



**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 Thirty-eighth year of Ministry.

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory.”

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

*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)*

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as you 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 a time of refreshments and sharing.

January 10, 2021 The Epiphany of Jesus – Year B

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

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:** Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 690

Psalm: **Psalm 72:1-13 responsorial in this bulletin.**

**Second Reading:** Eph 3:1-6 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 193

**Gospel:** Matt. 2:1-12 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 2

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



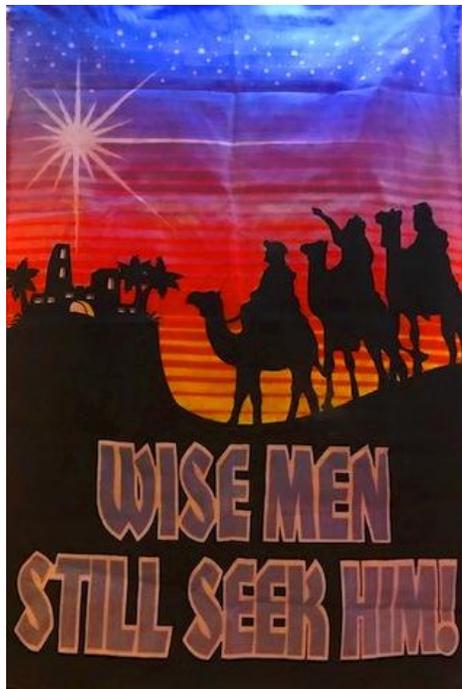
## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Bells 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** Please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. 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 are in honor of 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 always ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.

\*\* We will welcome the Facebook Live guests before the second bells are rung.\*\*

**Bells 2<sup>nd</sup> ring to announce the start of the worship event.**



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS

## + Pastoral Welcome

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Today is January 10, 2021. At Pastor Benedict's request, I am not going to turn over the camera and microphone to him before we go any further with today's worship event.

**Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict:** Good morning. I find it impossible to continue into a well outlined and somewhat rehearsed liturgy this morning without first addressing the events of this last week, and particularly the unparalleled attacks on our Government that took place on Wednesday, January 6, the actual Feast of the Epiphany, from a pastoral point of view.

Every person who becomes a Member of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. agrees to uphold and support each of the articles in our Statement of Purpose, which is available at the end of this program as well as on our website. One article of the statement is that the Members of this Church promise to “**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,” and that list could go on to add many more social ills.

It is because of this Statement of Purpose, and my Citizenship in these United States that I speak on behalf of myself and of the Members of this Church in response to Wednesday, January 6, 2021. We find absolutely no good of any kind in the actions of insurrection that were carried out in violence in Washington DC and other locations around the country on January 6, 2021. We extend our condolences to the families of those whose blood was shed in this incident, and to those who were injured. We also realize people were terrorized by the blatant acts of white privilege and racism, and so too we extend our support and empathy to anyone who was frightened. The stark contrast of security enforcement between the January 6 attack on our Government and any of the other peaceful demonstrations that have happened in the last four years is undeniable. To those who were

deeply shaken by this, we extend our support and our resolve to participate in the process of change in our Government. Allow me to repeat for clarity; We find absolutely no good of any kind in the actions of insurrection that were carried out in violence in Washington DC and other locations around the country on January 6, 2021. A response of thoughts and prayers is not enough, according to our Statement of Purpose. We agree to do everything we can to expose “all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism,” and the list is noted above. Therefore, we call upon the elected leaders of our country to confront the conflict and bring resolution accordingly. We call upon everyone, including ourselves, to work resolutely for liberty and justice for all with a renewed commitment. Thank you.

Now, please try to focus on the worship of God in these remaining few minutes together.

**Leader – 1:** My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. We welcome you 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 are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

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

**Leader -1:** Please take a moment now to welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. \*\*During COVID we may simply wave into the camera across the Internet.

