



Ray Of Hope

**Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

**Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Fortieth year of Ministry.**

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

"It is time to put our faith into action."

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors. You  
are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

Today is October 29, 2023, the 40th Anniversary, The Feast of All Saints. 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:** Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14 - 22 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Test. Pg. 247

**Psalm: "I Love The Lord"**

**Gospel:** Luke 19:1- 10 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 82

\*We use the term 1st for the "Old" Testament and 2nd for the "New" Testament. The  
NRSV Bible, 1st Testament numbers, are in the front, and the 2nd Testament numbers  
are in the back of the book. If this confuses you, ask someone around you to assist you.  
Thank you.

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

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

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



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

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_ in the State of \_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. **Today is our 40th Anniversary as a Church, and it is also the Sunday we are celebrating The Feast of All Saints, All Hallows. We are so excited you are here to worship with us.** You choose to participate in some or all parts of this worship event as you are comfortable. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

To be added to our email list, visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email

10-29-23 40th Anniversary Sunday, The Feast Of All Saints. Year A Page 3 of 42  
information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box at the door. Internet participants can email [rayofhopechurch@aol.com](mailto:rayofhopechurch@aol.com) and write "email list" in the Subject.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us later in this worship event. Membership in this or any church is not required. We celebrate the Lord's open table. **Please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare: 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.**

**Leader-1:** Today's bulletin order of worship and the music supplement are available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. At our website, look in the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly; thank you. Ed Askins will play a prelude, "Surround Me" Words and Music, by Clint Brown this morning. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and refrain from visiting. Thank you.

**Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Surround Me" Words and Music by Clint Brown.** © 1996 Curb Dayspring Music (Admin. by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.) CCLI Song # 931965. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



**ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL LGBTQSIA2ss+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)**

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



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

**Leader – 2:** Thank you for spending time with us. In Romans, Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

**Leader -1:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **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! I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

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

**Pastor:** Jesus promised to be with the Church to the end of the age. We joyfully give God thanks and praise.

**ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Lord.**

Pastor: We come here to pray. The definition of the word liturgy is the "prayer-work" of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship and experience God and one another. The people are actively praying and serving those present and God.



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

**Today is October 29, 2023, the twenty-third week of Pentecost, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of this ministry and the beginning of our 41st year.**

**Tragically, today is the fourth Sunday of the war between Hamas and Israel.**

**Pastor:** With our whole heart, mind, and soul, we begin to worship God in the beauty of holiness, spirit, and truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

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

**FIRST SONG:** For All The Saints Ralph Vaughan Williams | William Walsham How  
Tune: Sine Nomine © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

Organ Performance: Performed by Rev. Clyde McLennan. As from October, 2015, I, Rev. Clyde McLennan, performer in this collection, have assigned my performer rights in this collection to Hymnary.org. Non-commercial use of these recordings is permitted.

