



**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 June 18, 2023, Juneteenth, Father's Day, Ordination 27th,  
Relicensing Servants of the Eucharist, Pride Wk 3, 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:** Exodus 19:1-9 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 65

**Psalm:** 100 selected verses in this bulletin

**Second Reading:** Romans 5:1-8 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 155

**Gospel:** Matthew 9:35 - 10:8 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 9

\*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 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 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, and a blessed Third week of PRIDE MONTH to all. 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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and a blessed Pride Month to all. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You are not required to be a member at Ray Of Hope Church or 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com).

Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. To help us prepare for worship today, Ed Askins will play a prelude the wrong song was reported. This is the piece that was actually played:

**Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Come Bless The Lord " Words and Music by Philip Lawson Johnston.** © 1975 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI Song # 78763. 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 LGBTQIA2SS+ 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)**

(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 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:** The Lord is present as He promised. Let the people say alleluia.

**ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord.**

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 June 18, 2023, we are celebrating Juneteenth, Father's Day, the 27th Anniversary of Ordination, Relicensing Servants of the Eucharist, and Pride Wk 3, Year A. Pride week three parallels the third week of Advent, Rejoice Sunday, Gaudete Sunday when we celebrate Pride Sunday in the Winter, precisely six months from today. We wish all father's among us, and those who have given a father's love outside of the usual circumstances of fatherhood, a very blessed and happy Father's Day.



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

Today we are celebrating the **thirty-fourth Sunday** in our 40<sup>th</sup> 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: Once We Were Not A People. Music: Aurelia, Samuel**

**Wesley, Text: J. Thomas. Sopko ©1987** Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

## + 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, as we light 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:** Lighting 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 was 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 even some countries continue to reject sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read aloud over 10,000 names sewn into the Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of the people.

**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 # 78

- Gerd Wagener (1)
- Thomas Lazewski (2)
- Robert Filomeno (3)
- Gus Arnett (4)
- John Jay (5)
- William Randles (6)
- Gray (7)
- Terry van Laarz (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 to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when 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: "We Shall Overcome" public Domain Text and music: Traditional.** Glory and Praise 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition #556 Onelicense Song #85925 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, 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 8-10: <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, Jesus, who is present, faithful, and just, will forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> 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>  
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:** Now, we reflect on our relationships with God and others in silent prayer and 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Sometimes we allow the events of daily life to distract us from our mission to spread the Good News of the Gospel; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Sometimes we have turned away opportunities to explain the Gospel thinking the timing is not right, or the person is not interested rather than trusting the Spirit to guide us; Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** God assists us in our work of freedom and liberty for all. Sometimes we fail to give God credit for helping us; 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 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 us with the service of praising God in thanksgiving 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**

**Pastor: 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 Exodus, chapter 19, verses 1-9. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 65 in the First Testament. Here begins the reading.

## **The Israelites Reach Mount Sinai**

**19** On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. <sup>2</sup> They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup> 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole Earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup> The people all answered as one, "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+19%3A1-9&version=NRSVUE)

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+19%3A1-9&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 100 verses 1 -5 with a responsorial verse. The response today is, "Come before the Lord with praise and thanksgiving."

**R: Come before the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the Earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence singing songs of praise.

**R: Come before the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.**

Know that the LORD is God, Who made us.

We belong to God and are the Lord's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

**R: Come before the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.**

Come into God's gates with thanksgiving, into God's courts with praise. Give God all the praise and thanks.

The LORD is good; God's steadfast love and faithfulness endure forever.

**R: Come before the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.**

## + 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 to the Romans, chapter 5, verses 1-8. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of ©2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 155 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

## Results of Justification

**5** Therefore, since we are justified (\*\* Saved\*\*) by faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access<sup>[b]</sup> to this grace in which we stand, and we<sup>[c]</sup> boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we<sup>[d]</sup> also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. [5.1](#) Other ancient authorities read *let us*
- b. [5.2](#) Other ancient authorities add *by faith*
- c. [5.2](#) Or *let us*
- d. [5.3](#) Or *let us*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5%3A1-8&version=NRSVUE> )