**Pastor:** We begin in the name of God, Christ Our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Pastor:** Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor: (\*\*introduction of the theme of the day\*)** 1) Epiphany is celebrated on January 6 in most places. Many local churches celebrated it last on last Wednesday, January 6. By doing so, the vast majority of church-attending people did not celebrate Epiphany simply because they did not go to worship last Wednesday. If you hear that local churches celebrated The Baptism Of The Lord, today, January 10, 2021 you are correct. I made a pastoral decision to be sure we celebrated Nativity (December 27), Holy Name and Presentation (January 3), Epiphany (January 10), and The Baptism Of The Lord (January 17). We will catch up to our neighbor churches on Sunday January 24. I made this decision as the Appointed Pastor of Ray Of Hope Church because I wanted those who attend to have the full and complete menu of celebrations of this Christmas Season, realizing you will be in attendance on Sundays. Our worship schedule bent toward your needs rather than the Church imposing holy days of obligation on days other than Sunday. To celebrate this special day there are some added prayers to our usual practice and outline.

**Pastor:** We begin now to worship God in the beauty of holiness, in spirit and in truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

**ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.**

Opening Invitatory

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. I will lead the Invitatory prayer.

**Leader - 3:** We have come to give God praise, thanks, honor, and glory.

**ALL: On this day we consider the visitation of the magi who recognized the divinity of the Son of God.**

**Leader – 3:** God sent the Only Begotten Son to live among us and set us free so we can grow into the fullness of God’s vision for us.

**ALL: Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Leader – 3:** Here we are, ready to hear your voice, O Divine Holy Spirit. Like the magi, like Joseph and Mary, we desire to do your holy will.

**ALL: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

## FIRST SONG

### + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. At this time we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope. This is a testimony to our anticipation of the resurrection of all the dead, and the transformation of the living faithful, when Christ returns.

**ALL: Jesus said: “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 -1:** Our faith community is looking forward and waiting “for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.”(Titus2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of Hope in honor of the “Blessed Hope,” the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

**Leader -2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to help us remember those who died of AIDS, especially since many who were very sick and dying were rejected by the churches, were very much alone and

needed spiritual guidance. We remember them here and pray for their families.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. I will read the names at this time. (\*\*Names are read at this time.\*\*)

**Leader -2:** We also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have passed. May the candle's flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us 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**

## **SECOND SONG**



### **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

#### **+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.**

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) At this time we prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in Word and Sacrament by confessing our sins to Christ in silent prayer.  
(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 God in any way. I ask you, my

**brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

L-3: Filled with the Holy Spirit we are called to show forth the Christ of God. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-3: With Christ living in us we are called to bring His presence to every situation in life. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

L-3: The birth of Christ into the world is central to our understanding that Jesus is Lord. For the times we have failed to openly share this good news, we pray Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able as we give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

**Song:**

**Glory be to the one God, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.** (Traditional Gloria Patri hymn with inclusive language.)

**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**



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



## **THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

### **+ First Reading**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Our first reading is found in the Book of Isaiah, chapter 60, verses 1-6.  
You will find this on page 690 in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### + Psalm

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_  
in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The Psalm today is 72, verses 1 – 13. Our response  
today is; "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
He shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;  
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.

All kings shall pay him homage,  
all nations shall serve him.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall rescue the poor when they pour out,  
and the afflicted when there is no one to help them.

The King shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;  
the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

## + Second Reading

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Our second reading is found in the Book of Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 1-6. You will find this on page 193 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,<sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,<sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.<sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:<sup>6</sup> that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

**Reader:** The Gospel reading is found on page 2 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Book of Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1-12. We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

### Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

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

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

**Reader:**

**The Visit of the Wise Men**

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of

Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

## Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

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### + Sermon

#### NOTES

Matthew 24:6-8

<sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Jesus said: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8.32 -----

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Isaiah 25:7, 8 The Lord will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
8 he will swallow up death forever.

