



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

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

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

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

Today is April 30, 2023, Resurrection Week 4, Year A

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

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

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36– 41 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 120

Psalm: Psalm 23 psalm book pg. 35

Second Reading: 1Peter 2:20B-25 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 232

Gospel: John 10:1-10 NRSV 2ND Testament page 103

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, please find your seat and 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 that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our Salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) The bell is rung before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of ___ in the State of _____. 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. In this Church, each person decides to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as they feel comfortable. We also assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

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

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You are not required to be a member here or in any church to receive Holy Communion with us today. We celebrate the Lord's open table. Viewers at home, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare for the Holy Communion portion; 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for today are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Skype, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. Finally, on our website, find the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. Ed Askins will play a prelude this morning, "Surround Me." We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and not visit during the music. Thank you.

Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Surround Me" Words and Music by Clint Brown. © 1996 Curb Dayspring Music (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.) CCLI Song # 931965. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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

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



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

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

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

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

Pastor: I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

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

Pastor: Praise the Lord.

ALL: Praise the risen Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

Pastor: We come here to pray. Each person is an equal and active partner in all

we do in the next 90 minutes. At Ray Of Hope, the worship event is not a spectator's activity where people come to hear some good music and a teaching/lecture. Instead, each person's primary responsibility is to pray during each section of the "service" actively. The definition of the word liturgy is the prayer-work of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving each person present and God.

Today is the fourth of six Sundays of the season of the Resurrection. We are in the Great 50 days from Resurrection to Pentecost. This is the 28th of the fifty days. Every Sunday is Resurrection Celebration Day, the Lord's Day, in this 40-day season, taking us to the celebration of the Lord's Ascension.



The sixth Sunday is May 14, Mother's Day, and the day we celebrate the Foundresses of the Elmira Chapel. Ascension Day, the 40th Day is Thursday, May 18. Since we do not have a "holy day of obligation" on Ascension Thursday, we will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on Sunday, May 21. The following Sunday is May 28, Pentecost Sunday, when the Great 50 Days are over. On Pentecost, we pray for a renewal of the Holy Spirit. The following Sunday is Trinity Sunday, June 4th, and we start Pride Month. Thursday, June 1, 2023, is the 20th Anniversary of our moving into this building and holding our first public worship event here. We will celebrate the 20th year of public worship in this building on June 4th, Trinity Sunday.

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

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

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

We are proud to be known as the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, **"WOKE"** is: having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

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

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

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

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

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

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks 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 Candle Of Hope

Leader -1: Please be seated. Now we celebrate our faith, our trust, in the promised "Blessed Hope," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life by lighting our Candle Of Hope. Continuing our celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, we remember these words of Jesus with joy in our hearts. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

Leader -2: As we light the Candle of Hope, we read the names on the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember people who died of AIDS. In 1983 Ray Of Hope Church started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Even after all these years, some churches, religions, and countries continue to reject sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read over 10,000 names sewn into the Quilt aloud.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Looking up at the screen, we see the panel names on Block # 71

- Steven J. Dunn (1)
- William C. Smith (2)
- Mark Cardwell (3)
- Jimmy Ray Harrison (4)
- John Benjamin Tucker (5)
- Ken Stevenson (6)
- Jimmy Roddy (7)
- Mark (8)

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we remember the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. We pray for their families as they remember their loved ones. May this candle's flame help bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life,

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

ALL: Amen

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

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

SECOND SONG: "Shepherd Of Souls, Refresh and Bless" G&P 501 Text: CM; verses 1, 2, James Montgomery, 1771–1854; verses 3, 4, anon. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876. Onelicense Song # 84164 Glory and Praise 2nd Edition 501 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 gathered together, greeted one another, and praised God in song. Ray Of Hope Church now provides another service, God forgiving our sins.

Leader – 3: Hear the Word of God in First John, Chapter One, verses 8-10: "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, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=i+John+1%3A8-10&version=NRSVUE>
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Leader -2: In silent prayer, we now reflect on our relationships with God and other people. Now is the opportunity to confess our faults, sins, and failures silently. Christ is present and listening to receive our silent confession, and He promises to forgive our sins immediately.

(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

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

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

Some of the choices humans make contribute to the decline in the health of this planet; therefore, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: Through the ministry of Christ, we should promote equal respect and place of all persons, celebrate all ethnicities, and do all we can to promote education and the spread of the Gospel; Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: We are very aware of the steady deterioration of Society's interest in worshiping Christ Our Lord. Therefore, if we have participated in any way in the weakening of the church, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

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

ALL: Amen.

