

**"My House shall be a house of prayer for All People."  
(Isaiah 56:7)**

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Forty-second year of  
Ministry.**

**MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor, and make disciples  
of every person everywhere. (Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)**

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.  
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:  
"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God" (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 1-11-26 Epiphany Week I, Nativity WK 3, Year A  
Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian Faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.  
St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as  
***"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."***  
Scientific Discovery, Academic Knowledge, the Holy Scriptures, and Spirituality are Universal  
and Unified. (Br. Benedict 8-6-23)

**Scripture Readings for this worship event: \_**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6 NRSV First Testament pg. 690

**Response:** Psalm 72

**Second Reading:** Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 2-3a, 5-6 NRSV 2nd Test.  
pg. 193

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12, Second Testament pg. 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, and the 2nd  
Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you, ask  
someone around you to assist you. Thank you.**

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

**Bell's 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** As our 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.

Our St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY, is a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY, given in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured, and we now celebrate 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**

**Lisa Frost:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. This church is your Spiritual Service Station, and Faith Repair Shop, where our Loving Creating God is C.E.O., the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate your worship experience. Today is January 4, 2026. We announce all instructions, pages, and song numbers and use a

psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

To all who are online or may view this recording later, to facilitate your participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and the Music Supplement on Facebook Live by right-clicking the "Featured Links" icon. On Zoom, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). The Zoom link is also posted on the webpage.

**Ian McLaughlin:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*) We invite you to participate in as many or as few parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

Today is the Second of three Sundays of the Season of the Nativity, Christmas. Christmas is a Season in the Church, more than just a single day.

To people watching online, you may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. To participate in Communion, please bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



**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



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

**Katrina Lourdiane:** (\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\*) Good morning, my name is Katrina Lourdiane. Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

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



**Pastor:** Good Morning, **SAINTS!** Merry Christmas!  
**ALL: Merry Christmas!**

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

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

**Brother:** Together we pray Psalm 116:1 and 2:

**ALL:** Alleluia! I love the LORD; He hears my cry.

The Lord listens to my voice whenever I reach out for help.

I am thankful, Alleluia.

**Brother:** The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's fellowship is with you. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**ALL:** And also with you, praise the Lord.



**Brother:** Welcome to your Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop. We promise to do our best to help one another worship God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. At Ray Of Hope, we embrace a free-thinking standard; what you believe is between you and God. You are welcome here from any faith tradition, and even if you have no faith at all. God will take care of the relationship between God

and you. We are here to welcome you, love you, and affirm all of who you are. Today's celebration is the beginning of the Season of Epiphany, when we have readings in Scripture where God reveals God's self by action in life.

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

Ray Of Hope Church officially began on Reformation Day, October 31, 1983, the vigil of the Feast of All Saints. October 31, 2024, marked our forty-first anniversary, and we are now in our forty-second year of ministry.

The first public worship event in the Southern Tier was held on Saturday, September 14, 1996, The Feast of the Triumph Of The Cross. September 14, 2025, was the twenty-ninth anniversary of the first worship event. We are in our 30th year of ministry in the Southern Tier.

Sunday, June 1, 2025, was the twenty-second anniversary of the opening of the Elmira Chapel. We are in our 23rd year at 380 W. First Street, Elmira, NY.



**Veronica Floyd:** 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.**

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.**

**Veronica Floyd:** Here we are, ready to hear your voice, O Divine Holy Spirit. Like the magi, Joseph and Mary we desire to do you holy will.

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

**Colby Dense:** Our first song today is in the green Glory and Praise hymnal number 330, and in the electronic music edition. Please rise as you are able to sing We Magi of Orient Are.



**FIRST SONG: TEXT ONLY** We Three Kings Magi

1. We three kings Magi of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, Still proceeding,  
Guide us to the perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again;  
King forever, Ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

3. Frankincense to offer have I:  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising Gladly raising,  
Worship him God on high.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, Bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5. Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
"Alleluia, Alleluia!"  
Sounds through the earth and skies.

**We three kings of Orient Are** Text and music: Carols, Hymns, and Songs, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891  
Language: English. Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11. Text and music: Carols, Hymns, and  
Songs, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt. Glory & Praise Second Edition #333 Onelicense Song #84053  
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**Kaiden Benedict: Please be seated for  
+ Christmas Week 3, 2026 – The Dedication of a new Candle of Hope.**

**Brother:** A few weeks ago, around the start of Advent, I asked Marcus if he would change the Candle of Hope to an electric candle. I promised the Congregation to have all the regular candles changed to electrical candles with the intentional reduction of or costs for candle oil and wax, two or perhaps three years ago. Kaiden and I did convert the window Candle of Presence, which has stayed lit beautifully. Thank you, Kaiden.

When Marcus took a closer look at the condition of both of our original Candle of Hope candles, he asked if it might be time to refurbish the one we use in this chapel.