with

Hebrews 2:14 and 15 <sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

with

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

\*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord

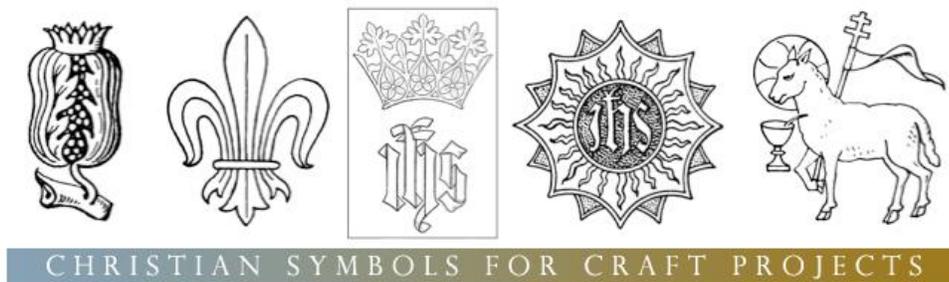
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

===== [https://www.etsy.com/listing/742800735/chrismon-sets-6-or-more-ornaments?ref=pla\\_similar\\_listing\\_top-1](https://www.etsy.com/listing/742800735/chrismon-sets-6-or-more-ornaments?ref=pla_similar_listing_top-1)





Christian Symbols for Chrismon Crafts



CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS FOR CRAFT PROJECTS

Samples of the Christian/Chrismon patterns found in the following collection.

<https://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com/2017/03/christian-symbols-for-chrismon-crafts.html>

This collection includes historic Christian symbols visitors may use for crafts. I will include explanations of the symbols.

- [About Christian Symbolism](#)
- [Best Guide to Chrismons for Christmas](#)

From the website: "In the Latin-speaking Christianity of medieval Western Europe (and so among Catholics and many Protestants today), the most common Christogram became "IHS" or "IHC", denoting the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus, ΙΗΣΟΥΣ, *iota-eta-sigma*, or ΙΗΣ. The Greek letter *iota* is represented by **I**, and the *eta* by **H**, while the Greek letter *sigma* is either in its lunate form, represented by **C**, or its final form, represented by **S**. Because the Latin-alphabet letters *I* and *J* were not systematically distinguished until the 17th century, "JHS" and "JHC" are



equivalent to "IHS" and "IHC"."

Source: <https://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com/2017/03/ihc-plus-crown-pattern-for-chrismons.html>

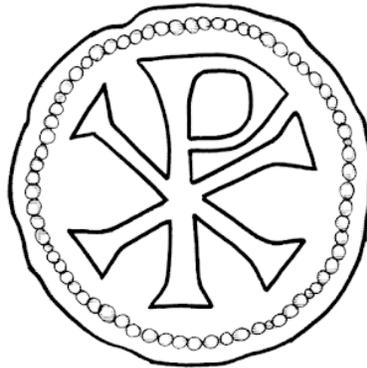
The **Chi Rho** (/ˈkaɪ ˈroʊ/) is one of the earliest forms of christogram, and is used by some Christians. It is formed by superimposing the first two (capital) letters chi and rho (**XP**) of the Greek word "ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ" = *Christ* in such a way to produce the monogram. Although not technically a Christian cross, the Chi-Rho invokes the crucifixion of Jesus, as well as symbolising his status as the Christ.

The use of a wreath around the Chi-Rho symbolizes the victory of the Resurrection over death, and is an early visual representation of the connection between the Crucifixion of Jesus and his

triumphal resurrection, as seen in the 4th century sarcophagus of Domitilla in Rome. Here, in the wreathed Chi-Rho the death and resurrection of Christ are shown as inseparable, and the Resurrection is not merely a 'happy ending', tucked at the end of the life of Christ on Earth. Given the use of similar symbols on the Roman standard, this depiction also conveyed another victory, namely that of the Christian faith: the Roman soldiers who had once arrested Jesus and marched him to Calvary now walked under the banner of a resurrected Christ.

