



**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 special welcome to our visitors. You  
are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

Today is August 27, 2023, Pentecost WK 14 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."***

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

The 60th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and  
Freedom was Saturday, 8-26-2023.

**Scripture Readings for this worship event:**

**Angels, Part 1. Special Readings.**

**First Reading:** Exodus 3:1-6 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 50

**Psalm:** 91 with a response in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-7 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 219

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-36 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 29

\*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 until the bell rings.

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

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured 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) We ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



## WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

### + Pastoral Welcome

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, 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. You can participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

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 welcome. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us later in this worship event. Membership in this or any church is not required. We celebrate the Lord's open table. Internet participants, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare: 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 on Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" on Skype, in the Chat window, and on our website in 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. This morning, Ed Askins will play a prelude, "In the Presence of Jehovah," by Becky and Geron Davis. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and refrain from visiting. Thank you.

**PRELUDE: "In The Presence Of Jehovah " Words and Music by Becky Davis and Geron Davis.** © 1983, 1985 Meadowgreen Music Company CCLI Song # 162040. 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](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm)) ([www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm](http://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. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

**Leader -1:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID safety protocols by waving 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. 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 those present and God.

**Yesterday, August 26, 2023, was the march to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.**

**"Not a Commemoration, a Continuation."**

**The actual anniversary is tomorrow, August 28.**

**To read about Bayard Rustin, take a moment and go here:**

[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Black\\_History.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Black_History.htm)

Then go here: [http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Black\\_History\\_Page2.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Black_History_Page2.htm)

Then go here:

(<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/files/Julian%20Bond%20and%20Bayard%20Rustin%20House%20Manager%20Jamie%20Raskin%202-13-21%20Closing%20Remarks.pdf>)

"Maybe the President really thought this was going to be like the March on Washington organized by Bayard Rustin and Dr. Martin Luther King, who said: Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial moral and political questions of our time. " Manager Jamie Raskin 2-13-2021.

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

**We have to EDUCATE and ACTIVATE the young adult LGBTQSINAE2ss+ Electorate! This is an Electorate Emergency. This is not a drill! (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)**



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

Today, we celebrate the **Forty-Forth 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, it means to be 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>.

**Today is August 27, the fourteenth week of Pentecost.**

**Today's theme: Angels, Part 1**

**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: We Shall Overcome G&P 556** Text and Music: Traditional Glory and Praise 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 556 Used with permission. Onelicense song # 88613. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

## + The Candle Of Hope

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

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

**Leader -2:** In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty years later, some churches, religions, and even countries still reject the 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 Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of 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 # 87

- Jeffrey Kowalczyk (1)
- Bob Stark (2)
- Christopher Urbanik (3)
- Duane Hoebet (4)
- Bill Powell (5)
- Stewart Barkal (6)
- Nancy Cole Sawaya (7)
- Charles Barthell (8)

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. Pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (\*\*pause for silent prayer.\*\*\*) We hope this candle's flame will 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 National AIDS Memorial 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: Lord of Glory.** Words and Music by Tim Manion

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## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

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

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

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, consider relationships with God and others. Then, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who will forgive us 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

We fill our weeks, days, and hours with so many things we tell ourselves we must do and leave little or no time to privately read the Scriptures, meditate and pray, or be involved in ministry; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** We look at the chaos in the world and fail to guide those around us to Christ and His Church for answers and understanding; Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** When we see our prayers answered, when we see the results, we often fail to give God credit for helping us in wonderful ways; 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 losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

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

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able, and we pray.

**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 Word of God, lead us to your truth and wisdom. 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 reading is Exodus, chapter 3, verses 1-6, in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 50 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

### **Moses at the Burning Bush**

**3** Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb,<sup>[a]</sup> the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." **4** When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

### **Footnotes**

a. 3.1 Gk: Heb reads *to the mountain of God, to Horeb*

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+3%3A1-6&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

**+ Psalm:** \*\*\*\* **If an introduction is needed:**\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is \_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_.

Today's Psalm is 91 selected verses with a responsorial verse. The response today is, "The angels will guard and keep you."

### **Assurance of God's Protection**

**R: The angels will guard and keep you.**

- <sup>1</sup> You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,<sup>[a]</sup>
- <sup>2</sup> will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."