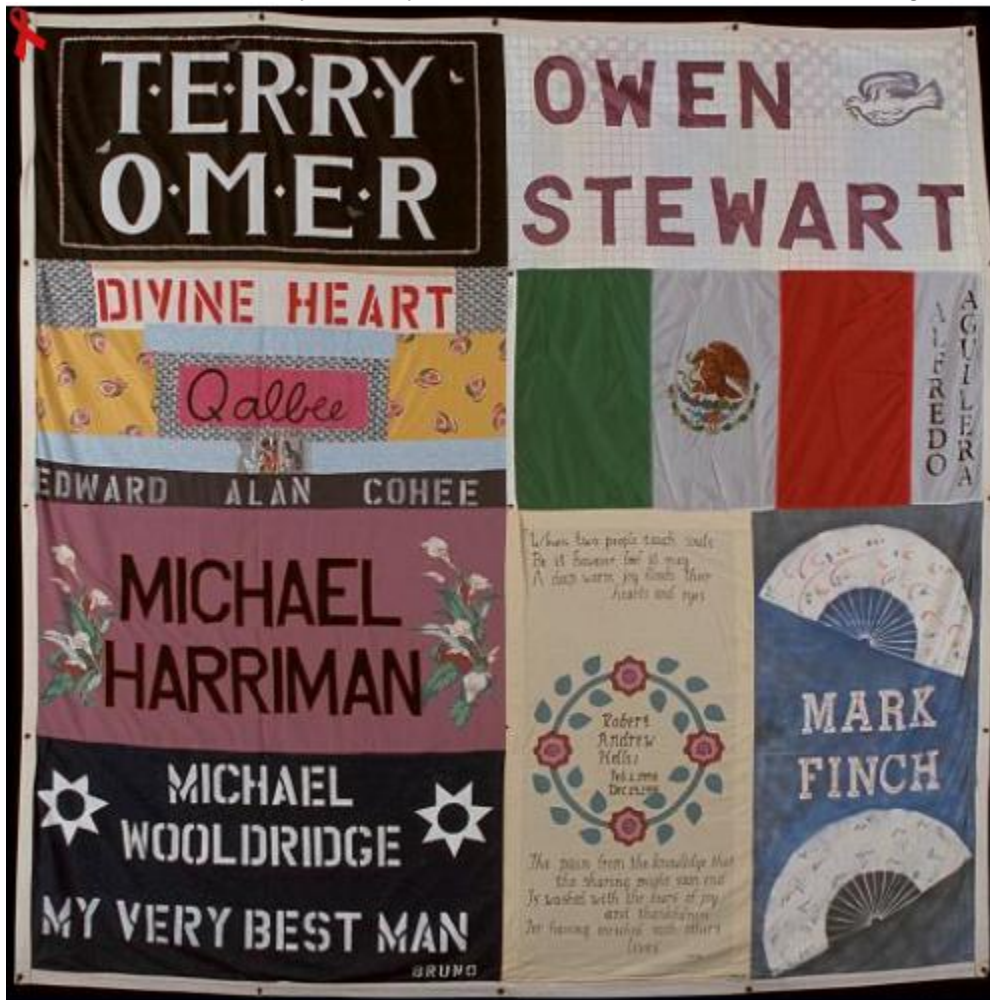
## + The Candle Of Hope

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

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

**Leader -2:** In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. Forty years later, some churches, religions, and even countries still reject the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance. Therefore, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Scroll to the next page to see the panel names on Block # 96.



## NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 96

- Terry Omer (1)
- Owen Stewart (2)
- Edward Alan Cohee (3)
- Alfredo Aguilera (4)
- Michael Harriman (5)
- Robert Andrew Heller (6)
- Mark Finch (7)
- Michael Wooldridge (8)

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

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, remember the names of family and friends who have died from **COVID-related illness** and other causes of death. Pray for their families to experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (\*\*pause for silent prayer.\*\*) We hope this candle's flame will bring to mind the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the

Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

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

**SECOND SONG:** Once We Were Not A People. Tune: Aurelia by Samuel S. Wesley, Inclusive Text by J. Thomas Sopko (1987). Used by permission 8.7.8.7 D Sing to the tune KING'S LYNN as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco. Licensed to Ray Of Hope Church for use in worship.



## WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### + Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

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

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

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

(silent prayer)



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

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

**Leader -4:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_.

As the war between Hamas and Israel increases, and new tensions arise at the border at the West Bank, innocent people are suffering and being killed; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** The lives of all these children who might survive these wars are changed forever and will undoubtedly result in physical and psychological long-term injuries; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader -4:** The message of the Church should be peace and respect between all people; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the World; have mercy on us.

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

**Pastor:** We pray that all of God's people may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom without losing anyone. Therefore, we ask Almighty God to have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader -4:** Through confession and forgiveness, we have prepared our

hearts to accept the renewal God offers when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together.

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

**Spoken:**

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

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

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

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord of all,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the  
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader 5:** Eternal Word of God, as we celebrate the anniversary of your love made known through this Church, help us to listen to your Holy Word so that we may truly understand it; that, understanding your Word, we may believe and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN.**

**Leader 5:** Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.

**ALL:** We read **God's Word to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.**



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

The second reading is in Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14 - 22, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 247 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

<sup>14</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin<sup>[a]</sup> of God's creation:

<sup>15</sup> "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup> Therefore I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white robes to clothe yourself and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. <sup>19</sup> I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. <sup>20</sup> Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. <sup>21</sup> To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

**Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!**  
**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

[Read full chapter](#)