(<https://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com/2015/07/chi-rho-with-white-backgrounds.html> )

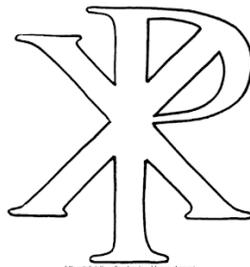
### Cross of Constantine Pattern - two versions



<https://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com>

This pattern would look nice done in felt with pearl beads sewn around the edge.

Two patterns of the Cross of Constantine for those of you who are crafting Chrismons this Christmas.



<https://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com>

Cut this cross of Constantine from wood or Styrafoam before decorating it with glitter.



<http://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com>

Left, a simple Cross of Constantine. Center, A coin of Constantine (c.AD 337) showing a depiction of his labarum spearing a serpent. Right, modern ecclesiastical labara.

This cross was the design which the Emperor Constantine saw gleaming in the sky on the eve preceding his great victory over Maxentius. It was surrounded by the motto, "In hoc signo vinces." After gaining the battle, the Emperor professed Christianity, and adopted this Cross as his device on banner and shield. It is also found on his coins.

The Cross of Constantine is formed of the first two letters of the Greek word Christos or Christ--the X (Chi) and P (Rho) united. It resembles a Monogram rather than a Cross, and was much used as such by the early Christians. It is adapted to Corpus Christi, and Ascension Day.

Source: <https://christianclipartreview.blogspot.com/2015/05/cross-of-constantine-pattern-two.html>

SOURCE: <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/chrismons.shtml>



**The Cross** symbolises that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a Cross.



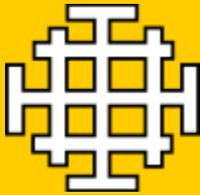
**The Latin Cross**, also sometimes called the Roman Cross. The base of the Cross has three steps that symbolise faith, hope, and love.



**The Irish or Celtic Cross** is a normal cross with a circle in the middle to symbolise eternity.



**The Triumphant Cross** represents the earth with the cross on top. It symbolises Jesus is triumphant over anything we can face in the world.



**The Jerusalem Cross** was worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem, in the middle ages. It can symbolise the Four Gospels in the Bible, the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth or the five wounds of Jesus when he died on the cross.



**The Eastern Cross** is used by many Eastern or Orthodox Churches.



**The Furca or Upsilon Cross** comes from the Greek letter Y. It is also called The Thieves' Cross from the two robbers who were crucified on each side of Jesus. It also symbolises the choice between good and evil.



**The Anchor Cross** reminds Christian's that Jesus is the anchor of their faith.



**IHS** are the first three letters of 'Jesus' in Greek, this has been used to represent Jesus from the third century. From the middle ages, they also were used in the latin phrase "Jesus Hominum Salvator" which means "Jesus, Saviour of men". And in English they can mean "In His [Jesus's] Service". I've added them on a Cross as it looks more interesting!



**The Fish** is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.



**Alpha and Omega** are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they are the symbolise that Christians believe Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.



**The Chi-Rho** looks like a 'P' with an 'X' on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.



**The Star of David**, sometimes called the Star of Creation, is a symbol that Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of King David.



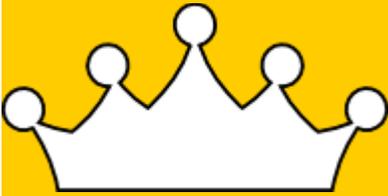
A **Five Pointed Star** represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.



**The Nativity Star** is the symbol of [the Star of Bethlehem](#) or Epiphany, when the [Wisemen](#) visited Jesus.



An **Eight Pointed Star** represents baptism and regeneration.



**The Crown** is the symbol that Jesus is King. It shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and the earth.



**The Shepherd's Crook or Staff** remembers that Jesus sometimes called himself a shepherd. It can also represent the shepherds who were the first people told about the birth of Jesus.



Both of these symbols represent the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. **The Triquetra** is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity. **The Trefoil** (at the bottom) is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.



