

**"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 1-18-26 Epiphany Week 2, The Baptism of the Lord 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 1st 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. 1st 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 18, 2026, the Second Sunday in the Season of Epiphany. 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. The Zoom link is also posted on the webpage.

Marcus: 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. 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 LGBTQ2SIA2SS+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

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



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

Katrina Lourdiane: (**PLEASE wait for the second bells to ring, and remember to 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 **Our Lord's** 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, meaning, in part, that 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, love, and affirm all of who you are. Please note that the decorations in the Chapel have been changed for today. Thank you to all the members of the Chapel Assistants Committee for the hard work of caring for our decorations. Today's celebration is the second week of the Season of Epiphany, when we have readings in Scripture in which God reveals God's self through action in life. The epiphany in today's readings is the Baptism of the Lord, when he was about 30 years old, according to the Gospel of Luke (3:23).

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

1-18-26 Epiphany Wk II, The Baptism of the Lord Year A Page 6 of 47
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.



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

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

Colby Dense: Our first song today is in the green Glory and Praise hymnal
number 561, and in the electronic music edition. Please rise as you are able to
sing Lift Every Voice And Sing.

Lift Every Voice And Sing. Onelicense song #85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition #
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FIRST SONG: TEXT ONLY

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson

1. Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song
full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song
full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come
over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come,
treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by the might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet
stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
Lest our hearts,
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Text: 66 10 66 10 14 14 66 10; James W. Johnson, 1871–1938. Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954. **Lift Every Voice And Sing**. Onelicense song #85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition # 561 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope



Kaiden Rae Benedict: Please be seated. We light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate the Truth Jesus promises us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

Kaiden Rae Benedict: Please look over and watch as the Candle of Hope is lit. When the flame flickers, we pray our proclamation of Faith.

Kaiden Rae Benedict: Together:

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Kaiden Rae Benedict: Ray Of Hope started in part to form a Church with an intentional ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS. It is forty-three years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance. The World Health Organization reported nearly 40 million people were living with HIV globally in 2023. The United Nations AIDS, UNAIDS organization, reported 40.8 million people in 2024, and we are confident the number will be rising in 2026.

Therefore, to keep HIV and AIDS in the conscious prayers of people, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into over 50,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the National AIDS Memorial. Scroll the page to see the panels on block 174.



- These are the names on Block # 174
 - Milton Davis Jordan (1)
 - Gary King (2)
 - Lloyd Elliot Scott (3)
 - Dennis J. Doiron (4)
 - T. T. (5)
 - Colin Francis Dearing III (6)
 - Rene Pellicia (7)
 - David Lynch (8)

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

Katrina Lourdiane: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have preceded us in death. (**pause for silent prayer.**)

May this candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(National AIDS Memorial website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 110,000 names on the Quilt virtually: <https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

Katrina Lourdiane: Our second song is Jesus Name Above All Names. The music is also in the electronic Music Edition, the words are below. Please rise as you are able for our second song, Jesus Name Above All Names.

SECOND SONG: WORDS ONLY 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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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.

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

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

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

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Lisa Frost: 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.

Lisa Frost: 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.

Lisa Frost: 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



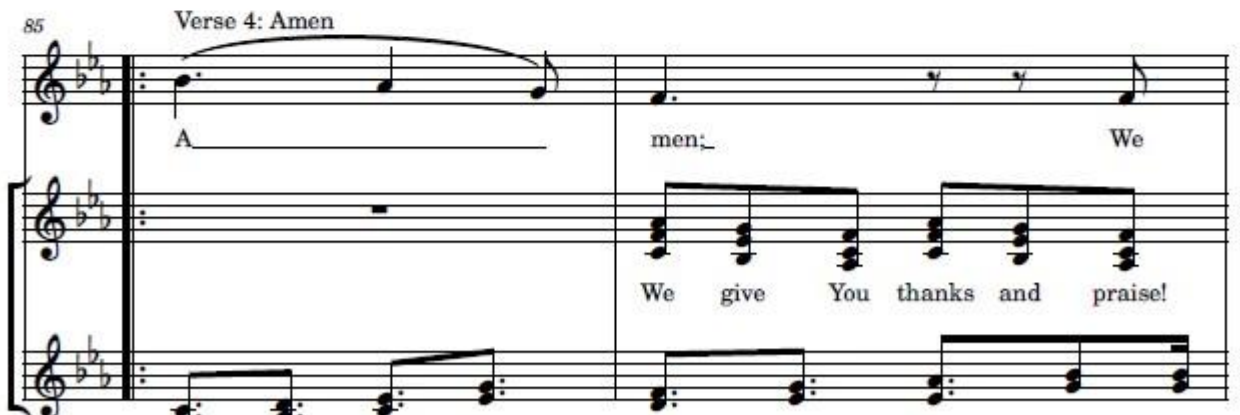
Glo-ry to God in the high-est_ We give you thanks_ and praise. Al-le-lu_ia

