



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-first year of Ministry.

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

Participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for refreshments and sharing.

Today is Sunday, April 21, 2024, Resurrection Week Four, Year B

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Acts 4:1-12 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 121

Psalm: 118 selected verses with responsorial in this bulletin.

Second Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 240

Gospel: John 10:7-18 NRSV 2ND Test. page 103

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

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. Copyright credits and US Copyright Fair Use statements are found throughout the presented materials. We are making every effort to comply with all regulations. Don't hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You may participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,

_(State)____. Good morning, and welcome ■ (** Reader, stop, look up at the people, and smile.**) Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion. People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: Today's bulletin order of worship and music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



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



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

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.**) Thank you for spending time

with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

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

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

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

Pastor:

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

Today is April 21, 2024, The Fourth Sunday of the Resurrection Season. In Acts Chapter One, verse 3, we read the following;

³ After his suffering^[a] he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (NRSVUE <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1&version=NRSVUE>)

The Church provides us with a 40-day season of the Resurrection to experience in real-time the number of days people experience the actual, physical Christ among them. Then, when you add the ten days following the Ascension of Christ into the heavens, we arrive at Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit, the promised Gift of God, was given to the Church for the beginning of the ministry; we have a 50 day Season, called The Great Fifty Days. Continuing in the same place in Acts, Chapter One, starting at verse 4 we read:

⁴ While staying^[b] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard

from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[c] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (NRSVUE

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1&version=NRSVUE>)

We are here to give God thanks and praise for these glorious events we have been educated in by the gifts of the Holy Scriptures, the Tradition of the Church, the deposit of faith, and the teaching power of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for Christ among us. (see 2Timothy 1:13-14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A13-14&version=NRSVUE>)(see John 1:14:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A14&version=NRSVUE>)

FIRST SONG: Praise To The Lord G&P 686

Text: 14 14 47 8; Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665. adapt. fr. The Chorale Book for England, 1863. Glory and Praise second edition # 686 Words and Music - © OCP Publications. Onelicense Song #84031 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Organist: Rev. Clyde McLennan. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted.

+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty-one years later, some churches, religions, and even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. In a letter from amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, we learn every minute someone somewhere contracts HIV. In the year 2023, 1.5 million people became newly infected, and 650,000 people, including some from the United States, died of AIDS-related causes.

HIV/AIDS is still with us; therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

(for more information about amfAR: <https://www.amfar.org/about-amfar/>)

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,
_(State)_____. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 110.



Names on Block # 110

- Roland (1)
- Thom Plemmons (2)
- Bob (3)
- Richie (4)
- Ralph (5)
- Tom Buckingham (6)
- Bill (7)
- John Behrens (8)

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

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the

comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually:
<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Second Song: Praise the Lord, My Soul. Words and Music by John B. Foley, SJ © 1975, 1978, John B. Foley, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song # 85181 Gory and Praise 2nd Edition 691 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

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

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.) (modified for clarity by Br. Benedict)

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

(silent prayer for time to confess our sins.) (**Leader, please count to 20**.)

Leader -2: Now, we pray together:

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

Leader -4: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____.

The lust for human power over others continues to sustain and cause more wars, suffering, poverty, and other sins against humanity. Governments prioritize weapons of mass destruction over food, shelter, work, and peace for all people. The growing disregard for human life is blatant; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: All discrimination is learned behaviors, chosen ideologies, and intentionally promoted. We fail to honor, respect, communicate, and treat people kindly when we discriminate. We pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: As we celebrate this Season of the Resurrection, we have many opportunities to share with others the truth that Jesus is truly present. We may choose more effortless conversations and fail to proclaim the Risen Lord Jesus: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

Pastor: We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in

God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.
ALL: Amen.

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

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

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

2. = 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

Verso 1

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

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

2. = 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 thanks 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)

2. = 6/8 *Refrain* *4/21/24*

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 thanks 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 un-i-ty of

(TO REFRAIN)
 © 7/25/77-1/1/24 Gaudes! Liturgical Arts *R. B. Benson*

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

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

Verse 4: Amen

The Gloria, Pg 3

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

We give you thanks and praise

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

ALL: Praise!