**Hands in Prayer** help Christians remember that they should pray to God.



**The Scroll** represents the Bible.



**The Dove** is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptised.



**The Lamp** and **The Candle** both represents that Christians believe Jesus is the Light of the World.



**The Shell** is a symbol for baptism. It reminds Christians of the water that they are baptised in. It is also a sign of Pilgrimage, as Pilgrims to the Holy Land (Israel) would use a shell as a drinking vessel.



**The Keys** are a symbol for the Church in all the world. Jesus told his friend Peter that "I will give you keys to heaven", so this means that Christians have to tell other people about Jesus.



**The Ship** is also a symbol of the Church, sailing towards heaven.



**The Cup or Chalice** is a symbol of the Mass, Eucharist or Communion. It also represents God's forgiveness.



**The Angel** reminds Christians of the angels who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. It can also represent the second coming of Jesus, which the Bible says will start with an Angel blowing a trumpet.



**Babe / Manger** represents Jesus as a baby at Christmas.



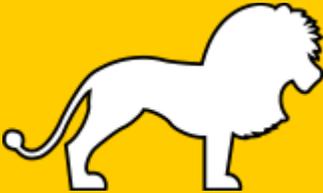
**The Lamb** is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lamb of God'.



**The Butterfly** is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul.



**The Heart** is a symbol of love and reminds Christians that God is love.



**The Lion** is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lion of Judah'. Jesus is also represented as Aslan the Lion in the Chronicle of Narnia books by C S Lewis.



**The White Rose** is a symbol for purity and can represent Mary.

A very good and entertaining video by chuckknowschurch.com on the IHS:

<https://youtu.be/hdDWuQL8nBE>

Some quotations from “Born To Be King” by Dom Bernard Orchard, O. S. B. beginning on page 51.

“We now come to an incident in the early life of Jesus that is related only by Matthew; Luke, who knew our Gospel of Matthew, makes no mention of the flight into Egypt at all, thus ignoring entirely a period of some four to five years in the childhood of Jesus. But then there was no need for him to repeat what the evangelist Matthew had already adequately recorded. .... The child had already grown into a toddler; and everything was going on nicely when all of a sudden a party of distinguished visitors came to the village and knocked at their door. ... They proved to be a deputation from the East, and had been guided to the door by a special star which they claimed to have first seen in their own country, and which had led them to Jerusalem in their search for the king promised of old to the Jews. ....”

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From a previous bulletin: The prophet Daniel was taken into the court of eunuchs to serve King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon some six hundred years earlier. The eunuchs were often court magi and were called upon to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Those who failed to give the dream and interpretation were put to death for failing to guide the King. The prophet Daniel is able through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit to tell the king his dream and to interpret it. In Babylonian culture, Daniel became one of the magi and was elevated to being the chief magi for some forty years and he held a position of great respect and power. Some scholars think Daniel might have influenced the writings of the prophecies of the Babylonian and then the Persian Zoroastrian magi to know that a Messiah, divine child king, would come from Israel and he would be God's anointed Messiah deliverer for all humanity. **Those same magi would have been familiar with Daniel's writings where he predicted that 483 years after the Jewish people would be released from captivity, the Messiah, King, saving child would come. (Daniel 9:25-26).** THE SAME DATING PROCESS MENTIONED ABOVE THAT INFORMED BOTH THE ROMAN WESTERN AND GREEK EASTERN CHURCHES FOR THE DATING OF THE BIRTH. Perhaps some of the Magi remained faithful to the true God Daniel introduced them to. These might be some of the magi who have come to Jerusalem to wait, watch, and pray for the birth of the coming King. Now that it had happened, we have the account of Matthew telling us they were convinced that these prophecies would have been recently fulfilled. The magi studied the skies and star patterns as one of the sources of religious knowledge. The gospel tells us a new manifestation was showing in the skies and the Magi recognized it as the star that would guide them to the divine child. It has been pointed out that Herod was likely terrified to see Parthian magi and troops coming into Jerusalem looking for a newborn king of the Jews! These magi were from enemy territory.