**R: The angels will guard and keep you.**

- <sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence;
- <sup>4</sup> he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and defense.
- <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night  
or the arrow that flies by day
- <sup>6</sup> or the pestilence that stalks in darkness  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

**R: The angels will guard and keep you.**

- <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.
- <sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge,<sup>[b]</sup>  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
<sup>10</sup> no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

**R: The angels will guard and keep you.**

<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

**R: The angels will guard and keep you.**

<sup>14</sup> Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
<sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble;  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy them  
and show them my salvation.

**Footnotes**

- a. 91.1 Traditional rendering of Heb *Shaddai*
- b. 91.9 Cn: Heb *Because you, LORD, are my refuge; you have made*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+91&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.)

**+ 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 Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 1-7 in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 219 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

## God Has Spoken by His Son

**1** Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,<sup>[a]</sup> whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. **3** He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains<sup>[b]</sup> all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for<sup>[c]</sup> sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## The Son Is Superior to Angels

**5** For to which of the angels did God<sup>[d]</sup> ever say,  
"You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you"? (Psalm 2:7)

Or again,

"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"? (2 Samuel 7:14 and Psalm 2:7)

**6** And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him." (Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 97:7)

**7** Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds  
and his servants flames of fire." (Psalm 104:3,4)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### Footnotes

- a. [1.2](#) Or *the Son*
- b. [1.3](#) Or *bears along*
- c. [1.3](#) Other ancient authorities add *our*
- d. [1.5](#) Greek *he*

[Read full chapter](#)

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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 25:31-36 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 29 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 Judgment of the Nations**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

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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**

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



<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> Celebration, dedication of the new mobile-friendly version of our website.

**Today's first reading: Exodus 3:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

The Angel of The Lord: Divine second person of the Trinity. This is Christ in the First Testament. Whenever

The Angel of The Lord appears in Scripture, God carries out an act of Salvation. Here in Exodus, God is saving the people of Israel out of Egypt and bringing them back to the Mountain of God. See the summary in your Scofield Notes at Judges 2:1, page 341 in Scofield III.

The "flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed," seems to indicate the Holy Spirit, in my opinion. Fire is often associated with the Holy Spirit, even on the Day of Pentecost, when flames of fire appear over the head of each person in the room. See Acts 2:3; see also 9c in the summary on the Holy Spirit in the New Testament, page 1495 in Scofield III.

God called him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

I see the entire Holy Trinity in this epiphany of "the burning bush," as it is commonly called.

One session in our series on Angels will focus on "The Angel of The Lord," the Christ before taking on human flesh in Bethlehem.

Psalm 91:11, 12 <sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

Angels guard and protect us. The Angel of The Lord, the Christ of God, guards and protects. Jesus said each person is given their guardian angel in Mathew 18:10 "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven." (NRSVUE) The angel given to each is not taken away when one becomes an adult. (Romans 11:29 <sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.") I have guardian angel stories from my own life, do you?

Second Reading: Hebrews 1 2b-3a "heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup> He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains<sup>[b]</sup> all things by his powerful word." This first chapter of the Book of Hebrews clearly states the highest place in Creation, the Christ of God, Jesus born in the flesh, has forever, even above prophets and angels. The people understood prophets, The Angel of The Lord, and other angels, seraphim and cherubim. Through the ministry of the Apostles, we learn that Christ has risen above them and shares in the Divine Nature of being God. For our purposes today, the Book of Hebrews ascribes to the Doctrine that Angels are real.

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory."

Notice there is no doubt in the words of Jesus that He will be accompanied by "all the angels." He states the reality of angels as a fact of Creation.

The angels seem to be pretty important. Therefore, as your Pastor, I must direct you to the Word of God, the Bible, where we will "recall, reflect, and rejoice" (our prayer before the Service of the Word) to learn the Doctrine of the Angels.

SERMON PRESENTATION: The Angels: Who, What, Where, Why, When, and Wonderful. Part One.

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# The Angels: Who, What, Where, Why, When, and Wonderful. Part One.

1917 Scofield Notes Hebrews 1:4

2002 Scofield III Hebrews 1:4

**#2** "The 1917 Scofield Reference Bible notes are now in the public domain. . "

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scofield\\_Reference\\_Bible#:~:text=The%201917%20Scofield%20Reference%20Bible,the%20United%20Kingdom%20and%20Ireland.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scofield_Reference_Bible#:~:text=The%201917%20Scofield%20Reference%20Bible,the%20United%20Kingdom%20and%20Ireland.))