**Footnotes**

a. [3.14](#) Or *beginning*

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3%3A14-23&version=NRSVUE>

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**+ Psalm: SPECIAL MUSIC** Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: **"I Love The Lord"** Words: Isaac Watts (1791, alt.) © Words: Public Domain. Music: Richard Smallwood 1971 Century Oak Publishing Group (Admin. by Conexion Media Group, Inc.) Richwood Music (Admin. by Conexion Media Group, Inc.) CCLI Song # 1168957. Performed with Professional Backing Tracks Greatest Karaoke Sing The Hits of Whitney Houston. Label: Cooltone Karaoke, Artists: Cootone Karaoke, Cootone title: I Love The Lord (originally Performed by Whitney Houston) [Karaoke Version] Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

## **+ 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.

### **Opening 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 Luke, chapter 19:1-10 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 82 in the Second Testament.

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

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

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

## **Jesus and Zacchaeus**

**19** He entered Jericho and was passing through it. **2** A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. **3** He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he

was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup> All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

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

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+19%3A1-10&version=NRSVUE>.)

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## Closing Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sds the

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!



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



The LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.

The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2S+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

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**Article: The Fight Over Jerusalem's Temple Mount**

by Benjamin Weinthal

Fox News

January 4, 2023

([https://www.meforum.org/63971/background-the-fight-over-the-temple-](https://www.meforum.org/63971/background-the-fight-over-the-temple-mount#:~:text=Palestinians%20want%20East%20Jerusalem%2C%20where,Romans%20in%20the%20year%2070..)

[mount#:~:text=Palestinians%20want%20East%20Jerusalem%2C%20where,Romans%20in%20the%20year%2070..](https://www.meforum.org/63971/background-the-fight-over-the-temple-mount#:~:text=Palestinians%20want%20East%20Jerusalem%2C%20where,Romans%20in%20the%20year%2070..) )

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**What to Know About Jerusalem's Temple Mount and the Status Quo Agreement**

April 25, 2023, from the American Jewish Committee AJC.

([https://www.ajc.org/news/what-to-know-about-jerusalem-temple-mount-and-the-status-quo-](https://www.ajc.org/news/what-to-know-about-jerusalem-temple-mount-and-the-status-quo-agreement#:~:text=For%20Jews%2C%20the%20Temple%20Mount,Jewish%20liturgy%20and%20collective%20identity.)

[agreement#:~:text=For%20Jews%2C%20the%20Temple%20Mount,Jewish%20liturgy%20and%20collective%20identity.](https://www.ajc.org/news/what-to-know-about-jerusalem-temple-mount-and-the-status-quo-agreement#:~:text=For%20Jews%2C%20the%20Temple%20Mount,Jewish%20liturgy%20and%20collective%20identity.).)

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Jihadist Theology <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihadism>

Jihadist Flag: see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihadist\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihadist_flag)



Flag used by various Islamist organisations (since the late 1990s) with the white text of the *shahada* on a black background

(Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihadist\\_flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihadist_flag) )

The prayer on the flag is called the "shahada." see Wikipedia:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahada>.

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The Holy Quran's Message To Jews & Christians. Sixth Edition 2001

Compiled and Edited by: Dr. Arafat El-Ashi COPYRIGHT © 1996 By Arafat El-Ashi First published Dec. 1995 5,000 copies Second reprint February 1996 10,000 = Third Edition May 1996 10,000 = Fourth Edition June 1997 10,000 = Fifth Edition 1999 10,000 = Sixth Edition 2001 10,000 = Printed in Canada All Rights Reserved. For permission to reprint, contact the author at Muslim World League

191 The West Mall, Suite# 1018  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 5K8, Canada

EL-Ashi, Arafat. The Holy Quran's Message to Jews & Christians. UNKNOWN. Kindle Edition.