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A good short article on the planetary conjunction of 2020:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiecartereurope/2020/12/18/how-when-and-where-you-can-see-christmas-star-planets-then-shooting-stars-on-the-solstice-this-week/?sh=44c5ec9f5348>

A longer and more detailed article is found here:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiecartereurope/2020/12/15/how-you-can-see-the-once-in-10-lifetimes-christmas-star-or-star-of-bethlehem-this-week-with-your-naked-eyes/?sh=179dcbb73299>

The following is a short excerpt from the article: "How You Can See A Once-In-10-Lifetimes 'Christmas Star' Planets This Week With Your Naked Eyes" Forbes Magazine by Jamie Carter December 15, 2020.

Go outside right after sunset tonight and look to the southwest. In the rising twilight you'll see the planet Jupiter shining brightly, followed shortly after by Saturn, which will soon become visible in the gathering darkness.

In just a few days they will appear as one—but only for a very short time.

In a celestial event that's been interpreted as a possible source of the "[Star of Bethlehem](#)" nativity story from the Christian religion, the two giant gas planets will appear a tantalizing 0.1° apart on the evening of December 21, 2020. That's about a fifth of the full Moon's diameter.

It will be the closest approach of Jupiter and Saturn since shortly after the telescope was invented in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The reason I do not understand this alignment of the planets Jupiter and Saturn to be the “star of Bethlehem” is twofold. 1) I understand this to be just but one more attempt of modern persons to seek natural answers for events described in the Bible to further advance the ideas that only natural events happen. People regularly search for natural answers to divine activity. 2) The star in Matthew’s Gospel was bright for up to two years when one considers the length of time involved with the facts. Clearly, Jesus was a toddler when these religious specialists arrived. It was not a one-night, one-week, or even a one-month long show in the sky that one had to run out just after sunset or any other special hour day or night to see. There is no mention of the clouds possibly causing overcast conditions that would make the divine star impossible to see with the “naked eye” as is the case with our recent planetary alignment. This divine star shone day and night and was so visible that it clearly guided these deeply devout persons across hills, valleys, desert, and mountains. Also, the interest in this planetary alignment being associated with December 21<sup>st</sup>, goes back to the possible ideas of the Winter Solstice being somehow taken over by a new Christian religion..... or something about Jesus being born on December 25th. Both of these ideas have been explained in our sermons during the Nativity Season and there is no reason to associate December 21, or 25, or January 6, or January 7 with the historical birth of Jesus. Just from a slightly humorous point of view, no Emperor would call a Census in the dead of Winter because many travelers would die crossing the deserts at night. The desert may be brutally cold at night in the Winter months. There were no motels and hotels or chain company “nights inns” along the paths. Even more strangely, I still do not understand this family I see in yards all across cities who put their baby out in snowstorms in a diaper cloth in a feeding manger. This custom alone shines a very bright light on the ridiculous aspects of our version of the story. Freezing babies is child abuse! We don’t do that here. So there is another bright light epiphany for our Christmas customs in 2020.

Leave the divinity aspect of the story to the Divine God to explain. Read the Holy Scriptures. Keep it simple.

=====



## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

### **+ (optional) Profession Of Faith**

**Creed #1: The Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in the One Eternal, Loving, Life Giving,  
Forgiving, Good, and Gracious God,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,  
our Lord and Saviour.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day God raised Jesus from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God.

Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who is equal with God and the Son.

I believe in the one, holy, Christian Church, the Body of Jesus Christ that is universal/catholic, and apostolic.

I believe in the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting. Amen

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

## **+ The Prayers Of The People: Shared Prayer**

**Leader – 4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others, prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart. Please keep the prayers brief so as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and in truth. So, we begin with \_\_\_\_\_

(The person leading will invite prayers from the various rooms in the service.)