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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 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 Matthew, chapter 9:35 through 10:8. We are reading from the NRSV Updated Edition of © 2021. The NRSV pew bibles have a similar reading on page 9 in the Second Testament.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Reader:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

### **The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few**

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were

harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;<sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

## The Twelve Apostles

**10** Then Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.<sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John;<sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus;<sup>[b]</sup><sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

## The Mission of the Twelve

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not take a road leading to gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan town,<sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.<sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'<sup>[c]</sup><sup>8</sup> Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

### Footnotes

- a. <sup>10.1</sup> Gk *he*
- b. <sup>10.3</sup> Other ancient authorities read *Lebbaeus* or *Lebbaeus called Thaddaeus*
- c. <sup>10.7</sup> Or *is at hand*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+9%3A35-10%3A8&version=NRSVUE>)

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## Gospel Acclamation

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

 Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.   
The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.  
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQISA2ss+ 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**

June 1, 2023, was the TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.



Celebration, dedication of the new mobile friendly version of our website.

**First Reading: Exodus 19:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, **if you** obey my voice and keep my covenant, **you shall be** my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole Earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> but you **shall be** for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."  
<sup>7</sup> So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup> The people all answered as one, "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."

God made a **conditional covenant**; I will do that if you do this. God will make you a treasured possession, a priestly people, a holy nation. The people respond and accept the mission, the assignment, the calling saying, "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." (Exodus 19:8)

**Psalm 100** Come before the Lord with praise and thanksgiving.

**PRAYERS. We need to give more praise and thanksgiving and less asking.**

**Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5**

5 Therefore, since we are justified (\*\*Saved\*\*) by faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access<sup>[b]</sup> to this grace in which we stand, and we<sup>[c]</sup> boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we<sup>[d]</sup> also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**Gospel: The harvest is plenty, the laborers are few.**

WHERE ARE THE LABORERS? WHERE ARE THOSE SERVANTS READY TO GO?

On the celebration of Corpus Christi, we usually relicense our Servants of the Eucharist, Ray Of Hope's lay ministry, for another year of service. We will do this today after this sermon.

=====

Father's Day. God gives us parental care with all the qualities of masculinity and femininity because God is the fullness of the entire spectrum. All of us are capable of showing divine motherly love and divine fatherly love. We are made in the image of God, who made us in "our image: Male and Female." (Genesis 1:26, 27) All men and women show both the love of a mother and the love of a father not only for their offspring, if they have any, but towards all hurting persons, for example, at a birthday celebration or when helping

people mourning the loss with emergencies or death experiences, all moments of tragedy, trauma, happiness, joy over a rainbow or the gut-laughter after a huge thunder boom. When we avoid the "either/or" binary thought, we are open to "both /and" in our approach.

Many LGBTQSIAN2ss++ persons experience both Mother's Day and Father's Day as too difficult to reconcile with their own experiences. Many of us will never be able to return and fix our previous family experiences. In this case, I invite everyone to think ahead, have forward-thinking, and be part of reshaping our Society to improve the lives of the young people coming behind us. Let's work together to assure the young that their family experiences will be better than ours.

**Juneteenth \*\*\* BOOKLETS – Retreat \*\*\*: When is Juneteenth? \*\*The following information is taken directly from this website:**

<https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/usa/juneteenth>

"Juneteenth National Independence Day is a US federal holiday. It was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Thursday June 17th 2021.

Juneteenth is a state holiday observed in the American states of Massachusetts, New York, Texas, and Virginia on June 19th each year.

Officially known as **Emancipation Day** and also called **Juneteenth Independence Day** and **Freedom Day**, Juneteenth is a portmanteau word (blended word) for June and nineteenth and commemorates the June 19th, 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas and the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans throughout the Confederate South.

### *History of Juneteenth*

On January 1st 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared the end of slavery with the Emancipation Proclamation. Two and half years later, and two months after the end of the Civil War, Union troops arrived in Galveston on June 19th 1865 to find that news of the proclamation had not yet reached Galveston and that people were still being held as slaves in Texas.

The leader of the Union Troops, General Gordon Granger then formally announced the emancipation from the balcony of the former Confederate Army headquarters.