Marcus is an Artist, and he has gifts in Spirituality that can touch the tender places where we encounter the Holy. It seemed very appropriate to dedicate a new instrument, a new tool, that will call us to remember that Christ is with us all the time: "The Lord is With you," on the Feast of Epiphany. I think Marcus has taken the Candle of Hope to a new level. See if you agree. (the reveal)

Thank you, Marcus, for sharing your artistic gifts with us. Friends, nine months ago, at the Vigil of the Resurrection, April 19, 2025 we rededicated our Candle of Hope as we have done since April 3, 1999 when it was commissioned into service. Today, we will use the same liturgy we pray at the Vigil of the Resurrection to dedicate and commission this new Candle of Hope into service. So, we pray the following, which is the text of our

Vigil, with modifications

## + Dedication Of The Candle Of Hope

**Veronica Floyd:** Today, we dedicate a new and revised Resurrection Candle Of Hope for years of ministry. Our first candle was dedicated on Saturday night, April 3, 1999 at the Vigil, twenty-six years ago at the Pride Center, in Syracuse, NY. The Candle Of Hope has stood with us at baptism, anointing, healing, forgiveness, our funerals, weddings, ordination, commissioning of Servants of the Eucharist, times of prayers for ourselves and others, and when we remember those who have died of HIV and AIDS. The Candle Of Hope constantly reminds us of our eternal destiny in the fullness of the resurrection when God will be all in all. Then, there will be a new Heavens, Earth, and Life for all created beings. Friends here is another \* \* EPICLESIS \* \* as we make this prayer of blessing and dedication together.

**ALL: O God, we dedicate this candle as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of all people in the fullness of time. By the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, bless and make holy this candle that proclaims: Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to Christ and all the ages. To Christ be glory and power through every age forever. Amen.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** By His holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us, and keep us, today and always. Amen.  
Together we proclaim;

**ALL: Light of Christ, continue to rise in glory, dispel the darkness of the World, cleanse the desires of our hearts, and cleanse the thoughts of our minds so that we may love and serve God more perfectly now and always. Amen.**

**Katrina Lourdiane:** Please rise as you are able as we sing our song of dedication: Christ Be Our Light, number 656 in the green Glory and Praise hymnal, and on the electronic Music Edition.

**Christ, Be Our Light.** Words and Music Bernadette Farrell

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

**Christ, Be Our Light.** Words and Music Bernadette Farrell

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## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins, our failures.

**Ed Askins:** Please be seated. (wait) Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ is truly present among us and forgives our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who is present in this room and our bodies, and receive His immediate forgiveness.

**Ian McLaughlin:** Filled with the Holy Spirit we are called to show forth the Christ of God. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** With Christ living in us we are called to bring His presence to every situation in life. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** The birth of Christ into the world is central to our belief 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.**

**Ian McLaughlin:** We pray for forgiveness and renewal together.

**ALL: Lord Jesus, hear our confession, and receive our sins. Touch our hearts and shape our desires so that we will seek your Will daily in our lives. Send your Holy Spirit now to heal the wounds in our memories. Inform our conscience with the fire of your divine love so we will follow you without reservation. Draw us closer to you with your gentle voice and loving arms. We accept your forgiveness and restoration, in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen and Alleluia.**

**Ed Askins:** The Lord has heard our confession and has granted

forgiveness, and so we declare together:

**ALL: The faith community of Ray Of Hope Church openly declares the forgiveness of all your confessed sins in the Name of Jesus Christ. He forgives you, we forgive you, and God rejoices over your restoration in Christ. Amen.**

**Wayne Harris:** The Church now provides the service of praising God together in thanksgiving. Please rise as you are able as we sing "The Gloria."

## **WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN**

### **"The Gloria"**

From "Music for Worship"

© Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B. Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 1:

You are the One God,  
Sovereign of the Universe,  
Only Holy God, we worship You,  
we give You thanks,  
we praise You for Your great glory!

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!

We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 2:

Lord, Jesus Christ;  
The Only Begotten Son of God  
You are 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.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 3:

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 God.  
In the Holy Spirit, in the Holy unity of God.

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!  
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 4:

Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen; We give you thanks and praise.  
Amen.

From "Music for Worship" © Words and Music: Gaude! Liturgical Arts 7/25/19 - 1/21/24 Br.  
Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

Dedication: Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. 40th Anniversary.

Dedication:  
Ray Of Hope Church  
Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.  
40th Anniversary

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

Words and Music  
Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
7/25/19-1/21/24  
Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B.

**Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

4  
peace to all peo - ple on earth — Glo - ry to God in the high - est —

8  
We give you thanks — and praise. Al - le - lu - ia

10  
We give you thanks — and praise.

12 **Verse 1**  
You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly

16  
Ho - ly God, we wor - ship You, we

18  
give you thanks, we praise You for Your great glo - ry!

21 **Refrain**  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo - ple on earth —

25  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est — We give you thanks and

2

28

praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**

Lord, Jes - us Christ;\_\_\_\_\_ The On - ly Be - got - ten

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; Have mer - cy on

41

us; You are sea-ted at the right hand of God; re - ceive our prayer.

46 **Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est,\_\_\_\_\_ and peace to all peo - ple on\_ earth\_

50

Glo - ry to God in the high - est\_\_\_\_\_ We give you thanks\_ and

53

praise. Al-le-lu\_\_ ia We give you thanks\_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**

For You a-lone are the Ho - ly One You a - lone are the Lord of all,

61


You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

66



Spi-rit in the glo - ry of God. In the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

71



Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on earth.