**Leader – 4:** (when all prayers have been heard) Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers and we ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**

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

**Leader - 5:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. At this time we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. During our COVID Infection Prevention procedures, we have many ways you can continue to support this ministry. To be directed to our website where you may make a secure Paypal donation using any debit or credit card, and you do not have to have a Paypal account to use this, [Right Click Here](#). Those in the chapel may use the offering plate, or you may send your donation to Lisa Frost directly or to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Elmira, NY 14901. We always say give what you can, but never give your last.

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. 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, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event **SOON**. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*)

(\* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set. A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. \*)

**Leader -1:** (\*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.\*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Pastor:** Lord God, we ask you to receive our worship this day. We pray that you will be pleased with our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer you with humble and contrite hearts.

**ALL: May the Lord accept our lives as a sacrifice for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's people. Amen**

**Pastor:** Please lift your bread at this time as I pray this prayer.

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this bread, 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), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Pastor:** Please set down your bread.

Now pour your wine or grape juice into your cup, if you have not done so already. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human, and with this fruit of the vine we remember He is divine forever.

Now, please lift your cup with me at this time as I pray this prayer.

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this 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 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), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Pastor:** Please set down your cup.

**Pastor:** We offer ourselves, with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind unto you Almighty God. Accomplish your desires for us in our lives. Mold us to be more like you every day. Receive us along with these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine to be made holy, and through them make us into a perfect offering to you, One and Only Holy God. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** Together we lift up our hearts!

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Pastor:** Together we give thanks to the Lord, our God!

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

\*\*\*\*\* the people may be invited to offer prayers of thanks and praise.

\*\*\*\*\* the Pastor continues with a Eucharistic Prayer.

## 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  
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.

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## + We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

**Pastor:** Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I 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 Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

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

**Pastor:** Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

**ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.**

(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)

**Pastor:** Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

**ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will**

**be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

**(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)**

**Pastor:** Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

**+ Optional Christological Cantic:**

**#1 Philippians 2:6-11**

**Though He was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at.**

**Rather, He emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men.**

**He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!**

**Because of this, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above every other name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend**

**(optional\*\*genuflect or bow\*\*)  
in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of**

**#2 Colossians 1:15-20**

**Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. In Christ everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible.**

**All were created through Him;  
all were created for Him. Jesus is before all else that is.  
In Him everything continues in being.**

**It is Jesus who is head of the body, the Church!  
He who is the beginning, the first-born of the dead, so that primacy may be His in everything.**

**It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in Christ and, by means of Him, to reconcile everything in His person, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of His cross.**

**God:  
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**

## **+ The Mystery Of Faith**

- a) Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**
- b) Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**
- c) When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your  
death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**
- d) Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.  
You are the savior of the world.**

## **+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.**

**Pastor (or other person designated):** While we are gathered here together we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere would recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for liberty and justice for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

## **+ Final Doxology**

**Pastor:** Please elevate the Holy Eucharist as a gesture of praise, thanksgiving, honor, gratitude and the offering of the entire Church, the Body Of Christ, to God.