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

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

Spoken:

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

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

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

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

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

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: O Loving, Eternal, and Creating God, lead us to the truth, your

Word. As we listen to your Word, help us initiate action and change in our lives so we are transformed and equipped for service.

ALL: AMEN.

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

The first reading is in the Book of Acts, chapter 2, verse 14, and verses 36-41. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 119 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading:

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews^[a] and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool."

(Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:13)

³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,^[a] this Jesus whom you crucified."

The First Converts

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers,^[b] what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

a. [2.36](#) Or *Christ*

b. [2.37](#) Gk *Men, brothers*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A36-41&version=NRSVUE>)

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+ Psalm

**** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is

__, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of __.

Today's Psalm is number 23, verses 1 – 6, with a responsorial verse. The response today is, " Lord, you are my Shepherd. I am secure with you forever."

The Divine Shepherd. A Psalm of David.

ALL: Lord, you are my Shepherd. I am secure with you forever.

¹ The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;^[a]

³ he restores my soul.^[b]

He leads me in right paths^[c]

ALL: Lord, you are my Shepherd. I am secure with you forever.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,^[d]
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

ALL: Lord, you are my Shepherd. I am secure with you forever.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely^[e] goodness and mercy^[f] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.^[g]

ALL: Lord, you are my Shepherd. I am secure with you forever.

Footnotes

- a. 23.2 Heb *waters of rest*
- b. 23.3 Or *life*
- c. 23.3 Or *paths of righteousness*
- d. 23.4 Or *the valley of the shadow of death, or the darkest valley*
- e. 23.6 Or *Only*
- f. 23.6 Or *kindness*
- g. 23.6 Heb *for length of days*

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+ Second Reading

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

The second reading is in the First Letter of Peter, chapter 2, verses 20b-25. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 119 in the Second Testament. We have Jesus, the Shepherd, and Guardian of our Souls in this reading. Here begins the reading:

²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, (Isaiah 53:4,5) leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." (Isaiah 53:9)

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,^[a] (Isaiah 53:5,6) so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds^[b] you have been healed. (Isaiah 53:5b) ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, (Isaiah 53:6) but now you have returned to the Shepherd and guardian of your souls.^[c]

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [2.24](#) Or *carried up our sins in his body to the tree*
- b. [2.24](#) Gk *bruise*

c. 2.25 Or lives

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+2%3A20-25&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.

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+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

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

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

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

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

16 hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is John, chapter 10, verses 1-10. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of © 2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar translation on page 103 in the second testament.

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

Jesus the Good Shepherd

10 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the Shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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.

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*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A1-10&version=NRSVUE>)

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Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

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

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.
 The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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

The season of the Resurrection lasts for 40 days and is followed by ten more days to arrive at the Feast of Pentecost.

Many points to emphasize in this set of readings.

The first reading is the third installment of the sermon St. Peter gave on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit, the Gift of God to the Church, came to begin the ministry of indwelling the living stones, the members of the Body of Christ, the new Holy Church. Stop and consider the disruption Peter and the Apostles and the disciples of Christ, with Holy Mother Mary, must have been to the festivities of Pentecost in Jerusalem. Today's reading reminds us that about 3,000 people in Jerusalem for the Festival were baptized into Jesus Christ. (³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.")

In the second reading, the letter of St. Peter.

The second reading is a summary sermon of Isaiah Chapter 53, the Suffering Servant Messiah. Here we are reminded that the power of the Cross, the suffering and wounds of the Saviour, has brought healing from imminent eternal death to all of us. Only Jesus of Nazareth, of Mary and Joseph, of the household of David, was chosen for this from the foundations of the world.

Gospel.

Therefore, Jesus, the Christ of God, alone can be our Shepherd. He alone is the Good Shepherd, and He alone has the authority to save us and bring us safely into the New Heavens and the New Earth that God has planned for all of creation. The message of Jesus is the message we are commissioned to take to everyone we know, especially those who are an arm's length away from us all week long, those we bump into going through doorways, and those we rub elbows with. We are called to start with them.

"In our world, often dominated by a secularized culture which encourages and promotes models of life without God, the faith of many is sorely tested, and is frequently stifled and dies. Thus we see an urgent need for powerful proclamation and solid, in-depth Christian formation. There is so much need today for mature Christian personalities, conscious of their baptismal identity, of their vocation and mission in the world! There is great need for living Christian communities!" (St. JP, II to Ecclesial Movements)

A word about our secular world, the world system, mental health, and suicide. It is not a deterrent to threaten people with Hell. So instead, let's speak the truth of what is going on here:

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

"There are 32 ongoing conflicts in the world right now, ranging from drug wars, terrorist insurgencies, ethnic conflicts, and civil wars." Source: website: Countries Currently at War (<https://wisevoter.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at->