79



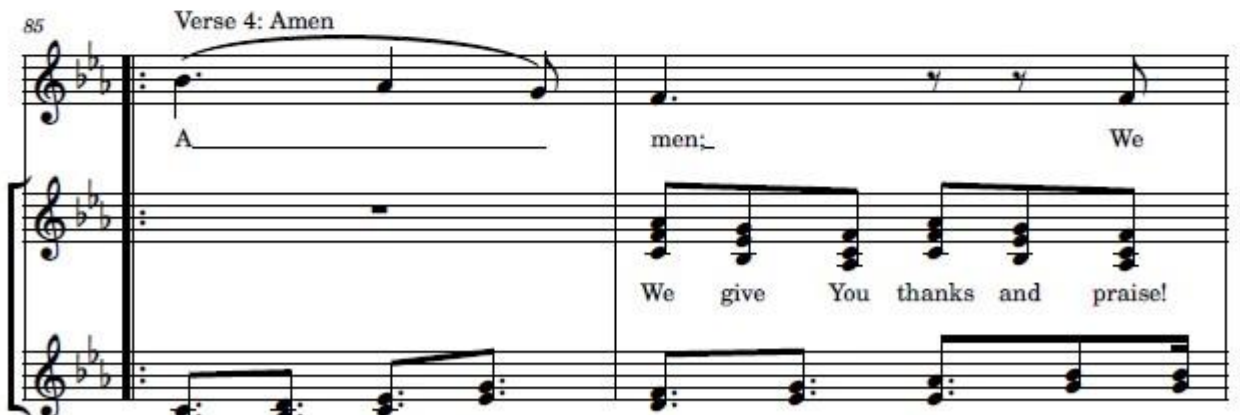
Glo-ry to God in the high-est. We give you thanks and praise. Al-le-lu-ia

83



We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen



A men: We  
We give You thanks and praise!  
Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

give You thanks, We give You praise We give You thanks and praise

89

A - men

A - men. Al - le - lu - ia.

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You men. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Wayne Harris:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Wayne Harris:** The Lord is with you, Alleluia!

**ALL: And also with you, Alleluia!**

**Wayne Harris:** Together, we lift up our hearts.

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

**Wayne Harris:** We make this exhortation together:

**ALL: Let us keep the Scriptures in mind and meditate upon them day and night, persevering in prayer, always on the watch. Let us beg the Lord to give us real knowledge of what we read and to show us not only how to understand it but how to put it into practice, so that we may deserve to obtain spiritual grace, enlightened by the law of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose power and glory will endure throughout the ages. Amen**

**Wayne Harris:** Saint Origen, who lived from 185 – 254 A.D., wrote this prayer. His prayer is our prayer on this day. Please be seated now and listen with all your heart, soul, and mind as we open the Word of God.



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

**Ed Askins:** Hello. My name is

\_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State  
of \_\_\_\_\_.

The first reading on this, the Third and final Sunday of Christmas, the Feast of The Epiphany is in 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:

### **The Ingathering of the Dispersed**

**60** Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

- <sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- <sup>4</sup> 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 in their nurses' arms.
- <sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,<sup>[a]</sup>  
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!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

a. 60.5 Heb *be enlarged*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2060%3A1-6&version=NRSVUE>  
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**+ Psalm:**

**Ian McLaughlin:** (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Psalm today is number 72, selected verses, with a responsorial verse.  
The response today is " Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

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

- <sup>1</sup> O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
<sup>2</sup> that he may judge your people in justice

and your poor in right judgement.

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

<sup>7</sup> In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.

<sup>8</sup> He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

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

<sup>9</sup> Before him his enemies shall fall,  
his foes lick the dust.

<sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and the seacoasts  
shall pay him tribute.

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

The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.

<sup>11</sup> Before him all rulers shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve Him.

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

<sup>12</sup> For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.

<sup>13</sup> He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor.

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

**Give praise to the Living God.**

**To God's Son, Jesus the Christ, Our Lord.**

**To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.**

**Both now, and forever. Amen.**

Psalm 72 Text of Psalm 72 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense song #11230. All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

**+ Second Reading**

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

The second reading is in the 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.**

**Lisa Frost:** This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. 3.1 Or *of*
- b. 3.1 Other ancient authorities lack *Jesus*
- c. 3.2 Or *if indeed*
- d. 3.3 Or *wrote before in brief*
- e. 3.5 Gk *it*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%203%3A1-6&version=NRSVUE>)  
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## **+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

