



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 28, 2024, Resurrection Week Five, 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 9:26-31 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 128

**Psalm:** 22 selected verses with responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3:18-24 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 240

**Gospel:** John 15:1-8 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Test. page 109

\*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.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured, 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you.



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Pastor:**

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

Today is April 28, 2024, The Fifth Sunday of the Resurrection Season. In Acts Chapter One, verse 3, we read the following;

<sup>3</sup> After his suffering<sup>[a]</sup> 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 were experiencing 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 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:

<sup>4</sup> While staying<sup>[b]</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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: Mighty God.** Words and Music by John B. Foley, SJ Text based on Psalms 86, 100, 148. © 1978, John B. Foley, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song # 82212 Gory and Praise 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 664 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

## + 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 # 111.



Names on Block #111

- Larry R. Perry (1)
- Gregory Kennebeck (2)

- David Arcone (3)
- Jim Calderone (4)
- Charles Thompson (5)
  - Glen Colson (6)
  - Jac Wall (7)
- Tommy Zalewski (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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Billions of dollars are prioritized to make, sell, and use weapons of mass destruction. These same funds could provide all people food, shelter, work, and peace; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** All discrimination is learned behaviors, chosen ideologies, and intentionally promoted. When we discriminate to exclude people, we close our minds and our experience to Christ present in everyone. We pray:

Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Christ is always present; therefore, we have many opportunities to share the experience of knowing Jesus with others. We sometimes become afraid to talk about 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-3:** Jesus told the Church to forgive sins in His Name. Jesus said:

**ALL: If you forgive people their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive people their sins, neither will your Father forgive your sins." (Matt. 6:14-15) Jesus also told us to forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart. (Matt. 18:35)**

**Therefore, we the faith community of Ray Of Hope Church openly declare the forgiveness of all your confessed sins in the Name of Jesus Christ. He forgives you, we forgive you, and God rejoices over your restoration in Christ. 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. = 6/8* *Refrain*

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

*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*      *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 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*       $\frac{1}{2} \frac{21}{24}$

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, AND  
peace to all peo-ple on Earth  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est  
We give You 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 9, verses 26-31. It is on page 128 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will read the 2021 updated edition. Here begins the reading:

### **Saul in Jerusalem**

<sup>26</sup> When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples, and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He spoke and argued with the Hellenists, but they were attempting to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the brothers and sisters learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

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

## **ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+9%3A26-31&version=NRSVUEScripture> 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 22, verses 26-32. The response is,  
"Alleluia. I will praise the Lord in the assembly of the people."

**R. Alleluia. I will praise the Lord in the assembly of the people.**

<sup>26</sup> You are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear God.

<sup>27</sup> The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

Those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!

**R. Alleluia. I will praise the Lord in the assembly of the people.**

<sup>28</sup> All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

all families of the nations shall bow down in awe:

<sup>29</sup> for the kingdom is the Lord's, who is ruler of all.

**R. Alleluia. I will praise the Lord in the assembly of the people.**

<sup>30</sup> They shall bow down in awe,

all the mighty of the earth,

all who must die and go down to the dust.

**R. Alleluia. I will praise the Lord in the assembly of the people.**

<sup>30</sup> My soul shall live for God, and my children too shall serve.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come;

<sup>32</sup> declare to those unborn, the faithfulness of God.

"These things the Lord has done."

**R. Alleluia. I will praise the Lord in the assembly of the people.**

**Glory to God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.**

Refrain and Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict. Psalm 22:26-32 Copyright ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

## + 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 18-24. The reading is on page 240 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup> And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, <sup>22</sup> and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup> All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**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=1+John+3%3A18-24&version=NRSVUE>  
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**SPECIAL MUSIC** Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: "**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.

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

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

## We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is John, chapter 15, verses 1-8, on page 109 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 John.

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

## Jesus the True Vine

**15** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed<sup>[b]</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it

abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>[c]</sup> my disciples.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. 15.2 The same Greek root refers to pruning and cleansing
- b. 15.3 The same Greek root refers to pruning and cleansing
- c. 15.8 Or *be*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15%3A1-8&version=NRSVUE>  
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## **Gospel Acclamation**

## Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the  
Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!  
You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our  
joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!  
For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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

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



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

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

### + Sermon

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

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

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> 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. "

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](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, Christ, in the social dialogue; we can be involved.

We can be announcers, "proclaimers," (I know that is not a word) 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. To share the Message, 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 came 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 clearly 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 acknowledge the loss of life, the suffering, 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 that institutionalized people will know 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**+ The 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

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## 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!

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## + Sign Of Peace

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

**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: Here I Am, Lord G&P 542 Words and Music by Dan Schutte.** Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and Music ©1981, OCP. All rights reserved. Onlicense # 80670 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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

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**New Revised Standard Version – 1989**

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**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 \$420.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday; Wednesday, April 10, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of April 14 \$40.00 Attendance 15 on Sunday; Wednesday, April 17, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of April 21 \$320.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday; Wednesday, April 24, Attendance 4

(some people give monthly rather than weekly)

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

Ed Askins make a Gifts in Kind donation of \$115.84 which paid for the paint and polyurethane that was used for the Frasier room floor. Many thanks, Ed.

Brother donated \$640.00 to the Building Fund.

Thank you to Michael Austin for servicing the church lawnmower.

**\*\*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](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject box.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

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

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

April 29, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

April 30, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

May 1, Wednesday, Mary's Day Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

May 12, Ascension Sunday MOTHER'S DAY, FOUNDESSES DAY AT THE ELMIRA CHAPEL

May 13, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

May 14, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

May 15, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

May 19, Sunday, Pentecost Sunday

May 20, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

May 21, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

May 22, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

May 24, Friday, 2:00 PM **Council**

May 26, Sunday, Trinity Sunday

May 27, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

May 28, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

May 28, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

June 1, Saturday, ELMIRA PRIDE

June 2, Corpus Christi, relicense our Servants of the Eucharist

June 3, Monday, 4:00 PM By-Laws Revision Committee meeting.

June 4, Tuesday, 6:30 PM Bible Enrichment.

June 5, Wednesday, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

June 8, Saturday, CORNING PRIDE

June 9, Sunday: The Start of our Juneteenth 10-day devotions **Introduction**.

June 10, Monday **JTD**EVOTION#1 NOON; 3:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision Committee

June 11, Tuesday **JTD**EVOTION #2 NOON; 6:00 p.m. NAACP **7:15 p.m.** Bible Enrichment

June 12, Wednesday **JTD**EVOTION#3 **11:00 a.m.** NOON TRADITIONAL MASS

June 13, Thursday **JTDEVOTION #4 NOON**  
June 14, Friday **JTDEVOTION #5 NOON**  
June 15, Saturday, JUNETEENTH in Elmira **JTDEVOTION #6 8:00 p.m.**  
June 16, Sunday, Father's Day, 28th Ordination Anniversary, **JTDEVOTION #7**  
June 17, Monday, **JTDEVOTION #8 NOON**; 3:00 p.m. By-Laws Revision  
Committee  
June 18, Tuesday, **JTDEVOTION #9 NOON**; Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.  
June 19, Wednesday, **JTDEVOTION #10 11:00 AM** Juneteenth; NOON  
Traditional Mass



### 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: ©

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

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



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

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

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

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

**WE ARE YOU!**

**THIS is the Church where YOU belong.**

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

**Made by you and for you, because we are**

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

### **Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

—————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)