A —————

We give you thank and praise

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

ALL: men

men al-le-lu-ia

mine
@ 7/25/17 - 11/24
Gaudete! - 10/19/16
Pete Behm

+ Opening Prayer

Leader: Eternal Word of God, speak to us as we listen to the Sacred Scriptures read aloud. We ask the Holy Spirit to open our minds to understand what we hear so we may apply it in our lives, and give honor and glory to God in all we do through Christ, our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. The first reading is the Book of Acts, chapter 3, verses 1-12. It is on page 121 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated edition. Here begins the reading:

Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar

3 One day Peter and John were going up to the Temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. **2** And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the Temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the Temple. **3** When he saw Peter and John about to go into the Temple, he asked them for alms. **4** Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." **5** And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. **6** Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,^[a] stand up and walk." **7** And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. **8** Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the Temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. **9** All the people saw him walking and praising God, **10** and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the

Beautiful Gate of the Temple, and they were filled with wonder and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. ¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "Fellow Israelites,^[b] why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [3.6](#) Gk *the Nazorean*
- b. [3.12](#) Gk *Men, Israelites*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3%3A1-12&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,
_(State)_____. Today, the Psalm is 118, selected verses. The response is,
"Alleluia. Alleluia. We bless You, Lord."

R. Alleluia. Alleluia. We bless You, Lord.

Give thanks to the LORD, Who is good,
God's mercy endures forever.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in people.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in governments.

R. Alleluia. Alleluia. We bless You, Lord.

I will thank you, Lord, for you have answered me
and have been my savior.

The stone rejected by the builders
has become the cornerstone.

The LORD has done all of this;
it is beautiful in our eyes.

R. Alleluia. Alleluia. We bless You, Lord.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's Name;
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and have been my savior.

Give thanks to the LORD, Who is good;
God's kindness endures forever.

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____,
_(State)_____. The second reading is in the Book of the First Letter of
John chapter 3, verses 1-2. The reading is on page 240 in the second
testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

3 ¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called
children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not
know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when
he^[a] is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. 3.2 Or it

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1John+3%3A1-2&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.)

SPECIAL MUSIC Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: **As the second reading just proclaimed, we are the Children of God.** Today's special music is dedicated to a Member of Ray Of Hope who is now in Paradise, Bob Wigden. Bob came to this church through the "Bible Study for Gay People" that Brother started here in Elmira in 1991. The Bible Study met on Water Street, just a few blocks from here. Within a couple of years, the entire group joined Ray Of Hope in Syracuse and began a weekly drive to services there on Sunday nights. Bob and Brother were the musicians for over ten years. They recorded a collection of songs titled "God And You," which sold in Christian bookstores until someone finally figured out the first letter of each title word, which spells GAY. Bob was sick with HIV/AIDS for many years undiagnosed. Bob lived approximately ten years after the discovery that he had AIDS, and with prayer and modern medicine, it was not AIDS that took his life; instead, it was Pancreatic Cancer. Ray Of Hope brought peace and order to Bob's life. His family has a long generational history as ministers and musicians in the Independent and Baptist traditions. Here, Bob found the Bible as the answer to all his questions about his sexual orientation. Bob served as Clerk of the Board of Ray Of Hope, MCC, and led the Congregation through becoming an Independent Church. You will find his signature on hundreds of our documents. This song, Dear Jesus, was written in response to our Congregation being surrounded by "Christian" protestors in 1994 during the Syracuse Pride Parade who made it their business to shout down "the gay church."

In verse one, Bob prays to understand himself and throws his eternity into God's hands. In verse two, Bob prays for the protestors who surrounded us year after year at social events and shouted twisted theologies at us. In verse three, Bob stands humbly but freed and proud with Ray Of Hope and prays, "Come again, dear Jesus; we wait for Your return....Give us the strength to fight Your battles; keep us firm with truth and grace. We'll work, we'll pray, we'll stand our ground; we'll see You face to face."

Christina was a friend of Bob's through Ray Of Hope. Christina asked to sing this song as a solo. When we started working on it, the song took on an entirely new style than how we used it previously. So, Dear Jesus, please take a moment on our behalf and let Bob know right now that we are sharing his testimony with the world again. Lord, if it be your will, give Bob the grace to listen in and know how much we appreciate him and all he shared with us, and how much we are looking forward to worshiping with him and all our friends and

members soon. We ask for this grace in your Name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

"Dear Jesus" Words and Music by Bob Wigden, Member of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, ©1995 by Bob Wigden, 150 Linden Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527. All rights reserved. International Copyright secured. Used by Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. with full exclusive permissions. **Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin.**

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

Reader: The Gospel reading is John, chapter 10, verses 7-18, on page 103 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated version.

