



**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 8, 2023, Year A

Indigenous Peoples Day and Columbus Day weekend.

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

"what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all."

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Isaiah, chapter 54, verse 4 - 7 NRSV 1st Test.
Pg. 684

Psalm: 80 with selected verses and a response.

Second Reading: Philipians, chapter 4, verses 6 - 9 NRSV 2nd
Test. Pg. 198

Gospel: Matthew 24:2- 31 NRSV 2ND Testament page 26

*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 1st 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. 1st 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. You can 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, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

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. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly. This morning, Ed Askins will play a prelude, **"Surely The Presence Of The Lord," Words and Music by Lanny Wolfe**. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and refrain from visiting. Thank you.

Prelude played by Ed Askins on the piano. **"Surely The Presence Of The Lord," Words and Music by Lanny Wolfe**. ©1977 Lanny Wolfe Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI Song # 7909 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 LGBTQIA2SS+ persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression are SAVED** and are called to live out the fullness of who they are so that God may be praised. Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. officially took this position on September 18, 2011 and changed the By-laws to secure this position. (www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm) (www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm)

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



Bell's 2nd ring 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 people around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: 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 8, 2023, the twentieth week of Pentecost,
the Fiftieth Sunday in our 40th year of ministry.

Indigenous Peoples Sunday and Columbus Day Sunday

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: All Creatures of Our God and King.

Text: LM with additions; St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; Laudato sia Dio mio Signore; tr. by William H. Draper, 1855–1933, alt. Music: Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623. Glory and Praise Second Edition #672. Onlicense Song # 80362. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

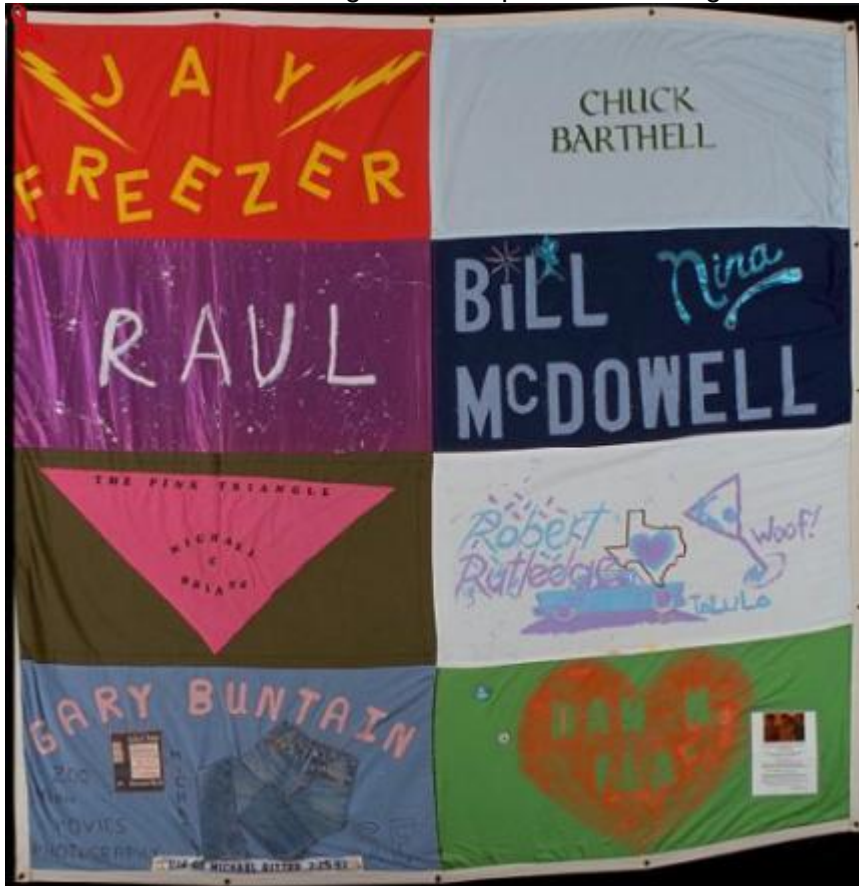
+ The Candle Of Hope

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 # 93.



NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Block # 93

- Jay Freezer (1)
- Chuck Barthell (2)
 - Raul (3)
- Bill McDowell (4)
- Michael C. Brians (5)
- Robert Rutledge (6)
- Gary Buntain (7)
 - Dan N. (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: Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless Text: CM; verses 1, 2, James Montgomery, 1771–1854; verses 3, 4, anon. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876. Glory and Praise Second Edition #501. Onlicense Song # 84164. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278



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 _____.

Division among people everywhere produces violence and war; we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Leader -4: Some people do not respect God's unlimited gifts to the human community; we pray: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Leader -4: We could promote the unifying mission of the Church and the Gospel with more convincing enthusiasm; 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, help us to hear your Holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, 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 reading is in the book of Isaiah, chapter 54 verses 4 through 7 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 684 in the First Testament. Here begins the reading.

Israel is the Wife of God.

Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;
do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace,
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.

⁵ For your Maker is your husband;
the LORD of hosts is his name;
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
the God of the whole earth he is called.

⁶ For the LORD has called you
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off,
says your God.

⁷ For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+54%3A1-7&version=NRSVUE>. Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ

+ Psalm: **** **If an introduction is needed:****** Hello. My name is
__, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of __.

The Psalm is number 80, selected verses. The response is: The vineyard of
the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

You transplanted us like a vine brought out of Egypt.

You cleared away the nations and planted us.

The vine put forth its foliage to the Sea,
and its shoots as far as the Great River.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

Oh Lord, our God, look down from heaven and see;

Take care of your vine,

Lord, protect what has been planted by your right hand.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

We promise to stay near to you.

Give us a new start in life, and we will call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord, restore us;

let your face shine upon us,

and we shall be saved.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

** Inclusive language and prose added by Br.
Benedict, based on multiple translations.

+ Second 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 Philippians, chapter 4, verses 6 - 9 in the NRSV

2021 updated edition. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 198 in the Second Testament. Here begins the reading.

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^[a] these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [4.8](#) Gk *take account of*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A6-9&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.)

+ 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 Matthew, chapter 24:3-31 in the NRSV updated edition of 2021. The 1989 pew Bibles have a similar reading on page 26 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 Matthew.

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

Signs of the End of the Age

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah!' ^[a] and

they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines^[b] and earthquakes in various places: ⁸ all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Persecutions Foretold

⁹ "Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰ Then many will fall away,^[c] and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this good news^[d] of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The Desolating Sacrilege

¹⁵ "So when you see the desolating sacrilege, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; ¹⁷ the one on the housetop must not go down to take things from the house; ¹⁸ the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat. ¹⁹ Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For at that time there will be great suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no one would be saved, but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' ^[e] or 'There he is!'—do not believe it. ²⁴ For false messiahs^[f] and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ Take note, I have told you beforehand. ²⁶ So, if they say to you, 'Look! He is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If

they say, 'Look! He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the eagles will gather.

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁹ "Immediately after the suffering of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

³⁰ "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [24.5](#) Or *the Christ*
- b. [24.7](#) Other ancient authorities add *and pestilences*
- c. [24.10](#) Or *stumble*
- d. [24.14](#) Or *gospel*
- e. [24.23](#) Or *the Christ*
- f. [24.24](#) Or *christs*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A27-35&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.)

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

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.
 The LGBTQISA2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2ss+ 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

=====

The readings are selected for our celebration.

First Reading: Isaiah, chapter 54, verse 4 - 7 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 684

This reading is chosen today in light of the War Israel declared against Hamas. Israel is God's Wife and shall never be defeated. The three main references for the Doctrine of Israel as God's Wife are: Isaiah 54:1-7; Jeremiah 31: 32; Hosea 2:1-23. The Scofield note is on page 1196 "Wife" of the Lord, Summary. Is this war between Israel and Hamas an indicator that we are about to be thrust into the Tribulation Period? Are the correct countries aligned to "attack Israel" according to Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39?

Psalms: 80 with selected verses and a response.