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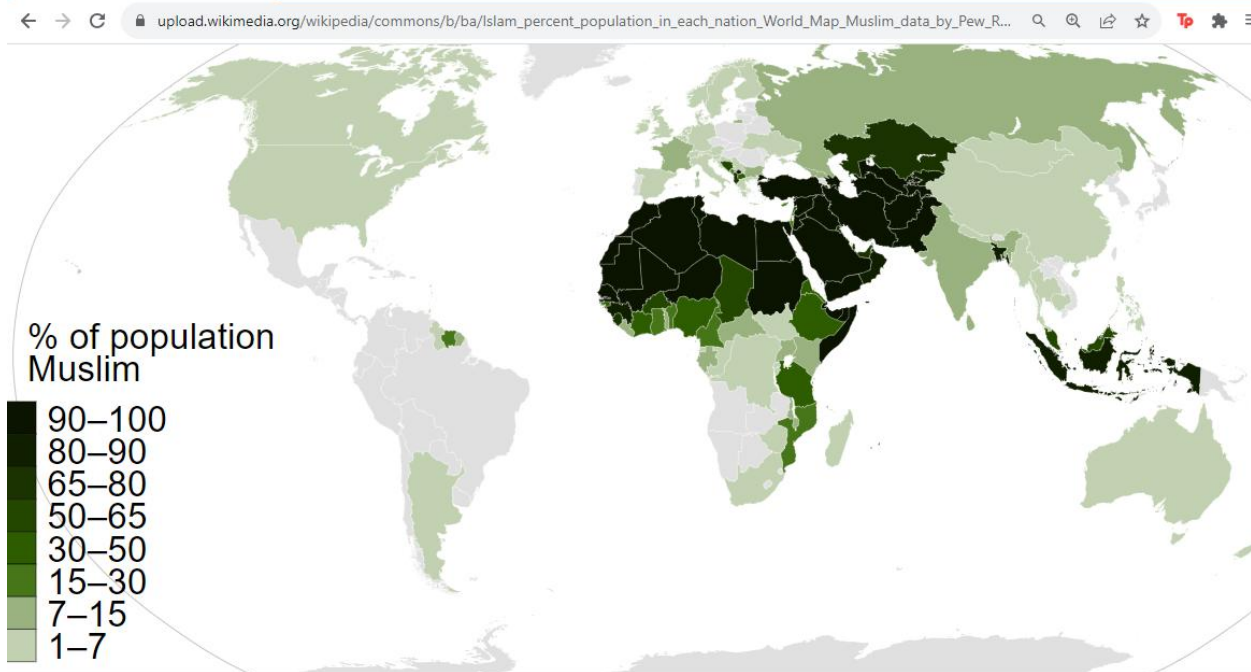
Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition STIC

<https://sticinterfaith.org/>

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(Source:  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/ba/Islam\\_percent\\_population\\_in\\_each\\_nation\\_World\\_Map\\_Muslim\\_data\\_by\\_Pew\\_Research.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/ba/Islam_percent_population_in_each_nation_World_Map_Muslim_data_by_Pew_Research.svg) )



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Mike Johnson House Speaker - "Christian"

Revelation, chapter 3, verses 14 - 22, in the NRSV 2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 247 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.



<sup>14</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin<sup>[a]</sup> of God's creation:

<sup>15</sup> "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Fr. McNeill: "I love Ray Of Hope because you are hot for the Lord."

Like Zacchaeus, the tax collector in our Gospel reading today, the founders of this congregation were despised by the religiously "correct" or "right" in the years following WWII through the early 80s when HIV/AIDS was showing itself in Central NY. Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see and be seen, to hear and be heard by Jesus. Likewise, the people who started Ray Of Hope in Syracuse certainly had to find the inconvenient stoop and platform and use every available means of being heard by and hearing those people who needed us. This has been our journey these entire forty years.

<sup>17</sup> For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

Over the years, we have faced the confidence of enormous church institutions, preachers on television, radio, and the Internet. We have faced off with "Christian" academics, "Christian" politicians, theologians, authors, speakers, and even musicians, all telling us they are confident they are right and we are wrong. They have felt rich and powerful in their positions of opposition to us, claiming to have "thousands of years" of "Christian and Jewish Tradition," enriching their energy to blast their message over top of us.

At the same time, during these forty years, there has been a massive volume of Theology, Psychology, Anthropology, and Archeology (and there are more categories) that has shown we are normal; we have been here in every period of human written record and every known

organization of people into civilizations and societies. We have also been present in every record of every Religion.