"Because no one holds the exclusive rights, anyone can legally use or reference those works without permission." and " A notable exception is the United States, where every book and tale published before 1928 is in the public domain; "

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_domain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_domain))

In the 1917 edition of the Scofield Reference Bible the Summary on Devils /Demons (Sco. Original) The Reality of Demons (Sco. III) is found at Matthew 7:22. It is reprinted here as it appears on e-Sword

<https://www.e-sword.net/downloads.html>

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scofield\\_Reference\\_Bible#:~:text=The%201917%20Scofield%20Reference%20Bible,the%20United%20Kingdom%20and%20Ireland.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scofield_Reference_Bible#:~:text=The%201917%20Scofield%20Reference%20Bible,the%20United%20Kingdom%20and%20Ireland.))

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_domain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_domain))

<https://www.e-sword.net/downloads.html>

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**#3 Hebrews 1:4 These notes are from the 1917 Scofield Reference Bible now in the Public Domain**

Angel, Summary: Angel, "messenger," is used of God, of men, and of an order of created spiritual beings whose chief attributes are strength and wisdom. (2Sa 14:20); (Psa 103:20); (Psa 104:4).

In the Old Testament, the expression "the angel of the Lord"; (sometimes "of God"); usually implies the presence of Deity in angelic form. (Gen 16:1-13); (Gen 21:17-19); (Gen 22:11-16); (Gen 31:11-13); (Exo 3:2-4); (Jdg 2:1); (Jdg 6:12-16); (Jdg 13:3-22).

(See Scofield) - (Mal 3:1).

The word "angel" is used of men in; (Luk 7:24); (Jam 2:25); (Rev 1:20); (Rev 2:1); (Rev 2:8); (Rev 2:12); (Rev 2:18); (Rev 3:1); (Rev 3:7); (Rev 3:14).

In (Rev 8:3-5), Christ is evidently meant.

Sometimes, angel is used of the spirit of man. (Mat 18:10); (Act 12:15). Though angels are spirits; (Psa 104:4); (Heb 1:14); power is given them to become visible in the semblance of human form. (Gen 19:1).

Compare (Gen 19:5); (Exo 3:2); (Num 22:22-31); (Jdg 2:1); (Jdg 6:11); (Jdg 6:22); (Jdg 13:3); (Jdg 13:6); (1Ch 21:16); (1Ch 21:20); (Mat 1:20); (Luk 1:26); (Joh 20:12); (Act 7:30); (Act 12:7); (Act 12:8); etc.).

The word is always used in the masculine gender, though sex, in the human sense, is never ascribed to angels. (Mat 22:30); (Mar 12:25).

They are exceedingly numerous. (Mat 26:53); (Heb 12:22); (Rev 5:11); (Psa 68:17).

Their power is inconceivable. (2Ki 19:35).

Their place is about the throne of God. (Rev 5:11); (Rev 7:11).

Their relation to the believer is that of "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation", and this ministry has reference largely to the physical safety and well-being of believers. (1Ki 19:5); (Psa 34:7); (Psa 91:11); (Dan 6:22); (Mat 2:13); (Mat 2:19); (Mat 4:11); (Luk 22:43); (Act 5:19); (Act 12:7-10).

From (Heb 1:14); (Mat 18:10); (Psa 91:11), it would seem that this care for the heirs of salvation begins in infancy and continues through life.

The angels observe us; (1Co 4:9); (Eph 3:10); (Ecc 5:6); a fact which should influence conduct.

They receive departing saints. (Luk 16:22).

Man is made "a little lower than the angels," and in incarnation, Christ took "for a little "time" this lower place (Psa 8:4); (Psa 8:5); (Heb 2:6); (Heb 2:9) that He might lift the believer into His own sphere above angels. (Heb 2:9); (Heb 2:10).

The angels are to accompany Christ in His second advent. (Mat 25:31).

To them will be committed the preparation of the judgment of the nations. (Mat 13:30); (Mat 13:39); (Mat 13:41); (Mat 13:42).

(See Scofield) - (Mat 25:32).

The kingdom-age is not to be subject to angels, but to Christ and those for whom He was made a little lower than the angels. (Heb 2:5).