+ The Prayers of the People

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

Leader – 3: The war in Ukraine continues past the 430th day. Additionally, there are currently thirty-two countries with conflicts and war, as noted above. We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war anywhere in the World. So, again we pray and ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by conflict; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 2: We pray for people we know who need healing, support, and encouragement as they go through stages of healing and recovery. We continue praying for people fighting cancer, including Heather's mother, Henrietta Bower, Sue Lemak, Portia Rawles, Bernell Hooker, our Ray Of Hope members Cheryl Allen, April Struhm, and others we are thinking of right now. We add those needing general healing, including Phillpa Askins, for her knee surgery recovery. Richard Tripp is recovering from multiple leg, ankle, and foot injuries from a traffic collision. Lisa Frost for special health concerns. Allena McGlaughlin is recovering from major surgery. Kaiden Hall is recovering from major surgery. Ed Askins is recovering from corrective bone surgery in the nose Wednesday, Brian DeLafayette prays to be healed so he may quit smoking, and who else????_____. We also pray for everyone in our Congregation who has requested our prayers. With all these people in mind, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide the doctors, medical teams, and scientists as we seek healing and wholeness. Finally, we thank God for each day of life we have together. We trust in God's presence today and always; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

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

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lisa: At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with _____

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

ALL: Amen



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

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

Leader: We show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance, taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. In the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

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

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(Other titles include: the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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 wellbeing. 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

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



The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

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

This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together...

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

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

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together we pray:

ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of

the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

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+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your

holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

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

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

General Offering for the week of March 26 \$568.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of April 2 \$1,633.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

Special Liturgical Supplies Offering on Holy Thursday April 6 \$60.00
Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of April 8 \$78.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of April 16 \$138.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of April 23 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

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

Thank you to Ed Askins for donating \$100.00 toward the Liability insurance.

Thank you to Phillipa Askins for donating \$126.75 toward expenses for Pride month.

Thank you to Kaiden Benedict for donating time to work on the garden, and cleaning.

Thank you to Ian and Christina McLaughlin for the chapel flowers for Resurrection.

Thank you Christina McLaughlin for \$20.00 for Pride expenses.

Thank you Lisa Frost for donating the \$361.00 for the annual cellular fire alarm monitoring.

Thank you Kaiden for all the work you do preparing the chapel and cleaning.

Thank you April Struhm for a \$100.00 donation toward the Pastor S.E. Tax account.

Thank you Lisa Frost for donating the new Progress Flag.

Thank you April Struhm for donation the new Together We Rise Flag.

Thank you Christina McLaughlin for sharing your singing talents with us.

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 2, at Kol Ami. The Jewish Center & Federation of the Twin Tiers presents Rev. Paul Brandeis, President, Interfaith Alliance. "Democracy Not Theocracy: Confronting the Threat of Christian Nationalism to Preserve Our Religiously Diverse Nation." 7:30 p.m. 1008 West Water Street Elmira, NY 14905. Also available on Zoom, with registration at <https://bit.ly/3G0HiTW>

Thursday, May 4, Council Meeting Noon – discussion on PRIDE events in June 3 and 10, 2023.

Sunday, May 7, Fifth Sunday of the Resurrection, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 9, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 14, Sixth Sunday of the Resurrection, Mother's Day, and The Elmira Chapel Foundresses Day.

Tuesday, May 16, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

(Ascension is Thursday, May 18, the 40th day.)

Sunday, May 21, Ascension of the Lord Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 23, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 28, Pentecost Sunday, the Great 50th Day, HOLY SPIRIT RENEWAL SUNDAY (25th Anniversary Lisa and Steve)

Tuesday, May 30, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 3, SAVE THE DATE: Elmira Pride – APPLICATION PENDING

Sunday, June 4, Trinity Sunday, the Anniversary of the 20th year of worship services in the Elmira Chapel, Pride Month First Sunday.

Tuesday, June 6, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 10, SAVE THE DATE: Southern Finger Lakes Pride in Corning. We are going to have an information table and talk about the Church.

Sunday, June 11, Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ, Renewal of Servants Of The Eucharist for one year of service.

Tuesday, June 17, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 18, Celebration of Juneteenth, Father's Day and the 27th Anniversary of Ordination

Tuesday, June 20, Bible Enrichment at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 25, NYC Stonewall Pride 54th Anniversary of the Pride Protest, and the 53rd Parade Anniversary

Tuesday, June 27, NO Bible Enrichment

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We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: Amen

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

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

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

SONG:

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqisia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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

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

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five

years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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

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



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

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

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

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this

Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

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

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

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

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

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told "no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J.

O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

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

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public 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/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#).

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs

—————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)