Though we remain small, like a crack in a wall where a little beam of light breaks through, we have found great comfort in the production of academic papers, new films, documentaries, fiction writing, and publications of all kinds that assure us we are who we thought we were all along, regular people, created, loved and sustained by our beloved Creator, and Christ, and Holy Spirit.

I often say; The religious "right" has gone so far to the "right" that they are totally wrong! The religious "left" has gone so far to the "left" that there is nothing "left" at all. Both positions leave the people starving for the Word of God.

The next verse of our reading says: <sup>18</sup> Therefore I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white robes to clothe yourself and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

At Ray Of Hope, we know the "gold" that can stand the test of life is the Word of God, the Worship of the Community, and the Holy Communion of that "common-union" of Church community together in Christ. We know, this is the gold our people are looking for.

We also know the "salve" is the oil of healing, understanding, empathy, and love we receive through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. We use oil with blessing and prayer to remind us the sweet healing power of Christ is always ready to anoint us. We know that all LGBTQSIANE2ss+ people are welcome to receive the white robes of salvation and are being dressed in those robes by the cruelty thrust upon us by the church and the state "in the Name" of Jesus, Tradition, and the Bible.

**Matthew 5:11-12** <sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The following verses in Matthew's Gospel are about us being the salt of the earth. We are called to remain full of energy and sharp as new salt.

<sup>19</sup> I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. <sup>20</sup> Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. <sup>21</sup> To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

The world churches that have dug in with terrible dogmas and teachings not based on the fundamental languages of the Bible have and will continue to experience reproof from Christ. So many churches are choosing their denominational dogmas, teachings, and practices over the freedom of the salve, the gold, and the covering of Christ, which God is holding out to them.

We continue to stand alongside the institutional church and offer our assistance. We have even offered to help congregations like ours set up as independent churches to assist believers who want to reach out to those rejected by the churches.

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

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Sacrament of Anointing for Healing and Confirmation of our Faith.  
Explanation of anointing oil. Blessing of the oil.



**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.
- 



## **+ The Prayers of the People OVER 3,000 CHILDREN HAVE DIED**

**Leader – 3:** Having heard the Word Of God, we pray to God in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit with communal and shared prayers. Our response after each prayer will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader – 3:** Violence and Crime are in the news daily. People who feel the pressure of poverty, discrimination, displacement, and ethnic cleansing sometimes turn to crime and violence, mistakenly thinking these are their only viable options. We pray for increased respect, empathy, awareness, and care among all people; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader – 3:** The war in Ukraine continues past the 582nd day. Undoubtedly, the people fighting to keep their independence as a Country are growing weary and tired. Indeed, some soldiers are beginning to think their partners in other Countries have forgotten them. Additionally, today marks the fourth Sunday of the War between Hamas and Israel. The humanitarian losses done in the name of Religion are inexcusable and immoral. Additionally, there are roughly thirty-three Countries at war this morning. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end all wars and find diplomatic solutions to conflict; we pray to the Lord.

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

See this website for more information: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-currently-at-war>

**Leader – 2:** We thank you, Lord, for the praise report that Gillie Waddington is in remission from Cancer. We ask you to continue helping Gillie. At the same time, we continue praying for people we know who need healing and support, including Cheryl, April, Henrietta, Trudy, Gilbert, Jacob, Ed's Sister, Allena McGlaughlin, and all who have asked for our prayers; we pray to the Lord.

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

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/02/fact-sheet-on-one-year-anniversary-of-reignited-cancer-moonshot-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-end-cancer-as-we-know-it/>)

**Leader – 2:** We pray that world leaders will recognize and respond to the environmental emergency of Climate change with compassion and plans for change; we pray to the Lord.

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

**Leader:** At this time, everyone may add silent prayers for yourself or others, prayers of thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. If you share a prayer aloud, please speak loud enough so everyone can hear you. We begin with \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**




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

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

**Leader:** At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Every organization has actual expenses, including but not limited to utilities, building upkeep, insurance, taxes, and so on. In the United States, each Church is a private organization and does not receive public funding. Together, we keep this ministry available to our local and International participants by keeping it financially viable.

There are many convenient ways to participate with your donation. Anyone



may use the QRCode  or press control + click or tap on this link: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#) in the bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. People in the Chapel may use the envelopes and the donation box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event.