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.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me^[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not

own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes^[b] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [10.8](#) Other ancient authorities lack *before me*
- b. [10.18](#) Other ancient authorities read *has taken*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A7-18&version=NRSVUE>
Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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



Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.



The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 40 years. October 31, 2023 - 40th Anniversary now in our 41st year in Ministry.

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

+ Sermon

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

God raised Jesus from the dead. Acts 3:15 ".. the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. "

CLARIFICATION: 6) Tuesday, April 9, 2024, article; "Lawmakers OK bill to make adultery legal." <https://www.syracuse.com/state/2024/04/ny-lawmakers-pass-bill-to-repeal-1907-law-that-makes-adultery-a-crime.html#:~:text=The%20Associated%20Press-.ALBANY%2C%20N.Y.,approved%20the%20bill%20almost%20unanimously.>

In today's first reading, we have the healing of the lame man. During the liturgical season of the Resurrection, we celebrate the "Great Fifty Days" between the day God raised Jesus from the Dead, and Pentecost Sunday. During those first forty days from Resurrection to ascension, Jesus appeared many times to His disciples to teach them about the resurrection body and to prepare them for the mission of the Church. Jesus gave them instructions to begin the ministry of the Church only after the Holy Spirit was given to them, to indwell and provide power and authority to be the Church.

The sequence of the scheduled readings during these fifty days can seem confusing because the scheduled readings often happen after Pentecost. Today's first reading took place after Pentecost, with the healing of the lame man in the Temple.

Do note the believers, including the Apostles, continued the prayer schedule of the Temple even after the Church had begun with Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was making powerful demonstrations among people faithful to the Law of Moses through the Apostles of Jesus and the growing number of saints in the Church that Jesus is alive and present to us. To be clear, the man was not healed by any power that the Apostles had or by any particular power the early church had. The reading ends with the words:

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. ¹² When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "Fellow Israelites,^[b] why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?(Acts 3:11,12 NRSVUE)

The man was not healed because of any extraordinary power the followers of Jesus had as men, nor because they were particularly religious. What they extended to this man was the real presence of Jesus.

"Look at us." ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,^[a] stand up and walk." ⁷ And he took him by the right hand

and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the Temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. (Acts 3:5-8 NRSVUE)

God did not intend to inaugurate the eternal state through the Name of Jesus by distributing the Apostles. It seems that every person in this event has died, so it was not meant to suggest everyone who would encounter Jesus through the Church would receive their resurrection body at that moment. This event also tells us his healing was not meant to stop him from dying. Nothing about the true story of Jesus suggests any attempt to change the reality of human death. What has changed is that we now have eternal security, whether living or dead.

In fact, we are now Children of God, eternally safe in God's care through Christ. The topic of the second reading is the fact that we are God's People.

3 ¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he^[a] is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

(1 John 3:1,2 NRSVUE)

Friends in Christ, it does not matter what anyone else says about our state, status, and position in God through Christ. As clearly stated in both readings, our salvation is not dependent on any human accomplishment. In this second reading, God's love brings our status as children of God to light. Those who refuse to participate in this celebration of the facts and final decisions of God in Christ will go on judging us and making statements that disqualify our relationships and say things like transgender health care is mutilation and against the dignity of the human person. Remembering that their comments do not supersede God's doctrine in these readings today is essential. You are safe and secure in Christ as far as eternal life is concerned. The message that we become children of God through Christ is rarely explained and rarely shared with LGBTQSIANE2ss++ persons. These days, the discussion of salvation is shared with smaller and smaller groups of people because they share it only with people who look and think like they do.

In the Gospel, we see the contrast between the "Good Shepherd" and the "hireling and thief." In John Chapter Ten, Jesus uses metaphor and parable writing to bring out some eternal truths. There is no point in repeating all the usual things in sermons about shepherds and shepherding. Instead, I want you to hear two things Jesus said. Jesus comes to us to bring us abundant life, or life "more abundantly." The agenda of evil is to "crush, kill, destroy," and steal us away.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed that we would remain in the world but not be of the world, just as He was in the world but not of the world. One candle in a dark room is a perfect analogy, or April has a bright flashlight that flashes, which she uses when coming down the street at night. It is so bright that the irises of my eyes are moving in response to the bright flashes, so the light feels heavy. Both examples, the candle and the bright flashlight demonstrate how a light source may be in a dark place but bring light to it, even if someone cannot see. This little illustration is intended to underscore how difficult it is to represent and be the presence of Christ in a world that is so determined to embrace so many things that do not bring us abundant life.

