



**Ray Of Hope**

***Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ***

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-eighth year of Ministry.

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory.”

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

*A very special welcome to our visitors.*

*You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.*

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

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as you feel comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for a time of refreshments and sharing.

January 31, 2021 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany of the Year B

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth century monk and theologian, described it as

***“what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all.”***

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 18:15-22 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 174

**Psalm:** Psalm 95 responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 170

**Gospel:** Mark 1:21-28 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Testament page 35

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



## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Bells 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** Please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings are in honor of the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We always ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.

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

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



## WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York, and now all across the world through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

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

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

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor: (\*\*introduction of the theme of the day\*)** We catch up today to other churches. Today could be called the Sunday of The Call. It works very well with our Annual Meeting being today too.

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

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

## **FIRST SONG**

### **+ The Candle Of Hope**

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

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

**Leader -1:** Our faith community is looking forward and waiting “for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of

Hope in honor of the “Blessed Hope,” the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

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

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

**Leader -2:** We also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have passed. May the candle’s flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the “Blessed Hope” we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

## **SECOND SONG**



### **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

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

**Leader -2:** We pray together:

**ALL:** I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended God in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Leader -4:** Almighty and good God, you continuously give us your presence in life itself. We should give you thanks and praise always. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Christ Jesus, Our Lord, you are present in your church. You are building your church. You are sustaining your church. We would do well to answer your call to serve. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** Holy Spirit, you give us the ability to hear the call of the Lord. You give us the desire to serve God with compassion and empathy, with joy. Help us to listen and receive your strength. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**ALL: Amen.**

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

**Song:**

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

Patri hymn with inclusive language.)

**Spoken:**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of God:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord of all,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the  
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

**+ Opening Prayer**



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



**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**+ First Reading**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Our first reading is found in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 18, verses 15-22. You will find this on page 174 in the front of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

A New Prophet Like Moses

**Moses was speaking to the assembly and he said:**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup> This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup> Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup> Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup> But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.” <sup>21</sup> You may say to yourself, “How can we recognize a word that the LORD has not spoken?” <sup>22</sup> If a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD but the thing does not take place or prove true, it is a word that the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; do not be frightened by it.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**+ Psalm**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_

in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The Psalm today is 95, selected verses. Our response today is; "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts."

**R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;

let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyfully sing psalms to the LORD.

**R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us bow down in worship;

let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

For this is our God, and we are the people God shepherds,

the flock the LORD guides.

**R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.**

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice:

"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Where your ancestors tempted me;

they tested me though they had seen my works."

**R. If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.**

## + Second Reading

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Our second reading is found in the Book of First Corinthians, chapter 7, verses 32-35. This is a continuation of last Sunday's reading. You will find this on page 170 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. Here begins the reading:

<sup>32</sup> I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried person is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; <sup>33</sup> but the married person is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please their partner, <sup>34</sup> and so their interests are divided. And the unmarried person and the virgin are anxious about the affairs of the Lord, so that they may be holy in body and spirit; but the married person is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please their partner (and the affairs of work and family). <sup>35</sup> I say this for your own benefit, not to put any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

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

**ALL:** Thanks be to God!

## + 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 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!

**Reader:** The Gospel reading is found on page 35 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Book of Mark, chapter 1, verses 21-28. This is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

**Reader:**

**The Man with an Unclean Spirit**

21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. 22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24 and the unclean spirit cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of the man. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

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

# Gospel Acclamation

## Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

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

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### + Sermon

#### NOTES

Matthew 24:6-8

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

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

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

with

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

with

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

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

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

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.

**ANOTHER Epiphany** - Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24 and the unclean spirit cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of the man. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Was it a new teaching or was it the fulfillment of the prophecy of the first reading today: Deit. 18:17 <sup>17</sup> Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in

what they have said. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

**CARDINAL AND ORDINAL NUMBERS** \*\*Today is one of the days I wish to share some “professional secrets” with the non-professional in the world of Theology and Liturgy. I want you to be able to explain this to others, especially when you hear the charge that we are “too Catholic.” So, welcome to the world of our Vocational Ministry Training Program. Here is an opportunity to taste what we read and discuss in preparation for professional ministry.

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/cardinal-ordinal-chart.html>

“A Cardinal Number is a number that says how many of something there are, such as one, two, three, four, five. An Ordinal Number is a number that tells the position of something in a list, such as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc.”