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

## Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

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

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

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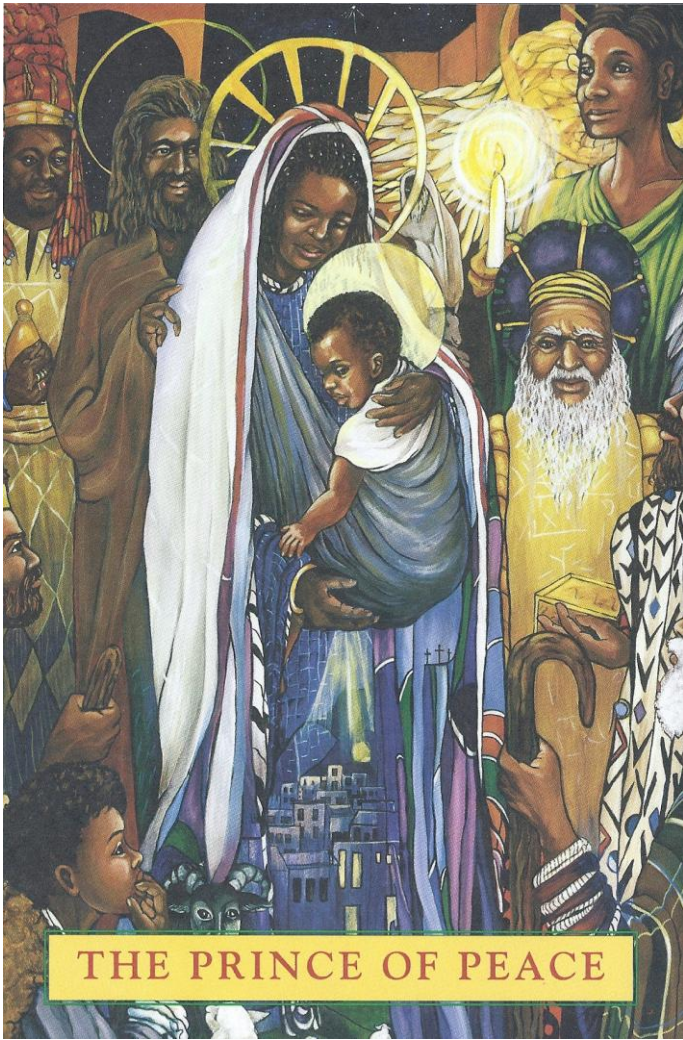
**Reader:** The Gospel reading is Matthew, chapter 2, verses 1-12 on page 2 in the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will read the ©2021 Updated NRSV Bible.

**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 Visit of the Magi

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.” **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. **5** They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

**6** ‘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<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi<sup>[e]</sup> 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 in the east,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> 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!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

- a. [2.1](#) Or *astrologers*
- b. [2.2](#) Or *at its rising*
- c. [2.4](#) Or *the Christ*
- d. [2.6](#) Or *rule*
- e. [2.7](#) Or *astrologers*
- f. [2.9](#) Or *at its rising*
- g. [2.10](#) Gk *saw the star*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%20%3A1-12&version=NRSVUE> .  
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**Gospel Acclamation**

**Forever, We Are Yours!**

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaudel Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

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**



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



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

The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 43 years. October 31, 2025 - 42nd Anniversary now in our 43rd 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. 15:10**

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves (workers, servants, assistants) for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

RED for Martyrs; dry martyr, wet martyr. People feel crushed under the weight of massive firings across the United States, a result of the new President and his Administration. \*\*Good news: Federal Judges ordered the Executive Administration to reinstate all Federal Employees who have been fired since the start of this Administration. (Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/13/politics/judge-opm-probationary-employees-fired-hearing/index.html>)

=====SERMON NOTES: Marcus Coppola =====

Sermon notes week 3 of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus the Christ January 11, 2026

Ingredients for today's talk have been occurring for many months and maybe even years. Toddler? Who knew this? I learned this only a few weeks ago. And that is ok. It is ok to not know everything all at once. No point in being done. We cannot be done in Christ any more than the Trinity can be done within us. They need the relationship with us as much as we need that relationship with Them. To commune with each other. To that end, epiphanies happen every single moment of everyday.

Yet, during Christmastide, the Christmas Season, we want and need to focus on Jesus the Christ revealing Himself to the world and indeed, at times, the world showing us the Christ. Last week's Gospel highlighted something to me. In Luke ch 2 Simeon says "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel". Simeon said "the Gentiles". The involvement of the gentiles has been sticking out to me for a while now. It was a gentile that rescued Moses from the river and named him. Today' s reading from Isiah 60 prophesized the coming of the Magi who were to "come to the Light" "and "they shall proclaim the praises to the Lord" to the Gentiles, to all nations. Also in Luke ch 2:10 an

angel of the Lord says to the shepherds "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you tidings (recent news) of great joy which will be for all people." That would include the gentiles. And we are gentiles. At Ray of Hope we understand that all means all. All includes. It does not dismiss. We know this through epiphanies, knowledge in the case, given through the Holy Spirit.

An epiphany is an event that allows God, the Holy Spirit and the Christ to be revealed in a way that we all can see and understand that the presence of God is among us.

It was an epiphany for Joseph and Mary when Simeon and Anna spoke of Jesus in a way that revealed who He truly was. Some did see, hear, and recognize who He was! In the beginning of His ministry He was careful to be quiet and asked folks to remain silent of the things that they had seen and heard. Yet some knew

But, let us have a closer look at the epiphany of these strangers from the east who have credentials of being 'wise people' 'people very interested in Sacred things' thus 'magi' and a caravan to aid them in their travels to see the Savior of the world. They are following a 'star' from Iraq traveling west to Jerusalem. They are answering to prophecies traced back to the time of Daniel, the 6th century B.C. Prophecies that foretell of the coming Lord and all the signs to look for including the star that they are following.