**Pastor:** Together we pray:

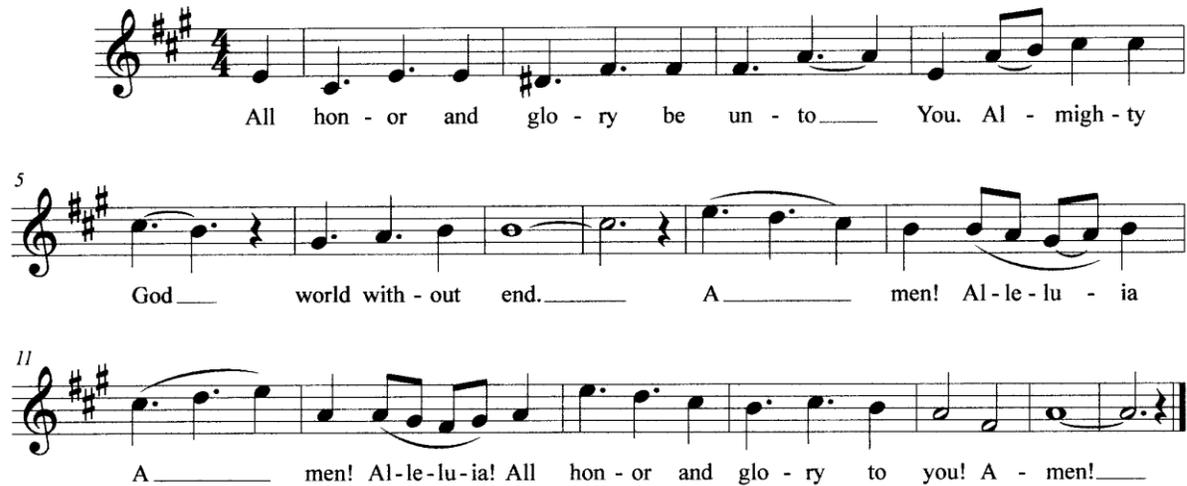
**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

## 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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## The Reception of Holy Communion

### + The Lord's Prayer

**Pastor:** Having heard the Word of God and having remembered 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**

**+ Sign Of Peace**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**+ The Lamb Of God**

**Pastor:** Please break the bread as we pray together:

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** You may set the bread down and pray silently as I pray this prayer.

**+ Priestly Prayer For All People**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that our participation does not bring us condemnation as St. Paul warned, but sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit. We pray that all God's people will one day be reassembled without the loss of anyone in your kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN**

**+ Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Pastor:** At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

**Pastor:** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Behold Jesus truly present in the Bread of Life, and in the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this Cup though they die they shall live forever. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

**ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word I am healed.** (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)

**Pastor:** Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

**Pastor:** I assure you, by His promises, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

**Leader-1:** Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

When you come forward, the person serving you will say; "The Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ for you." Respond with "Amen" or "Alleluia" or some other acclamation of appreciation or faith. Then take a piece of the bread and dip it into the cup and serve yourself. If you are here with family or friends you may come to Holy Communion together and serve each other. Please wait after you receive Holy Communion because the person serving you will pray with you before you return to your seat.

Serving Holy Communion today will be: \_\_\_\_\_

We sing during Holy Communion and maintain our worship. We begin. The Table of Christ is served.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. 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.

**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 in 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.

Special Music during Communion: Celebration Medley (Hallelujah Chorus/Joy to the World) G. F. Handel. Featuring Lisa B. Frost playing violin solo with the orchestra.



### **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)

**Pastor:** We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**General Offering** for the week; Worship January 3, 2021 Offering: \$88.00. Attendance - 5. Special Gifts: \$500.00 to the general fund from a Member as announced previously, Lisa Frost donated wine for the Chapel Holy Communion, A Kwanzaa donation of \$116.25 was made by Veronica, Aliyjia, Rashaad and the whole family, See the two special videos about this @ [www.rayofhopechurch.com/Kwanzaa.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Kwanzaa.htm). There were other gifts too that will be announced soon. We give God thanks and praise for all the gifts given.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Special Donations Sought** In January 2020, the Members of the Congregation voted to budget \$1,000.00 payment toward the pastor's estimated tax for 2020. Please consider making a special donation by **today, January 10, 2021** to help cover this budgeted expense.

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lgbtqisia2ssByYou/>

January 10 The Epiphany

January 12 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

January 17 The Baptism of The Lord

January 22, 2021 Council 2:00 p.m.

January 24, 2021 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday

March 14, 2021 Laetare Sunday, Rose Sunday in Lent

March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

April 1, 2021 Holy Thursday

April 2, 2021 Sacrifice of the Cross

April 3, 2021 Vigil of the Resurrection

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our web site;  
[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 at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

Other \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 on line:

Our website: [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com) Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here.](#)

Our YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtqs)

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

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

Titus 2:11 The **grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all**..

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)