gas.>)

Today is also the second Sunday of the Season of Lent. Last week the Sunday readings covered the first two dispensations: The Dispensation of Innocence, and The Dispensation of Conscience. As a reminder, the Bible does not tell the length of either dispensation. 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.

The scheduled readings for today in the Revised Common Lectionary skipped over the Third Dispensation, Human Government, which ends with the Flood of Noah. Today's readings focus on the fourth dispensation, The Dispensation of Promise, beginning with the Call of Abraham. The reading is about the Promise made to Abraham and his "offspring forever." The second reading clarifies we by Abraham we learn salvation – called righteousness – comes through faith, that is trust – "in order that it may rest on grace ... guaranteed.." The Gospel is the story of Nicodemus and Jesus asks him to trust at a deeper level than Nicodemus already trusted God through Abraham and through Moses, but now through Messiah and the Holy Spirit.

We are confronted with the choices of faith every minute of our lives. Perhaps

considering the subject of God's promises we are called to trust will help us navigate the daily choices we face.

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, the definition of "woke" is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com:

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

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

See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information on these ideas. Right Click Here: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

Our prayers for 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: Every Praise

words and music Hezekiah Walker | John David Bratton

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+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now 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: As the Candle Of Hope is being lit, 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 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 # 65

- Daniel (1)
- Jon Herzstam (2)
- Gary Arthur Key (3)

- Roger Dale Leach (4)
- Dr. Tom Waddell (5)
 - John Rickert (6)
 - Michael Sklar (7)
 - Paul Burdett (8)

We remember them here and pray for their families.

Notice panel five, Dr. Tom Waddell. Tom Waddell competed in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, Mexico. He is the founder of the Gay Games.

Source: <https://gaygames.org/TomWaddell>

"The first Gay Olympics was to take place in San Francisco in 1982 in the form of a sports competition and arts festival, but the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) sued Waddell's organization over its use of the word "Olympic."

Despite the fact that the USOC had not previously protested when other groups had used the name, they alleged that allowing a "Gay Olympics" would injure them. They succeeded in securing an injunction just nineteen days before the first games were to begin." (source: <https://gaygames.org/TomWaddell>)

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: He Is Exalted words and Music Twila Paris

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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 creating the Human Race. We are learning to understand a greater spectrum of gender. So that societies 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 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 Genesis, chapter 12, verses 1-4a. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 10. Here begins the reading:

The Call of Abram

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." [a]

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 12.3 *Or by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+12%3A1-4&version=NRSVUE>)

Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.

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+ Psalm

The Psalm today is number 121, with a responsorial verse. The response today is "The Lord is my help and my protection!"

Response: The Lord is my help and my protection!

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—

I ask: where will my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD,

the maker of the heavens and earth.

Response: The Lord is my help and my protection!

³ The Lord will keep my steps from stumbling;

The Lord will remain awake and alert.

⁴ The Lord will always protect Israel

and will not forget her because of sleep and forgetfulness.

Response: The Lord is my help and my protection!

⁵ The LORD keeps me safe;

the LORD is the shade at my right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not injure me by day

nor the moon harm me in the night.

Response: The Lord is my help and my protection!

⁷ The LORD will protect me from all evil;

and will protect my life.

⁸ The LORD will protect my

coming in and going out,

in everything I do today and always.

Response: The Lord is my help and my protection!

+ 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 4, verses 1-5, and 13-17. 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 154 in the second testament. Here begins the reading:

The Example of Abraham

⁴ What then are we to say was gained by^[a] Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed^[b] God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

God's Promise Realized through Faith

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the World did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the

God in whom he believed,^[a] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [4.1](#) Other ancient authorities read *say about*
- b. [4.3](#) Or *trusted in*

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [4.17](#) Or *trusted*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+4%3A1-5&version=NRSVUE>)
(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+4%3A13-17&version=NRSVUE>) Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ at Ray Of Hope Church "Music for Worship" Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the

6 truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

11 Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

16 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 3, verses 1-17. 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 Matthew.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be
in our (+) minds that we will understand it,
on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and
in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You^[c] must be born from above.' ^[d] ⁸ The wind^[e] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you^[f] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told

you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[g] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[h]

¹⁶ "For God so loved the World that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the World to condemn the World but in order that the World might be saved through him.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [3.2](#) Gk *him*
- b. [3.3](#) Or *born anew*
- c. [3.7](#) The Greek word for *you* here is plural
- d. [3.7](#) Or *born anew*
- e. [3.8](#) The same Greek word means both *wind* and *spirit*
- f. [3.11](#) The Greek word for *you* here and in [3.12](#) is plural
- g. [3.13](#) Other ancient authorities add *who is in heaven*
- h. [3.15](#) Some interpreters hold that the quotation concludes with [3.15](#)

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

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - 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 GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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

+ Sermon

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

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. Statement on the Doctrine of Universal Salvation.