Matt 2:2 To the people of Jerusalem, "Where is He who has been born 'King of the Jews'? For we have seen His star in the East (speaking of their homeland being in the east and not the direction of the star) and have come to worship Him."

Verse 3 When Herod the king heard this he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. The whole city yes because of this rather large regalia that just happened to come over the brow of the hill one day. The logistics and strain on the markets and Inns was enough to stir a commotion. Now, these strangers are asking where the King of the Jews is so that they may worship Him. And they are not asking Herod directly. They are furthering their folly by questioning people on the streets and in the markets and so on. I believe that they thought everyone would have known what was happening. Come to find out, no one knew what had happened. Now Herod governed the Jews by authority from Caesar. Because this child was a threat to his kingdom he would eventually act hastily and cruelly. And yeah, the scribes are telling him that the threat is real in

Matt 2:3-6.

Verse 3 When Herod the king heard this, speaking of the strangers in town asking questions, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. He called in his magi and asked what this was about. They at least confirmed the Micah prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Verse 7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the visiting Magi, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

They leave and follow the star to Bethlehem.

Matt 2:11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. Their worship of Him is an epiphany of the Lord. He is revealed through their open outward sign And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold for His Kingship, frankincense for His divinity, and myrrh for His coming death. Frankincense is used to carry prayers to God and Myrrh is used for embalming These particular gifts were carefully chosen to be an epiphany in themselves

Verse 12 Then being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Matt 2:16 Then, Herod saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry and sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its districts, two years and under, according to the time which he had determined from the traveling wise men. So yes, a toddler of one to two years old.

A few weeks back during bible enrichment, Brother was explaining that we are all saints and priests. We are saints who are God's children because we believe, and our priesthood is the works we do for Christ. Wanting to help him clarify exactly what he was trying to convey and simplify it. We came up with this statement. Believing makes us a Saint, Doing God's work makes us a Priest.

**BROTHER:** Marcus also is giving us another gift today, that shows in Art this truth, "Believing makes us a Saint, Doing God's work makes us a Priest."

These Magi and their company are both Saints and Priests. In believing, they left their homeland to travel far with a multitude of people and supplies necessary for such a journey. 260 hours of walking according to modern mapping. At 8 hours a day that is 32.5 days of walking. With layovers and what not. It would have taken longer. This is having faith on a very large scale. In not returning to Herod, they became Priests by doing God's work and protecting the Child. God sent them a sign, and they responded by traveling. God asked them to do a good work for Him. They acted.

These are epiphanies from scripture. From antiquity. But what about now? And what about those who will believe?

I have a story where God in Christ revealed Himself to me that I would like to share. One Saturday afternoon I was driving with a close friend and this happened;

"Have you ever been face to face with Jesus Christ before?" "No" she replied. "Well, that is about to change because here He comes right now." "What are you talking about?" she asked? "See the old gentleman on the bike, yellow suit and hat to match?" And He was smiling like Shirley Temple!!! "Yup" she says. He was on the wrong side of the street for a bicycle. And riding between the stopped traffic and the parked cars along the street. When I think of it, I love that He was breaking that rule! Now, he is even closer as he pedaled the city cruiser with a basket on the front, handle streamers and a proper bell, coming in our direction looking right at us with that toothy smile. By then I was completely sure. "It's Him", I said, "and I am not Joking". She froze staring forward as He rolled up to the passenger side of the car where she was sitting. You see, we were stuck in community festival traffic in a small Indiana town visiting her sister. It was Saturday and I had not yet decided on which church to worship at. I had started the search for a church to attend the moment we arrived early in the week by looking at ads in the paper and the yellow pages of the area. The week was now done and no place had presented itself. The bicycle came to a stop. I put the window down and time stood still. He put His hand on the door and leaned in just a bit saying "Have you folks found a church to attend tomorrow yet?" His eyes glowed just a bit. I felt His presence and I knew without doubt that it was Him. I said; "No but, You are about to tell us where to

go.” He looked at me and said “I Am” And now I was frozen. He and I stared at each other for an eternity. Or it seemed that way. When I look back on it now and as I was writing this, in those moments between us, all of my lifetimes with Him were remembered in a flash. And I mean remembered! And my friends, for me, it is in the remembrance that Agape’ burns! The Love of God that surpasses all understanding and barriers. In that moment that you and God are one and time stands still. “Do you see the church down the street?” He said, “The white one just there on the right?” as He points without taking His eyes off of me.

My passenger, still frozen in silence, has a tear running down her left cheek. “I do,” I said without actually looking. “I will see you there at 9 O’clock in the morning.” “Yes Sir, Thank You, see You then!” I replied. “Have a blessed day, I will see you there.” He said, as He leaned back, tipped His hat and pedaled off. I was forever changed from that moment on. Even though I am sure that I encountered Him before, this time was different.

Yes, he was there that next morning but, just the human. He remembered the encounter of course but not the same way that we did. For me, my relationship with my Father has been that close ever since that time in Indiana. He was at an arms length. And He has never been further away than that.