The reason why the news about the emancipation took so long to reach Texas is subject to speculation. One theory is that the messenger who was originally sent with the news had been killed before he reached Texas. A more likely scenario is that the local slave owners simply held onto the information, ignoring the emancipation order.

Although the news of the emancipation reached towns at different times across the South, there was a collective decision to recognize 19th June as the date of the emancipation. The date of the proclamation itself (January 1st) wasn't considered as the people wanted to mark the date when the slave's lives were actually affected by the new freedom.

The annual commemoration of this date, which became known as Juneteenth, was seen as a stabilizing and motivating presence in the lives of African-Americans in Texas, who despite their newly-acquired freedom, still faced many uncertainties and challenges." SOURCE:

<https://www.officeholidays.com/holidays/usa/juneteenth>

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Last Sunday, I attempted to clarify the two separate Theological concepts; Real Presence and Transubstantiation. Please read through the following two websites carefully for external verification of what you hear in these sermons. I encourage you to go to the History section of the article on Real Presence. In the History section, you can see Real Presence was believed and experienced right away in the first centuries of the church.

The Church has recognized the Real Presence since the first records.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real\\_presence\\_of\\_Christ\\_in\\_the\\_Eucharist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_presence_of_Christ_in_the_Eucharist)

In the second article, Transubstantiation, note the use of the word "teaching" to describe this attempt to explain what might be happening during the church's prayers. It is uniquely Thomistic, developed as a 13<sup>th</sup> Century article of Roman Catholic theology in its final form. Recall that "teaching" is the third level down on our chart: "[Doctrine, Dogma, Teaching, and Practice](#)."

See the History section of this article: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transubstantiation>

6-18-23 Juneteenth, Ordination, Father's Day, Servants of the Eucharist, Pride Wk 3 Year A Page 20 of 40  
At Ray Of Hope, individuals decide what they believe about the Eucharist. Everyone's understanding is accepted and considered valid. We understand that every human brain will uniquely understand and process each faith article. Everything we learn in life we learn from our unique experiences. At Ray Of Hope, we highly value freedom of thought and understanding. Therefore, when our congregation prays a prayer for the consecration of the bread, wine, or grape juice, we leave it to God to be certain we have "the Gifts of God for the People of God." We pray:

**"...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**

With this prayer, we admit we do not claim to fully understand the Gift any more than we know the Gift of Salvation or life itself. We depend entirely on God to give and authenticate that we are following God's Will.

On our website, the positions of most denominations are summarized with citations to books for further reading.

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

*To Whom these letters shall come, be it known that*

***Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.***  
*of Elmira, New York has Certified and Licensed and thereby recommends*

---

***to be a Servant Of The Eucharist,  
a Eucharistic Minister  
and Guardian of the Blessed Sacrament to the Body Of Christ  
everywhere.***

*In this Ministry Tami is authorized to administer Holy Communion, the Sacrament of Anointing for Healing, the Sacrament of Confession, and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to those who are sick, persons in prisons and jails, those who are in emergency situations such as vehicle accidents, airport emergencies, and any other situation as dispatched by the Pastors of Ray Of*

*Hope Church. These Sacraments are to be administered to anyone who requests them without distinction of any kind, and may also be shared by those other persons who are gathered together during the time of these ministries.*

*Certified and Licensed on Sunday, May 29, 2006 on the Feast of Corpus Christi, being reviewed and relicensed annually, now for June 18, 2023– June 30, 2024.*

*Questions are directed to the Pastoral cell phone 607-280-0374 twenty-four hours a day.*

*Appointed Pastor \_\_\_\_\_*

*Council \_\_\_\_\_*

*Regarding the Deposit Of Faith, the Doctrines of the Christian Faith, known to us in the Holy Scriptures, the Church, and the Sacraments you are charged to listen to and follow the Command of St. Paul given to St. Timothy: "Guard the Deposit entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge." (1 Timothy 6:20)*

*"Guard the good Deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."*

*(2 Timothy 1:14 NIV)*

*With the whole People Of God you are charged to continue "steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42 NKJV)*

*In this charge and ministry our Lord and Saviour promises to be with you and to provide for you all you will need. He commands and promises:*

*"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on Earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:176-20 NKJV)*

*Christ promised the "law of the Holy Spirit" saying; "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom God will send in My Name, will teach you everything, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26)*