"We believe that Salvation is a gift that God has given to the entire human race. Romans Chapter Five explains this Doctrine of Universal Salvation. One's personal salvation is assured by believing in God as per John 5:24. Salvation is best known through the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, and through rebirth by the Holy Spirit." (Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc By-Laws September, 2011 Lines 1141 - 1148)

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 main source I am going to 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 of time 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)

The Fourth Dispensation is PROMISE. Scofield, III Reference Bible, with the Holy Bible, New King James Version © 2002 by Oxford University Press, Inc., page 21; Summary. The Covenant comparison is on page 24.

In the second reading Romans 4:3 "For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed^[b] God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Romans 4:16, 17 ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed,^[a] who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist."

The so-called Three Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Gospel Reading: Notice the great lengths the NRSVUE goes to avoid the expression "born again."

John 3:3 ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ^[b]

footnote b: or born anew. Why is this?

New TRUST, a NEW PROMISE: John 3:17 ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

=====

The Hill: Tennessee enacts nation's first law restricting drag shows, bans gender-affirming care for youth

BY [BROOKE MIGDON](#) - 03/02/23 5:42 PM ET

(<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/3881688-tennessee-enacts-nations-first-law-restricting-drag-shows-bans-gender-affirming-care-for-youth/>)

"Tennessee is the eighth state in the nation to enact such a law, and the fourth to do so this year. On Wednesday, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves (R) signed legislation that similarly bars minors in the state from accessing gender-affirming health care.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and its Tennessee affiliate, as well as the LGBTQ civil rights organization Lambda Legal, said they plan to challenge the new law in court. The groups have filed similar suits against laws in Arkansas and Alabama."

Gender-affirming health care — for both transgender youth and adults — is considered safe, effective and medically necessary by most major medical organizations.

The word prurient – being too interested in the details of another person's sexual behavior – Cambridge Dictionary. Merriam-Webster: marked by or arousing an immodest or unwholesome interest or desire especially.....appealing to sexual desire.

CNN: Republicans across the country push legislation to restrict drag show performances

By [Shawna Mizelle](#), CNN

Updated 11:09 AM ET, Sun February 5, 2023 (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/05/politics/drag-show-legislation/index.html>)

Movement Advancement Project MAP

"Founded in 2006, the Movement Advancement Project (MAP) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that provides rigorous research, insight, and communications that help speed equality and opportunity for all.

MAP believes that to transform America, we need to change hearts and minds. This means people need to better understand the critical issues our country faces—and also better understand each other."(<https://www.lgbtmap.org/about-map/our-work-and-mission>)

BANS ON BEST PRACTICE MEDICAL CARE FOR TRANSGENDER YOUTH ([https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality- MAPS/HEALTHCARE YOUTH MEDICAL CARE BANS/YOUTH MEDICAL CARE BANS](https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare-youth-medical-care-bans/youth-medical-care-bans))



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 – 3: Lord Jesus, we intercede for all the people, animals, and land affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria on Monday last week. We pray for the families of the more than 41,000 in Turkey and 5,800 in Syria who are confirmed deaths. The grief, shock, and sorrow these families are experiencing must be immeasurable. We continue to pray for the medical professionals as they treat tens of thousands who sustained bodily injury and are trying to recover and hundreds of thousands of people displaced throughout the region. We also pray for the thousands of rescue workers and those tasked with restoring utilities and destroyed infrastructure. With all of these concerns in mind, we pray to the Lord;

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/6/turkey-syria-earthquake-death-toll-and-devastation-live-tracker#:~:text=At%20least%2041%2C020%20deaths%20have,the%20toll%20could%20rise%20sharply.>)

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 374 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: Black History Month ends this week. We pray that churches do not forget the importance of addressing the truth regarding racism and continue to teach people to show respect for all ethnicities; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: 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 all seek healing and wholeness. 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.

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

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

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

(silent prayer)

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: 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. Use the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event in the Chapel. 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 our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

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

We are using the small Communion set at your seat in the Chapel. Shake

the kit gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup.

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

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.*))

SONG: **Let The Church Say Amen** words and music Andraé Crouch

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

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

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

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

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

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(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
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. Ho - 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: "Forever Friends"

Authors Clair Cloninger, Kathy Frizzell ©1989 Curb Word Music (Admin. by W.C. Music Corp.)/CATALOG Curb Word Music. CCLI Song# 154429. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

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

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

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

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

General Offering for the week of February 12 \$93.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

General Offering for the week of February 19 \$118.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 12

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

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

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

Thank you to April Struhm for a \$100 donation toward the 2023 Pastor Self-Employment Tax line in the budget.

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.

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

March 7, 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.

=====

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)