My friends and Family of choice, As God’s Priests we are sometimes asked by Him to minister to folks considered by society either as a conflict or in conflict with the interest of ‘bettering the community’. Or some other nonsense or wordage used to dismiss, discredit, demonize and destroy them. Sometimes we also are being discounted in some way. And it is Us. All of Us. We don’t see lines in the sand or circles to separate Us. Nor do We want these divisions. We want and need to see Christ in All things. All of Us. When we see that Christ is in All Things and is in fact is All Things, We will start to see one epiphany after another. And we are then able to help others along their way with the help of God in the Christ, Jesus. How? Show them God of course. Show them the Christ.

Epiphany. An event that reveals Father, Son and Holy Ghost in a way that we all can see and understand that the presence of the Trinity is among us time unending.

\*)- CONTINUING REVELATION \* \* \* **Keeping Watch** \* \* \* On Sunday, January 19, 2024, I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment.

(Source: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.)) NPR story on the ERA <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/17/nx-s1-5264378/biden-era-national-archivist-constitution>)

\*\*\*\*\*OPEN MICROPHONE \*\*\*\*\*

**Katrina Lourdiane**: Today, we are adding a sermon selection as our prayers of the people. Please turn to Glory and Praise, number 329, Emmanuel. The words are below, and the music is also in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Emmanuel."

### Glory & Praise #329

**Emmanuel. Words and Music by Tim Manion** Text: Tim Manion Music: Tim Manion; Keyboard acc. by Dan Schutte, b. 1947 Text and Music © 1977, Timothy J. Manion. Published by OCP. All Rights Reserved. G&P Second Edition #329 Onelicense Song#83405 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.



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

**Lisa Frost:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful to all the people over the last forty-two years of ministry who have given their help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in 2024. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen," may God bless you.

We are an independent organization founded and funded by anyone who appreciates what we offer. Your support is one way to give God thanks and praise for this unique ministry for all people. There are many convenient ways



to participate with your donation, including this QR Code, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information, including our street address. We always say, "Give what you can, but never give your last."

**Katrina Lourdine:** As we set the Table of the Lord here in the chapel and in your homes, we are going to sing: "Jesus, Name Above All Names." The music is available in the electronic Music Edition, and the words are below here. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

**OFFERTORY SONG:** Jesus Name Above All Names words and music by Naida Hearn

**Verse 1**

Jesus, name above all names,  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us.  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.

**Verse 2**

Jesus, loving Shepherd,  
Vine of the branches, Son of God.  
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,  
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

**Verse 3**

Praise him, Lord above all lords,  
King above all kings, God's only Son.  
The Prince of Peace, who by his Spirit  
Comes to live in us, Master and Friend.

**Jesus Name Above All Names words and music by Naida Hearn**  
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**Ed Askins:** (\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We thank you for those who can give financially and by sharing their skills, prayers, talents, volunteering, and other forms of support. We bless you, Lord, for those who could not give at this time, and we pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen. Please rise as you are able **to sing and pray the conclusion of the Service of the Word with the 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**

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, 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.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your Bread. For those 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.

**Brother Benedict:** Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, 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.**

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

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

**Pastor: (An improvised prayer is said here.)**

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

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

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

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

**Lisa Frost:** You may relax your arms and hands. Kaiden, please show the Bread today, and Marcus, please show the cup. **Today, we pray together in song the words of Institution.**

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

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

### **+ The Lord's Prayer**

**Colby Dense:** Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to (pray or sing) together the prayer of Jesus.

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

**and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



**The Reception of Holy Communion**

**Pastor:** Please raise the Blessed Sacrament as a sign of praise and pray together:

**ALL:** Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and 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, and I will raise them up on the last day.

**Lisa Frost:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

**ALL:** Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. 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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**Veronica Floyd:** Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion now. Receive now the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gift of God for the People of God. Receive these gifts of love to strengthen your resolve to serve others and God, and to fortify your Salvation. 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, and will be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### **PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.**

**Veronica:** We understand that some of you watching do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine. We invite you to pray for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion, based on a prayer in the Prayer Book of the Episcopal National Cathedral. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception. Together;

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

### **+ Sign Of Peace**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Colby Dense:** 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.

**Kaiden Benedict:** 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.**

**Katrina Lourdiane:** We continue our prayers now by singing together: "A Child Is Born." Please turn to #330 in the green Glory and Praise hymnal. The music is also in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "A Child Is Born."

**COMMUNION SONG COMMUNION SONG Glory & Praise #330**

**A Child Is Born. Words and Music by Gregory Norbet, Weston Priory**

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

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Treasurer's Report for the month of **November 2025**

Many thanks to all of you for your most generous donations. November has been a very busy month bookwork wise.