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 second Sunday of Epiphany, the Feast of The Baptism of the Lord, is in Book of Isaiah, chapter 42, verses 1-9. You will find this on page 690 in the front of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the NRSV Updated Edition. Here begins the Reading:

The Servant, a Light to the Nations

42 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,^[a]
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

a. 42.6 Meaning of Heb uncertain

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2042%3A1-9&version=NRSVUE>
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+ Psalm:

Marcus: (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The Psalm today is number 29, selected verses, with a responsorial verse.
The response today is "The Lord will give His people peace."

R. The Lord will give His people peace.

¹ O give the LORD, you children of God,
give the LORD glory and power;
² give the LORD the glory of his name.
Adore the LORD, resplendent and holy.

R. The Lord will give His people peace.

³ The LORD's voice resounding on the waters,
the LORD on the immensity of waters;
⁴ the voice of the LORD, full of power,
the voice of the LORD, full of splendor.

R. The Lord will give His people peace.

^{3b} The God of glory thunders.
¹⁰ In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The LORD sat enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits as king for ever.

R. The Lord will give His people peace.

**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 29 The glory of God seen in the storm (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 Psalm (28) 29. The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #36168. 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 the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 10, verses 34-38. You will find this on page 129 in the back of the NRSV Bible, the second testament. I will be reading from the ©2007 Inclusive Bible. Here begins the Reading:

³⁴ So Peter said to them, "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality—³⁵ rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. ³⁶ This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Savior of all. ³⁷ "You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. ³⁸ You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(Acts 10:34-38. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 719-720 location 44846; p. 719) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 724. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

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

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

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Reader: The Gospel reading is Matthew 3:13-17 on page 3 of the second testament in 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.**

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!" ¹⁵ But Jesus replied,

"Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed. ¹⁶ Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. ¹⁷ With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

(Matthew 3:13-17. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 642 location 40108) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 646. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

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

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 ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves (workers, servants, assistants) for Jesus's sake. ⁶ 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: Brother=====

Sermon notes week 2 of the Season of Epiphany, The Baptism of the Lord Jesus the Christ, and Civil Rights Sunday, January 18, 2026.

The Baptism of Jesus is the public ordination of Jesus' ministry. The Trinity of God was revealed to the general public who were present.

The issue of Jesus as the Son of God and the Holy Spirit as part of the three-person, one-being Trinity is at the heart of our faith.

Matthew 3

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!" ¹⁵ But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed. ¹⁶ Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. ¹⁷ With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests."

Notice that God is heard saying, "God is very pleased with Jesus." This is part of the first Reading. In Isaiah 42:1, Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul

delights.

Verse by verse.

Second Reading Acts 10:34-35 ³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation (ethni) anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God.

Turn to your neighbor and say, "ANYONE WHO!" This means that any, every, and all people who love God and listen to God, regardless of sexual orientation, ethnicity, or gender expression, are acceptable to God.

This being the start of the public ministry to all people of every ethnicity to the entire Human Race, the only Race there is, we have our pivot for Civil Rights Sunday. The baptism of Jesus was his hour of call to action.