An archangel, Michael, is mentioned as having a particular relation to Israel and to the resurrections. (Dan 10:13); (Dan 10:21); (Dan 12:1); (Dan 12:2); (Jud 1:9); (1Th 4:16).

The only other angel whose name is revealed Gabriel, was employed in the most distinguished services. (Dan 8:16); (Dan 9:21); (Luk 1:19); (Luk 1:26).

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**#4 Hebrews 1:4** Angel, Summary:

Angel, "**messenger**," is used of God, of men, and of an order of created spiritual beings whose chief attributes are strength and wisdom. (2Sa 14:20); (Psa 103:20); (Psa 104:4).

2 Samuel 14:20 <sup>20</sup> In order to change the course of affairs your servant Joab did this. But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the **angel of God to know all things that are on the earth.**" (NRSVUE)

Psalm 103: 20-22

<sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
obedient to his spoken word.

<sup>21</sup> Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
his ministers who do his will.

<sup>22</sup> Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. (NRSVUE)

Psalm 104:3,4 You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

<sup>3</sup> you set the beams of your<sup>[a]</sup> chambers on the waters;  
you make the clouds your<sup>[b]</sup> chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind;

<sup>4</sup> you make the winds your<sup>[c]</sup> messengers,  
fire and flame your<sup>[d]</sup> ministers. (NRSVUE) Notes a, b, c, d, "his"

**#5** In the Old Testament, the expression "the angel of the Lord"; (sometimes "of God"); usually implies the presence of Deity in angelic form. (Gen 16:1-13); (Gen 21:17-19); (Gen 22:11-16); (Gen 31:11-13); (Exo 3:2-4); (Jdg 2:1); (Jdg 6:12-16); (Jdg 13:3-22).

We will return to this later in the presentation. Today's reading, Exodus 3:2-4 is referenced here.

<sup>2</sup>There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (NRSVUE)

(See Scofield) - (Mal 3:1). "My messenger" (Mal\_3:1) is John the Baptist; the "messenger of the covenant" is Christ in both of His advents, but with especial reference to the events which are to follow His return.

### **The Coming Messenger**

**3** See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. (NRSVUE)

Working Links

### **SOURCES:**

<https://www.e-sword.net/index.html> Scofield Notes 1917



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<https://apps.apple.com/app/id1348418553>



Scofield Reference Bible (4+)
Scofield Reference Bible Dict
Watchdis Group B.V
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https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=scofield.study.bible.AOUSZEBHWHGBECWAC&hl=en\_US&gl=US

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BROTHER: All of our freedom of Scientific inquiry, social studies, psychological research, Biblical research, and laws came to us by voting. All of it can be overturned by vote; that is how a democracy works.

Religion is invoked in the presentations of the rationale for reversing rights gained in social, educational, healthcare, and even religious settings. The only way to protect what we have is to stay informed and involved in the process. (Br. Benedict 8-5-23)

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

We have to EDUCATE and ACTIVATE the young adult LGBTQSINAE2ss+ Electorate! This is an Electorate Emergency. This is not a drill! (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

=====

+ 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:** There is an increase in violence in our Country and the World. People are killing each other over differences in opinion, ethnicity, social and economic status, gender, and so many different aspects that we should celebrate, embrace, and seek to help others. Here is one example.

**Brother Benedict:** Laura Ann Carleton, the owner of Mag Pi clothing store in Lake Arrowhead, California, was fatally shot on Friday, August 18, 2023, at her store. A man took issue with Mrs. Carleton's rainbow flag outside her store. According to investigators, the man made disparaging comments about the flag.

Take a moment and read the full story here: <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-news/california-store-owner-mother-nine-shot-killed-pride-flag-displayed-sh-rca100849> Read more about this wonderful lady, Lauri Carleton from the Mag Pi website: <https://www.shopmagpi.com/pages/about-us> See the Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/shopmagpi/>

MetroWeekly

[https://www.metroweekly.com/2023/08/california-store-owner-fatally-shot-over-pride-flag-dispute/?mc\\_cid=0de9bd4727&mc\\_eid=7e55257280](https://www.metroweekly.com/2023/08/california-store-owner-fatally-shot-over-pride-flag-dispute/?mc_cid=0de9bd4727&mc_eid=7e55257280)

Leader -3: We pray for increased empathy, awareness, and care among all people; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** The war in Ukraine continues past the 519th day. Tensions and threats of conflict between Russia, China, other Asian Countries, and the European Union or the West continue to rise. So, we pray that the World Leaders have the ideas and desire to end this conflict; we pray to the Lord.