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of November was \$1,171.53. Regular donations to the General Fund were \$2,034.66. I transferred into the account from savings \$450.00 and we had undeposited funds from October of \$1.99. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,060.00 , Verizon \$62.84, Rainah Barnes was reimbursed \$70.00 for the QR code for the Pride Bookmarks, I was reimbursed \$26.49 for Juice communion sets and \$36.94 for Altar bread both purchased from Amazon. Larger bills monthly allotment was moved to savings in the amount of \$153.00 and Paypal Charges were \$46.15. Self-Employment tax for the Appointed Pastor in the amount of \$83.34 was moved to the Savings account. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$1,119.42. There were undeposited funds of \$945.00 to this account for November.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,364.59. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Ian and Christina McLaughlin \$450.00 and Ed Askins \$40.00. Brother made 2 deposits in October, one at the beginning of the month and one at the end of the month. His deposit at the end of the month was for his November donation. I transferred in \$170.00 from the Savings account and I transferred in \$1,077.00 from the Building Improvement Fund. Bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$49.02, electric \$1,037.00 ( was to get us caught up with our budget billing), Water bill \$58.92, Accessibility Solutions \$170.00. I transferred \$216.00 for the allotment of large bills. Ending balance of this fund was \$493.65.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$1,164.36. Deposits to this account were Wayne and Glenn, \$50.00, David Brown \$50.00, Deanna Caputo \$400.00, Ian and Christina \$1,000.00 and Katrina \$50.00. We also had undeposited funds from October of \$50.00. I transferred out of this account \$1,077.00 to the Building Fund to cover the downpayment listed above. The ending balance was \$1,687.36. There were undeposited funds to this account of an additional \$50.00 from Wayne and Glenn in addition to that noted above.

**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance in this account was \$1,419.85. Transfers to this account were \$153.00 from General Fund for large bills and \$216.00 from Building fund for large bills and \$83.34 for the Appointed Pastor SE tax. Transfers out of this account were \$170.00 to the Building Fund for Accessibility Solutions invoice and \$450.00 to General Fund for the Cyrus invoice. The balance at the end of the month was \$1,252.19.

Our year-to-date donations to 11/30/2025 are \$47,983.15. Our year-to-date expenses are \$47,182.20. This is an income over expenses for the year of \$800.95

**Upcoming bills:** We will have an estimated balance due on the Isaac's invoice of \$2,510.00. We haven't received the final bill yet. Our Building Improvement fund will be down to less than \$30.00 when this is paid. The One License podcasting bill came in by email of \$200.00 due early January. I talked with NYSEG yesterday after the new bills have come out. Our budget on the electric ends 12/31. Our bill due by January 13<sup>th</sup> for electric is \$132.42 because we had enough of the budget balance due paid and our new electric budget will be \$352.00 a month because we are not going to have a carry over, which is better than last months information. On the gas bill, our budget ends with them the end of February. Our budget for that is \$445.00 for January and February and we should be quite close to being even on that account by the end of February.

### **Credit Card**

The balance on the credit card is \$2,252.83. There is available credit of \$1,747.17. There were no extra payments made on the credit card due to upcoming building expenses.

### **Balances as of this morning:**

General fund: \$824.64, Building fund: \$106.00, Building Improvement fund: \$2,237.36 and Savings is \$835.53.

Savings breakdown is: Saved for Dishwasher \$150.00, Building fund large bills \$240.53 (sb \$490.53 but borrowed \$250.00 until Brother's deposit) and then General fund large bills \$445.00. Appointed Pastor's self-employment taxes were paid early December for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2025.

## NOTES OF THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR GENEROSITY GIVEN TO THE LORD THROUGH RAY OF HOPE

**General Offering** for the week of December 21, \$1,527.26 Attendance 11 on Sunday Tuesday December 23, not held, Wednesday, December 24, Mass - 10

**General Offering** for the week of December 28, \$0.00 Attendance 13 on Sunday Tuesday December 30, not held, Wednesday, December 31, Mass - 9

**General Offering** for the week of January 4, \$960.00 Attendance 13 on Sunday Tuesday January 6 - 9, Wednesday, January 7, Mass - 9

**THANK YOU, EVERYONE**, for all the donations made to date on our building improvements.

**UPDATE:** The heat has been repaired by Isaac's as planned. You are making change happen with your generosity. CELEBRATE the accomplishments!!!!!! Donations that cause change and growth are not always in cash; many thanks to everyone who donates time and talent, cooking, cleaning, transporting, calling, reminding, making copies, and so many other examples of donated help. Thank you.

**DISHWASHER / APPLIANCE ROOM NOVEMBER:** (11-1-25 Katrina Lourdiane made a \$50.00 donation) (11-16-25 Katrina Lourdiane made a \$50.00 donation), (11-19-25 Wayne and Glenn made a \$100.00, thank you both)

**Building Improvement Fund: DECEMBER FUNDS:** Ed and Phillipa Askins \$500.00, thank you both very much. **12-21-25** \$50.00 from Wayne and Glenn, thank you both.

Donations to the Building Improvements are still welcome as we have electricity, the water lines, insulation, drywall, dryer vent, and finishing to do.

**\*\* Special Gifts made this week:** Brother Benedict made a \$710.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Brother. THANK YOU to everyone who brought gifts to the Monastery over the Season. Thank you to everyone who has been cooking, donating food, and making desserts.

**\*\* Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts made recently\*\*** Thank you Ed for a \$40.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you Ian and Christina for a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund. Brother donated \$324.00 (2/2 of December donation) to the Building Fund, thank you Brother. Wayne and Glenn donated decorations, thank you. Marcus donated a tripod to hold the camera for the Facebook recording, Thank you Marcus. Brother donated \$324.00 (1/2 of December donation), thank you Brother.