Finally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

At this time, we also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Internet viewers, please turn to page three and follow the instructions highlighted in yellow under leader two.

We still use individual communion kits in the Chapel as part of our COVID

safety protocol.

Everyone may help set the Chapel Communion Table, and you may walk to the donation box during this time.

( \*\* Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. \*\* Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local Church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you can join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*) )

**OFFERTORY SONG** Lord I Lift Your Name On High. Words and Music by Rick Founds. © 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing  
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21787152.

**Leader -2:** (\* **Improvise a prayer for the offerings received, giving thanks and praise.**\*) (When your prayer is complete, please say:)  
" Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology."

(We sing **The Doxology here.**)

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



**WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Leader:** Please gently hold the communion kit for the following two prayers. Viewers at home pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this bread, and fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made.

Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), and this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), and together they will be the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body and Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

(Other titles include the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54- 57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25)

**Pastor:** Please set down your communion kit.

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

**Pastor:** It is truly right and just....



May our voices be one with all the fabulous Faithful from every time and place as we sing our song and join their unending praise hymns.

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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### **+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit**

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

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

**Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual** wellbeing. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen**

**Leader:** You may relax your arms and hands.

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

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



## **The Reception of Holy Communion**

**Pastor:** Open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. The Gift of God for the People of God....

**Pastor:** I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

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

**Leader -4:** Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

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

## **+ Final Doxology**

**Pastor:** Together, we pray:

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

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to You. Al - migh - ty  
5 God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia  
11 A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

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### + Sign Of Peace

**Veronica Floyd, Moderator:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Veronica Floyd:** 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.

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

### A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your

holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

**A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:** Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the Salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).

**COMMUNION SONG: Alleluia composed by Jerry Sinclair**

- 1) Alleluia
- 2) Lord, we praise you.
- 3) Lord, we thank you.
- 4) Alleluia

**Alleluia composed by Jerry Sinclair** © 1972 Manna Music, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management). CCLI Song #16811. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**General Offering** for the week of September 17 \$468.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

**General Offering** for the week of September 24 \$1068.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

**General Offering** for the week of October 1 \$218.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

**General Offering** for the week of October 8 \$688.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 11

**General Offering** for the week of October 15 \$88.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 13

**General Offering** for the week of October 22 \$78.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

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

**Recent Gifts:**

April Struhm donated \$100.00 toward our new annual Internet costs. Thank you April.

Lisa Frost donated altar wine for Holy Communion in thanksgiving for the life of Rodney Brewer. Thank you Lisa.

**New Gifts This Week:**

April Struhm donated another Chromebook to help people see the Order of Worship and Music Edition for Sunday worship. April has donated five computer devices, and one screen to help us with our visual ministry on the Internet. Thank you, April.

Phillipa Askins donated \$230.00 to the new annual Internet costs. Phillipa also donated \$130.00 to be used at the discretion of the Treasurer. Thank you, Phillipa.

**We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.**





## **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

\*\* See the Q.R. Code on last page. \*\*

Tuesday, October 31, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment. Sacraments, Ordinances, and Rituals part 6.

**Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Noon Traditional Mass in English – in person**

Sunday, November 5, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, November 7, VOTE VOTE VOTE

Wednesday, November 8, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person

November 9, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Council Budget Planning Meeting

Sunday, November 12, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Second Tuesday, November 14, 7:15 - 8:45 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 15, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Sunday, November 19, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday, November 19 at 3:30 pm. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, presented by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition. First Congregational United Church Of Christ. 171 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY 14830. See the flyer

Sunday, November 19, is Veronica Floyd's Birthday. Happy and blessed birthday, Veronica.

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 22, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

**November 26, Advent, week 1** (backed up one week) - World Peace Sunday

Tuesday, November 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, November 29, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

November 30, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. Council Meeting

**December 3, Advent, week 2 – Hope, World AIDS DAY Celebration**

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 6, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

**Thursday, December 7 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 1**

**Friday, December 8 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 2**

**Saturday, Decmber 9 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 3**

**December 10, GAUDETE SUNDAY – GAUDETE PARTY – Joy, Pride Sunday in the Winter**

**Sunday, December 10, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 4**

**Monday, December 11, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 5**

**Tuesday, December 12, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 6**

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 13, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

Wednesday, December 13, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 7

Thursday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. Hanukkah Night 8

Sunday, December 17, Advent, week 4 – Love, Holy Women and Mother's Day in the Winter

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment

Wednesday, December 20, Noon Traditional Mass in English - in person.