As I watch the clock, I know time will be an issue with this Sermon. We have Bible Enrichment Sessions on Tuesday evenings, where we get into the details. I will conclude with this: Eschatology is the study of the "last things, " which means more than death, heaven, and so on. Eschatology is also the study of the time and day we live in and guides us to understand the horrific decisions governments continue to make as they try to remake the world in their own image.

My reading now includes books on ancient religions and human sacrifice on most continents. We have brought all the gruesome realities of human sacrifice forward to our day through the aggression of war. Think about this: someone decides that people have to pay for their sins against other people. So, they drop bombs on the people, lives are lost, and we are told they are paying for their offenses. We immolate the sacrifice, and we even burn it up with our weapons today. We even describe our own military as paying "the ultimate sacrifice" by the shedding of their own blood in the cause of making "the other" pay for their offenses. War is human sacrifice, human substitutionary death exacted. On Friday, April 19, 2024, we had the self-immolation by Max

Azzarello as a self-offering to make a prophetic warning statement for the future of our economy as he saw it. So, in my opinion, the world system destroyed him internally until he acted violently upon himself in self-sacrifice to gods of the world system. Do we see life, and life more abundantly from these decisions to use military weapons? Before discussing the morality of using weapons, we should discuss the reasoning behind making the weapons, for what, for whom, for when, and for any good reason.

According to the Scriptures, the world system is under fallen Lucifer and his cohorts. I like to say there is one letter difference between the WORD of God and the world of Lucifer, and that letter is "L." (one source for Max Azzarello is here: <https://www.msnbc.com/the-reidout/watch/man-who-set-himself-on-fire-outside-trump-trial-burned-for-two-minutes-209377861725>)

Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>

Which countries are currently at war?

Russia and Ukraine are at war. Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Libya, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Colombia, and Mali are currently in civil wars. Mexico is at war with the drug cartels in the country.

How many countries are currently at war?

There are 32 countries currently at war.

Wikipedia entry: List of ongoing armed conflicts

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ongoing_armed_conflicts

See also: World Population Review <https://worldpopulationreview.com/>

We cannot change who and what is in charge, but we can follow Christ through this world. We can use the government we have to keep the principles of the Good Shepherd in the social dialogue, and we can be involved.

We can be announcers, proclaimers, and publicists for Christ and His Church. We have a message, and we know the people who need to have it explained to them in a way that can get them past the injuries they have endured. Spreading the Message is why we are going to Elmira Pride, Corning Pride, and

Juneteenth: to be present, to be available to have those discussions, and to help each and every person who stops at our booth understand they are Children of God and if they would come around here for few weeks we would have time to explain it and prove it in detail. Consider dedicating time to be present in our booth at these June events and helping proclaim the Gospel. Take every opportunity you have to share the Gospel with the people around you, especially those who have been shamed and set aside for their sexual orientation, gender expression, or being themselves in any way.

We are here because of those original fourteen people who experienced the Risen Christ in their lives. They wanted to leave a living and vibrant witness to the fact that God loves all of us and God is responsible for the glorious spectrum of sexual orientation and gender expression. Speak up and speak out for God as you give witness to the fact that Christ is risen indeed and that He lives within our hearts.

=====

*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

=====



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

Leader – 4: Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today, we are using communal prayers. After each petition, please respond with, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Leader – 4: We pray for all the people in parts of the world where wars are being fought. We pray that world leaders will think about the loss of life, the suffering being caused, and the loss of economic opportunities and make diplomatic decisions to end wars. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We pray for all people who feel left behind, alone, and abandoned in institutions where they are required to live. We pray institutionalized people will be aware that Christ is truly present everywhere. We pray they will experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit and be encouraged by the promises of God. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: In silent prayer, we now lift to God those people we know who are ill and in need of healing, those who are facing poverty and need guidance, and anyone who comes to mind who needs God's grace. We pray together silently now. (**Silent prayer begins.** **Leader please mentally count to about twenty.**) For all the people we have just prayed for, we pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers, and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen.