**Cardinal: Advent Week I Advent Week II  
Ordinal; the Fourth Sunday “of the church year” or “in Ordinary Time.”**

Episcopal Calendar today is Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Wed. Jan 6)  
Sometimes I count Epiphany as the First Sunday of Epiphany, etc. Today would be the Fifth Sunday of Epiphany then. Or, if in Cardinal Numbers it would be Epiphany Week 5. Since we moved Epiphany to Sunday January 10, following January 6 which was a Wednesday, today would be the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany or Epiphany Week 4.

Roman Calendar “Ordinary Time” started the Sunday of The Baptism Of The Lord. This year that would have been 1-10-21. Today is therefore the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday, February 17. It would then be Lent Week 1, Lent Week 2  
Cardinal numbers.

You see the consistent number 4 in all of this between Epiphany and today. These would have been in Ordinal Numbers as originally conceived by the Second Vatican Council. Some, including even James F. White suggest things are ordinary outside of the Christmas and Easter cycles. Well, sort of, is what I say to that. Let me explain.

**Quotation from Introduction To Christian Worship. Third Edition Revised and Expanded by James F. White. Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1980, 1990, 2000. (This is a required reading text in our Vocational Ministry Training Program). To order this book go here:**

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/vmtp5.htm>

Since Vatican II, a profound new interest in the calendar has emerged and a deep new appreciation has developed around how our lives as Christians are shaped and reflected by the way we keep time. The first landmark was the new Roman Calendar which went into effect among Roman Catholics on November 30, 1969, the first day of the liturgical year 1970. It is the fruit of the most careful review ever attempted of how Christians use time. Most of the new Roman Catholic reforms have since been adopted or adapted by major Protestant bodies in many parts of the world. The most radical Roman Catholic change, that of treating the weeks after the Epiphany and those after the Day of Pentecost not as distinct seasons but only as parts of the "Season of the year" (per annum) or Ordinary Time, has not been adopted by most Protestants. Certainly, it is a realistic approach to those seasons having little distinctive character. Other changes, however, have been widely accepted, such as keeping the Sunday after the Epiphany as the Baptism of the Lord or the last Sunday of the church year as Christ the King or Reign of Christ. The Lutheran practice of commemorating the Sunday before Ash Wednesday as Sunday of the Transfiguration of the Lord has been adopted by many churches. (Roman Catholics have observed this on August 6 since the fifteenth century.)

**White, James F.. Introduction to Christian Worship Third Edition . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.**

For the first time in four hundred years, an ecumenical calendar is being followed by Protestants and Roman Catholics around the world. There is basic agreement on most of the greatest feast days, which Roman Catholics now call solemnities; less common observance of the subsidiary feasts, and still less of memorials or saints' days. The newest calendar is the result of a careful attempt to recapture the structure and meaning of the oldest calendar, the one filled out in the fourth century. The new calendar provides a strong witness to the priorities of Christian faith, just as the oldest Christian calendars did. THEOLOGY FROM THE CHRISTIAN YEAR How the church kept time in early centuries has been discussed in detail because, as so often happens in Christian worship, if we understand the experiences of the church's first four centuries, we have gained the heart of the matter. It will be worthwhile, though, to reflect a bit on the meaning of this. The calendar of the early church centered upon what God had done and continued to do through the Holy Spirit. The point of the Christian year is that all is done for us. All we have to do is accept what God has done. Then we really are free to act. The church's liturgical year both underscores the futility of our

**White, James F.. Introduction to Christian Worship Third Edition . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.**

efforts and exults in God's victories for us. In short, the church year is a constant reminder of gifts that we cannot create but can only accept. Pius Parsch called it "the church's year of grace."<sup>32</sup> Throughout the year, the various seasons and days remind us that salvation is a gift offered to us in all its different aspects. The Christian year can help us sort out for ourselves our real priorities. Keeping time with the rhythms of the early church can be an important means of doing this. In briefest terms, the church's year of grace functions to proclaim Jesus Christ until he comes again and to testify to the Holy Spirit indwelling the church in the meantime. The church year is both proclamation and thanksgiving. In much the same way as Jewish and Christian prayer recites what we give thanks for, so the Christian year proclaims and thanks God for God's marvelous actions. Christians and Jews praise God, not in abstract terms, but by reciting the marvelous works of God. It is a think/thank process by which we glorify God through recalling what God has done. The liturgical year reflects the

very nature of Christian prayer and our relationship to God. Much of its power, as is true of daily prayer, comes through reiteration. Year after year, week after week, hour after hour, the acts of God are commemorated and our apprehension of them deepened. These cycles save us from a shallow spirituality,

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based on ourselves, by pointing us to God's works instead.