**NOVEMBER:** Ian and Christina donated \$450.000 to the Building Fund, Thank you both. Ed donated \$40.00 to the Building Fund, Thank you, Ed. Marcus donated two wireless microphones, and some communion wine, Thank you, Marcus. Katrina made a \$50.00 special gift to offset the cost of the wine communion kits, thank you Katrina. Wayne and Glenn 11/5 \$50.00, thank you both. Ian and Christina made a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you both. Brother made a \$648.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Brother. Lisa made \$100.00 to the Building Improvement Fund (see above),

To be added to our email list, fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject box.

**UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**  
**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



\*\*Sunday, January 11, 2026, 10:30 AM. Epiphany of the Lord at Ray Of Hope  
S.T.I.C. on Zoom at 2:00 PM

Tuesday, January 13, 7:15 - 8:45 PM Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, January 15, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 PM Chapel Assistance - Christmas Decorations  
— change to white and gold,

Friday, January 16, 7:30 PM \*\*\*\*\*Music Ministry Rehearsal\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*Sunday, January 18, 2026, 10:30 AM. Dr. Martin Luther King and Civil Rights  
Sunday AND The Baptism of the Lord Epiphany Week 2 - the beginning of His  
public ministry, about 30 years old. \*\*\*Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian  
Unity - January 18 - 25

Tuesday, January 20, 6:30 - 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, January 21, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Thursday, January 22, 7:00 PM Chapel Assistance - Christmas Decorations  
— change to white and gold, and what shall we add for this new feast: Sunday  
of The Word Of God

Friday, January 23, 6:30–8:00 PM Council No Music Ministry Rehearsal

**The Forty-Second Annual Meeting in the Forty-Third Year of Ministry: Sunday,  
January 25, 2026.**

We catch up on the Liturgical Calendar: Sunday, January 25, 2026 — Epiphany Wk  
3, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday of the Word of God — Luke 24:45: Jesus  
opened the minds of the two disciples to understand the Word of God. By opening  
their minds, the disciples were transformed and empowered to go forth as confident  
witnesses and to proclaim His Glory to all the nations. (added by Pope Francis

9/30/2019) \*\*\* The final day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Sunday of the Memorial of Saint Sister Marianne Cope, Sister of Saint Francis from Syracuse, NY.

Tuesday, January 27, 2025, at Noon, The Fourth Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Annual Prayers At Noon Together on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day will be held both in-person and online. The prayers are three psalms, a Scripture reading, and a closing prayer. Psalms will be sung congregationally and led by Pastor Br. Shawn Benedict of Ray Of Hope Church.

Tuesday, January 27, 6:30- 8:00 PM Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation  
Wednesday, January 28, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Friday, January 30, 7:30 PM \*\*\*\*\*Music Ministry Rehearsal\*\*\*\*\*

**Black History Month begins February 1, 2026, and we will be celebrating.**

=====PLANNING AHEAD=====

February 18 is Ash Wednesday here, or with others to be determined

March 15 is Laetare - Rose color Sunday in Lent.

**HOLY WEEK, 2026**

Sunday, March 29, 2026, is Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, Noon ecumenical Mass during Holy Week

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 7:00 PM Holy Thursday -

Friday, April 3, 2026, 7:00 PM Sacrifice of the Cross, Good Friday The Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 7:45 PM Vigil of the Resurrection - Baptisms? Membership?

No events scheduled for Sunday, April 5, 2026

May 10, Sunday, Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

May 17, Sunday, Ascension Sunday

May 24, Sunday Pentecost

May 31, Trinity, Memorial Sunday

June 6, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 7, Sunday, Corpus Christi - relicense Servants of the Eucharist

June 13, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 14, Sunday, 30th Ordination Anniversary

June 20, Saturday, Juneteenth in Elmira E.O.P.

June 21, Sunday, Father's Day, Juneteenth Celebration (19th), and 30th Ordination Anniversary

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY

There is a sign-up sheet on the table for desserts during the after-worship fellowship time, and we are seeking volunteers to sign up for desserts. Kaiden will text the volunteer during the week to remind them they have signed up to provide snacks that week.

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**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Kaiden Benedict:** **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Kaiden Benedict:** **This is our closing prayer.** We bless and praise you, God, for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (\*+\*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen

**Lisa Frost:** **We pray** Romans Chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

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

**Lisa Frost:** 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.

**Lisa Frost:** Please rise as you are able for our final song, What Child Is This, number 337 in the Glory and Praise hymnal and in the electronic Music edition. Please rise as you are able to sing What Child Is This.

What Child Is This  
GREENSLEEVES

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

What Child Is This. Text: 87 87 with refrain; Bramley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871; William C. Dix, 1837–1898. Music: Trad. English melody, 16th cent.; Bramley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871. Contributors: GREENSLEVES Glory and Praise Second Edition, number 337. Onelicense Song #84055. Used with permission. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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

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



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

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

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

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

**WE ARE YOU!**

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

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

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public, the way it used to be from 7:00 AM to 11:59 PM daily, 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 to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

John 5:24 Those who hear my Word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks. "Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