*"When the Holy Spirit of truth, has come, the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth; and will not speak on its own authority, but whatever the Spirit hears from me will be spoken to you and the Holy Spirit will tell you things to come." (John 16:13)*

*If you accept the charge of this Ministry and promise to carry it out with the help of the Holy Spirit for the period of June 18, 2023 to June 30, 2024, sign your name here:*

*"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." (1Timothy 1:17)*

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## **+ Recommission and Anointing of the Servants of the Eucharist**

Veronica Floyd 2006  
Tami Whatley 2006  
Lisa Frost 2005

### **+ 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 479th day. So, we continue to pray and ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by the realities of war and conflict; and help the World Leaders have the ideas and desire to end this conflict; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 2:** We continue praying for people we know needing healing and support, especially lifting in prayer those fighting Cancer, including Heather's mother, Henrietta Bower, Sue Lemak, Bernell Hooker, Amy Robinson, Gillie Waddington, our Ray Of Hope members Cheryl Allen, April Struhm, and others we are thinking of right now. To these names, we add persons needing general healing; Richard Tripp, Lisa Frost, Allena McGlaughlin, Kaiden Hall, Ed and Phillipa Askins, and Brian DeLafayette, Orlando for general health concerns, Veronica's Brother-in-law Elwood Robinson has an upcoming hip replacement surgery. Who else????\_\_\_\_\_. We pray for a blessing on the August and Holly Faulk family and Holly's parents, as both family homes were lost to a fire this last Tuesday, June 13. Everyone was able to move to safety, but the loss was devastating. Therefore, we pray that each family member will

experience God's real presence and strength through this difficult time. The loss of housing brings to mind those who lost their homes to severe wind and flooding this week. 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/> )

**Leader – 2:** As we continue to learn about climate change, we pray for all people, animals, and the Earth itself suffering the effects, and we pray for world leaders to recognize and respond to this environmental emergency with compassion and actual plans of action; we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Lisa Frost:** Please join me in silent prayer for this following prayer. O God, we thank you for Heather and Michael and their desire to have a baby. We thank you for the success of Heather's pregnancy, and we are filled with joy and thanksgiving for this success so far. As Heather prepares for the birth of their child, we continue to remain vigilant, and we ask you to guide each step of these last few hours to a beautiful and successful delivery. We ask you to give everyone involved special grace and blessings so they can think clearly, and carefully make the right decisions going forward. We give you thanks and praise, especially for the gift of life and the awe of participating in the creation of life. Amen.

**Veronica:** 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 Frost added a prayer to thank God for her friend, Cindy who has been healed from severe cancer, more severe than was originally revealed to

her. Cindy has reported that all treatments are finished and even the treatment port was removed as she is completely healed. Praise to God, Amen.

**Veronica:** 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. Anyone



may use the QRCode:  or the [PayPal link](#) in this 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.

Finally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never

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 Sing Praises" Words and Terry MacAlmon.** © 1989 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI Song # 17061. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**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

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

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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

**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,**

## 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 May 28 \$1,793.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of June 4 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of June 11 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

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

Thank you to April Struhm for donating \$100.00 toward the Pastor's Self-Employment line in the budget.

Elmira Pride Donations \$18.00

Corning Pride Donations \$10.00

**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**

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

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

Sunday, June 25, N.Y.C. Stonewall Pride 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pride Protest and the 53<sup>rd</sup> Parade Anniversary

Tuesday, June 27, NO Bible Enrichment

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**NOTE: Whitney Tipton** recommended the 2016 Documentary "13th" which may be found on Netflix. The caption reads; "In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U. S. prison boom. I have watched it and found it to be very informative and I recommend it as well. Thank you, Whitney.



## **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.**

**Last Song** Give thanks Words and Music Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI Song # 20285 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

## **POSTLUDE: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**

WESTMINSTER ABBEY Text: 87 87 87; Angularis fundamentum, 11th cent., tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: Henry Purcell, 1659–1695. OCP Octavo/Bonus Music 747 Onelicense Song # 84081 Used with permission. Onlicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Performed by Rev. Clyde McLennan. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted.

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/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqsia? 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

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](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/> 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)