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

Brother: I received the following email this week.

Brother Shawn,

Last month, the Russian State Duma passed an extremely transphobic law that bans legal and medical transitions, **denying the right of self-determination to trans people from Russia.**

Trans Russians can no longer legally change their gender marker in documents, pursue gender-affirming surgeries, or access hormonal therapy. **This ban makes it almost impossible for trans people to live safely and healthily in Russia.**

**Two Russian organizations started a petition on Megaphone, All Out's platform, asking EU commissioners to guarantee asylum for trans Russians.**

This is an emergency, Brother Shawn, and **YOUR** support can make a difference. **Can we count on you?**

**YES, I'LL SIGN NOW!**

Thank you for going All Out!  
The All Out Team

I, Brother Benedict, refer you to the map on the ACLU website showing all 494 bills: <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights>

**Leader – 2:** Therefore, we pray for the Trans population of Russia and every Country where Trans people, as well as other persecuted people. We pray for people to acknowledge the face of God in every person; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 2:** We continue praying for people we know who need healing and support; 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, especially the people of Maui, Hawaii, the people in our Northwestern States, the people

of Canada who are also having fires, and all people who experienced flooding this week. We pray that world leaders will recognize and respond to this environmental emergency with compassion and actual action plans; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader:** 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader:** 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 [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) 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 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.\*) )

**OFFERTORY SONG: Praise the Lord, My Soul.** Words and Music by John B. Foley, SJ © 1975, 1978, John B. Foley, SJ, and OCP. All rights reserved. Onelicense Song # 85181 Gory and Praise 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 691 Used with

permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**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

**Leader:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

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

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

### 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](#).

**Communion 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 755 Used with permission. Onelicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

**General Offering** for the week of July 23 \$1,968.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

**General Offering** for the week of July 30 \$168.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of August 6 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of August 13 \$71.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

**General Offering** for the week of August 20 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 5

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

**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, August 29, 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment.

Nominees for the Council are Kaiden Rae Benedict and Christina A. McLaughlin. Take time to get to know your nominees and ask your questions of them during these next three weeks.

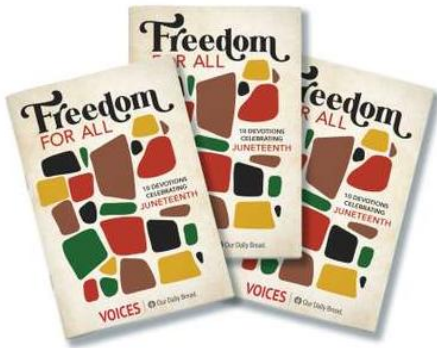
Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition Sunday, September 10, 2023 3:00 p.m - 5:00 p.m. at The United Church of Painted Post. Gary Smith will present on Anti-Racism. The Church is located at 201 N. Hamilton Street in Painted Post (exit 44 off of I-86)

Friday, September 22, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, September 24th Annual Meeting - also Cheryl Allen Birthday.

October 12, 2023, is the 25th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's murder in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. The Southern Finger Lakes Pride presents The Laramie Project, a play by Moises Kaufman, and The Tectonic Theatre Project on October 11 (National Coming Out Day) and October 12 at the Rockwell Museum. For more information go to

<https://facebook.com/events/s/the-laramie-project/1977687032573315/?mibextid=RQdjgZ>



[https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm\\_source=reading-plan&utm\\_medium=unbounce&utm\\_campaign=juneteenth-23](https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm_source=reading-plan&utm_medium=unbounce&utm_campaign=juneteenth-23)

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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: Lord of All Hopefulness.** Text: 10 11 11 12; 'Lord of all hopefulness' by Jan Struther, 1901-1953; fr. Enlarged Songs of Praise, 1931. Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Music: Trad. Irish melody; adapt. fr. The Church Hymnary, 1927 Used with permission. Onelicense # 80443 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

POSTLUDE: Organ How Great Thou Art.

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.

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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

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## 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](#)

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## 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

8-27-23 CORRECTED SUNDAY Pentecost Week 14 Year A Page 42 of 44  
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)