<https://www.justice.gov/archives/crs/honoring-life-legacy-and-leadership-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-1>

<https://naacp.org/>

<https://civilrights.org/>

Civil Rights Sunday is our call to action. We may connect this to the Baptism of the Lord and the Sacrament of Baptism in this way. The Greek root word for Baptism is "baptizo," which implies a total saturation that lasts permanently. Sometimes, I think of this as both feet entirely in, deep in the mud. If we intend to pass on Ray Of Hope to the next generation of leaders, then we have to be immersed in the Body of Christ. Unlike most of the other Churches in our town, we are not a member church in a Denomination. Whereas, if I were a Methodist, for example, I could choose among three or more Methodist churches to attend and switch between. At Ray Of Hope, we have to have a solid "all in" full dedication to the Gospel and this particular charism and expression for it to survive. I feel grateful for the Benedictine Vow of Stability, the Vow that says the place where the Benedictine Christian professes our Final Vows is the place where we shall serve the Lord

until we die, or the Lord returns first. I have been a worship participant at Ray Of Hope for thirty-five years, and a solemnly professed Monk at Ray Of Hope for thirty years as of June 15, 2026.

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.
-

*)- 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

1-18-26 Epiphany Wk II, The Baptism of the Lord Year A Page 27 of 47
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. Please turn in the Notebook to number 17, Arise, Shine. The words are below, and the music is also in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing "Arise, Shine."

SERMON SELECTION: Notebook to number 17, **Arise, Shine** by Words and Music by Steven Urspringer and Jay Robinson, ©1983 Priesthood Publications. CCLI Song #13797. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Arise Shine

Verse

Arise shine
For thy light is come
Arise shine
For thy light is come

Chorus

And the glory of the Lord is risen
The glory of the Lord is come
The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee

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(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: "He Is Exalted." The music is available in the Notebook, number 62, and the electronic Music Edition, and the words are below. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG TEXT ONLY: He Is Exalted. Words and Music by Twila Paris NOTEBOOK # 62

Verse

He is exalted
The King is exalted on high
I will praise Him
He is exalted forever exalted
And I will praise His name

Chorus

He is the Lord
Forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted
The King is exalted on high

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Veronica Floyd: (**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 that 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.

Veronica Floyd: Please open your heart and receive Holy Communion now.
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Receive now the Gift
of God for our
resolve to : you, by
the promise day
will indeed t, and
will be rais

DOXOLOGY/AUCH:

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

Musical notation for the first line of the doxology. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to You. Al - migh - ty

Musical notation for the second line of the doxology, starting at measure 5. The lyrics are: God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia

Musical notation for the third line of the doxology, starting at measure 11. The lyrics are: A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

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: "Holy

Forever." The music is in the Electronic Music Edition, and the words are below. Please rise as you are able to sing "Holy Forever."

COMMUNION SONG Holy forever

Holy Forever. Words and Music by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham. © 2022 Brian and Jenn Publishing; Capitol CMG Paragon; S. D. G. Publishing; Be Essential Songs; My Magnolia Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs; Bethel Music Publishing. CCLI Song #7201044 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Holy Forever Words and Music by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham.

Verse 1

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Pre-Chorus

(Jesus) Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy
All creation cries Holy
You are lifted high Holy
Holy forever

Verse 2

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name

Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen

Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing Holy
To the King of Kings Holy
You will always be Holy
Holy forever

Tag

You will always be Holy
Holy forever

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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 13th 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 4th 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

General Offering for the week of January 11, \$378.00 Attendance 14 on Sunday Tuesday January 13 - 7, Wednesday, January 14, Mass - 7

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) **JANUARY, 2026:** Katrina 1-14-26 \$60.00, thank you! Deanna Caputo - \$360.00, thank you Deanna!

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 and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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 — change to white and gold, 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.

=====



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, Goodness of God, in the electronic Music edition, with the words below. Please rise as you are able to sing Goodness of God.

Goodness Of God Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding and Brian Johnson.

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

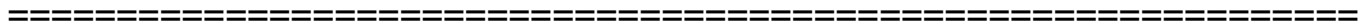
I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Goodness Of God. Words and Music by Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding and Brian Johnson.

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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. 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.

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

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)