December 24, Sunday, 10:30 A.M. NATIVITY – Celebration of the Birth of Jesus.

December 29, Friday, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

At the regularly scheduled monthly Council Meeting, October 20, 2023, Ed Askins was elected to the Council by its members. Presented here is the written announcement as required by our Bylaws to be added to the bulletin for the following two Sundays, today October 22, and next Sunday, October 29. The Congregation (Members of Ray Of Hope Church, Inc.) may take any of the three following options for action before 1:00 p.m. Sunday, November 5, 2023:

- 1) The Membership may take no action. Taking no action is acceptance of the Council's vote to add Ed Askins to the Council.
- 2) Any five Members of Ray Of Hope Church may call for a Special Congregational Meeting to reverse the decision of the Council. The motion to reverse the Council's decision will be moved, and if seconded, it will be voted on. The result will constitute the final decision on the motion to reverse the Council's decision.
- 3) Any five Members of Ray Of Hope Church may call for a Special Congregational Meeting to ratify, officially approve of, the decision of the Council to add Ed to the Council. A motion to ratify, and thereby elect Ed to the Council will be moved, and if seconded, it will be voted on. The result will constitute the final decision on the motion to ratify - approve the Council's decision.

See Bylaws Section 5.05 and 5.06 <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Gov5.htm>

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



<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/P2023-Bookmark.htm> In celebration, we launched the new mobile-friendly version of our website.

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**NOTE: Whitney Tipton** recommended the 2016 Documentary "13th" which may be found on Netflix. The caption reads; "In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U. S. prison boom. I have watched it and found it to be very informative and I recommend it as well. Thank you, Whitney.



## We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

**ALL:** And also with you!

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

**ALL:** Amen

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

**Leader-4:** We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

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

**CLOSING SONG:** Joyful People, Come and Worship. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; adpt. Text: June Norris, © 1987; alt. with permission, as in *The Hymnal Project*, © 1989 MCC San Francisco. Licensed to Ray Of Hope Church for use in worship.

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POSTLUDE: Organ How Great Thou Art.

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

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

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

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

Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser: <https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

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Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

**\*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord**  
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five

10-29-23 40th Anniversary Sunday, The Feast Of All Saints. Year A Page 37 of 42  
years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.  
We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.  
We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or  
**RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.  
We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**  
Church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.  
**WE ARE YOU!**  
**THIS** is the Church where **YOU** belong.  
**Ray Of Hope Church is the Church by us, for us, and made by You.**

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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=====**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**=====

**Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.**  
Read this on our website. [Right Click Here](#)

=====**WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?**=====

Everyone may receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

You are not required to be a member of this Church or any other church to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this

Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive it, or right after so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries, many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my body. This is my blood," and we rehear Christ present with us saying: "Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink" of this gift.

After extensive consideration, I take these words, "Take this, all of you.." as a command to the Church to give and bring the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to educate people about this gift. I have said **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord's Table is central to that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in, through, with us, and made known in breaking the Bread of Life and drinking the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole World.

We begin by inviting those on the fringe of Society, those pushed aside, poor, not accepted, sick, and who need God's help in extraordinary ways.

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to everyone told "no, you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes, you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or, as we like to say as one of our mottos when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J.

O'Brien, "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018, by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21, revised 3-3-2023)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here.](#)

See this in a PDF format from our website, share it with others, or download it to your computer/device. [Right Click Here.](#)

## Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray. Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel and live on Skype and Facebook Live. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.





## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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





Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition (STIC)

Is Pleased To Announce the Hosting of The

**Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 3:30 PM

First Congregational United Church of Christ

171 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY 14830

A reception with dessert and fellowship will follow the service.

This service is free for all who wish to attend.

A free will offering will be collected and donated to Doctors Without Borders.

**All are Welcome!**