**White, James F.. Introduction to Christian Worship Third Edition . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition. (pages 66- 68 in textbook)**

**Starting the third full paragraph o page 68:**

**White, James F.. Introduction to Christian Worship Third Edition . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.**

In the Season of Epiphany (or Ordinary Time), the appointed Gospels stress the various ways in which Jesus Christ has made God manifest to us by making the Father known through mighty signs and teachings. These begin with the Baptism of the Lord (when Jesus' Sonship is declared and his ministry begins). The Sundays after Epiphany continue with readings about the signs and teachings by which Jesus made his glory known through manifesting God. The season ends with the Last Sunday after Epiphany or Transfiguration Sunday in which Jesus is once again proclaimed: "My Son, the Beloved." The Season of Lent is the season in which we participate in that final trip to Jerusalem and the self-giving nature of love shown in Christ's passion and death. All is changed as Christ gives himself to us as the resurrected one at Easter. The Season of Easter begins with Easter Vigil and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. Ascension of the Lord commemorates the ending of Christ's historical visibility and the beginning of his sacramental visibility. The Season after Pentecost (or Ordinary Time or Kingdomtide) signals the long interim of the new covenant church until Christ comes in glory. Both the Old Testament and the New remind us of God's continuing saving works. The Last Sunday after Pentecost, Reign of Christ or Christ the King,

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pushes us to anticipate the consummation of all things when Christ comes in glory as King of all, and all human failures and achievements are, at last, made of no account, a most comforting doctrine. Then, the following week, we are once again into the Season of Advent, and the year starts over afresh.

**White, James F.. Introduction to Christian Worship Third Edition . Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition. (pages 68 and 69 in the textbook)**





## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,  
our Lord and Saviour.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God.

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

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

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

I believe in the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

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

**Leader – 4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City

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

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

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

**ALL: Amen**

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

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

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side napkin. The ideal situation is you

are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event **SOON**. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*)

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

**Leader -2:** (\*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.\*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

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

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

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

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this bread, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry

of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

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

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: Amen.**

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
 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.

## + We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

**Pastor:** Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine, or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

**ALL:** O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for our Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

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

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

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

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

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

**ALL:** When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

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

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

**+ Optional Christological Cantic:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**It pleased God to make**

**of Jesus every knee must  
bend**

(optional\*\*genuflect or  
bow\*\*)

**in the heavens, on the  
earth, and under the  
earth, and every tongue  
proclaim to the glory of  
God:**

**JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**

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

## **+ The Mystery Of Faith**

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

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

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

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not

included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

### + Final Doxology

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

**Pastor:** Together we pray:

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

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to\_\_\_\_ You. Al - migh - ty

5  
God\_\_\_\_ world with - out end.\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia

11  
A\_\_\_\_ men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!\_\_\_\_

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## The Reception of Holy Communion

### + The Lord's Prayer

**Pastor:** Having heard the Word of God and having remembered the sacrifice of the cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

**+ Sign Of Peace**

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

**+ The Lamb Of God**

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

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

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

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

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

**+ Priestly Prayer For All People**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that

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

**ALL: AMEN**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Serving Holy Communion today will be: \_\_\_\_\_  
We sing during Holy Communion and maintain our worship. We begin.  
The Table of Christ is served.

**PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.** Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception.

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.  
A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.



### **We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

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

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Pastor:** (a prayer is said) .... In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** Amen

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

(Romans 15:13)

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

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**General Offering** for the week; Worship January 24, 2021 Offerin 388.00. Attendance - 5.  
**Special Gifts** We give God thanks and praise for all the gifts given.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

February 2 Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

February 8 MONDAY Zoom dress rehearsal for Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday Evening worship 7:00 p.m. Ashes are in the mail.

March 14, 2021 Laetare Sunday, Rose Sunday in Lent

March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

April 1, 2021 Holy Thursday

April 2, 2021 Sacrifice of the Cross

April 3, 2021 Vigil of the Resurrection



## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

**Elmira Worship-** Sunday 10:30 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery .

Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.

**Syracuse Worship-** looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information

[Click Here.](#)

**Bible Enrichment-** Tuesday 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery.

Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15

PM. [Click Here.](#)

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our web site;

[http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors\\_At\\_Events.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_ I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us on line:

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

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

—————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)