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

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



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

Also, at this time, we will set our altars and communion tables at home and in the chapel. Those viewing at home, please turn to the highlighted text on page three of this bulletin to review the instructions for items needed for Holy Communion. In the Chapel here, everyone may assist in setting the Table of

the Lord together. We begin now.

Offertory Song: Bless His Holy Name Words and Music by Andrae Crouch
Notebook #42 **CCLI SONG # 17566 COPYRIGHTS** ©1973 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin.
by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License
Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus
License 21787152.

A prayer of thanksgiving for the offering is said here.

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm
78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our
Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John
6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28,

Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

Pastor: Truly present and risen among us; **SAINTS** the Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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

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

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

Leader: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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

+ The 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**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian

Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

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

Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and

strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together, we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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

+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: 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.**

Leader: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the

water. Dry the cup with the side napkin.
Clear your worship table and altar.

COMMUNION SONG: O Sons and Daughters G&P 379

Text: O filii et filiae; Jean Tisserand, d.1494; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818-1866,
alt. Contributors: Richard Proulx; Onlicense # 92302 Used with Print
Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

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

New Revised Standard Version – 1989

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Up to 500 verses of the RSV or NRSV may be quoted in any form (written, visual, electronic or audio) without charge and without obtaining written permission...Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.

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

General Offering for the week of March 24 \$760.00 Holy Thursday March 28 special offering for Liturgical Supplies: \$30.00 Attendance 8 Sunday; Holy Thursday Attendance 6, Good Friday Attendance 13

General Offering for the week of March 31 \$1,045.00 Attendance 10 Vigil on Saturday; Wednesday, April 3, Attendance 4

General Offering for the week of April 7 \$40.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday;
Wednesday, April 10, Attendance 5

(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

****Special Gifts****

Thank you to Ed Askins for baking some desserts ahead so we have them while he is at his second home for the summer and fall.

****Recent Special Gifts****

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

April 22, Monday, 4:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

April 23, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment.

April 24, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

April 25, Thursday, 2:00 p.m. Chemung County Office of the Aging, see below.

April 26, Friday, 2:00 p.m. Council



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

ALL: And also with you!

Leader - 2: We bless you and praise you God for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (*+*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Leader - 2: We pray Romans chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

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

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

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

CLOSING SONG: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks by Donald Fishel. G&P

389 Contributors: Donald Fishel Text: Donald Fishel, b.1950, © 1973, Word of God Music. Tune: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications Text: © 1973, International Liturgy Publications. Oneliscence Song # 71342 Ritual Song 581 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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

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

providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an ***INCLUSIVE*** church for you.

We are not an ***OPEN AND AFFIRMING*** church for you.

We are not a ***RECONCILING CHURCH*** or
RECONCILING CONGREGATION for you.

We are not an ***OPEN MINDED*** or ***ACCEPTING*** or ***WELCOMING***
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

WE ARE YOU!

THIS is the Church where YOU belong.

Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019



Chemung County
Department of Aging and Long Term Care



2024 Public Hearing

What is a Public Hearing?

Each year Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care holds a Public Hearing. The primary purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public testimony and/or comment before significant decisions are made for the development of the Annual Plan for services and programs. It also provides an opportunity for Community education on topics that most impact our aging community.

What does the Department of Aging and Long Term Care do with all the comments provided?

Public testimonials and comments gathered throughout the Public Hearing period will be taken into consideration when the Annual Plan for programs and services is being developed. In previous years, public comments and testimonials were used to advocate for additional funding for in-home services.

April 25, 2024

2:00 PM

Meals on Wheels of Chemung County
Event Center
409 William St., Elmira, NY

This Public Hearing regards the Chemung County Area Plan on Aging funded under various titles of the Older Americans Act of 1965, and the New York State Elder Law.

This is an opportunity for community members to influence the programs and services that are necessary to support older adults in order to live independently in their community.

At this Public Hearing, Attorney John Maloney will provide a presentation on Elder Law & the importance of Estate Planning.

Sheila Brewer-Montero, Fraud Prevention Coordinator with Lifespan of Greater Rochester Inc. will provide a presentation on SCAM prevention for older adults.

There will be an opportunity for Questions and Answers at the end of the presentations.

RSVP: Please call (607) 737-5520 by April 19th to register!

Light refreshments will be served!

These events are made possible through support from Chemung County, NYSOFA, Administration for Community Living and donations.

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