R: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel, the wife of God.

You transplanted us like a vine brought out of Egypt.

You cleared away the nations and planted us.

The vine put forth its foliage to the Sea,

HOW VERY INTERESTING in light of the Indigenous Peoples Day / Columbus Day celebration. Here, Israel is celebrating how God cleared out the Nations living in the land God was giving them. This is exactly what European Explorers did when they came to the shores of North and South America.

The church developed a Dogma ("a required belief that may change over hundreds of years and developed by the religious authority" Br. Benedict's definition.) known as "Replacement Theology" also known as "Supersessionism" that declares the church has replaced and superseded the nation of Israel. The church considers itself to be the New Israel if it ascribes to this dogmatic theology. (source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supersessionism#:~:text=Supersessionism%2C%20also%20called%20replacement%20theology,th e%20New%20Covenant%20through%20Jesus>) With this idea, the church took the commands to the House of Israel to clear the land and applied it to the "Doctrine of Discovery." We will return to discuss that further in this Sermon.

Second Reading: Philippians, chapter 4, verses 6 - 9 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 198
A continuation of pastoral commands on how to be the Church, a living and interactive community of people.

Gospel: Matthew 24:2- 31 NRSV 2ND Testament page 26

Signs of the end times.

[How long have humans been in North America? New Mexico footprints are rewriting history.](#)

Published October 7, 2023., USA TODAY Written by Doyle Rice.

"According to the new study, with three separate lines of evidence – involving samples of pollen grains and two different sediments – pointing to the same approximate age, "it is highly unlikely that they are all incorrect or biased and, taken together, provide strong support for the 21,000 to 23,000-year age range for the footprints." (Doyle Rice USA Today

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/10/07/how-human-history-is-being->

[rewritten-by-footprints-in-new-mexico/71043675007/](https://www.discountmags.com/magazine/catholic-family-news-september-1-2021-digital/in-this-issue/7))

Where does white supremacy come from? CRT: "Catholic Race Theory: True Brotherhood Among All God's Children A Catholic Response to Critical Race Theory by Stephen Kokx and Daniel Vasko" (<https://www.discountmags.com/magazine/catholic-family-news-september-1-2021-digital/in-this-issue/7>)

Brother Benedict: The theory interprets Genesis 9:24-29 and all of Chapter 10. See the notes on pages 18 and 19 in Scofield III, NKJV.

The Doctrine of Discovery https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discovery_doctrine

TWO RECENT TERMS: POC and BIPOC What do they tell us, and do they work to help our situation?
ARTICLE: 'BIPOC' Isn't Doing What You Think It's Doing 4-9-21 by Andrea Plaid and Christopher MacDonald-Dennis - Newsweek(Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/bipoc-isnt-doing-what-you-think-its-doing-opinion-1582494>)

The advantages of the term POC over BIPOC are numerous when you start to think about it. The term "people of color" was a phrase chosen by Black, Latino, Native American, and Asian and Pacific Islander activists in the 90s to actively decenter whiteness. As longtime reproductive-justice activist Loretta Ross explains it, the phrase came to replace the then-popular terms "non-white" and "minorities," which carried with them the idea that we were "less than." The hope was that bringing together people from disparate communities under a common term would further cement the coalitions that formed when these marginalized groups came together to wage war against white supremacy. (End of article quotation)

The United Nations Declaration on the [Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Vatican formally rejects 'Doctrine of Discovery' after Indigenous calls](#) Mar 30, 2023 3:59 PM EDT

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican on Thursday responded to Indigenous demands and formally repudiated the "Doctrine of Discovery," the theories backed by 15th-

century "papal bulls" that legitimized the colonial-era seizure of Native lands and form the basis of some property laws today.

A Vatican statement said the papal bulls, or decrees, "did not adequately reflect the equal dignity and rights of Indigenous peoples" and have never been considered expressions of the Catholic faith. (Source: PBS:

[https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/vatican-formally-rejects-doctrine-of-discovery-after-indigenous-calls#:~:text=VATICAN%20CITY%20\(AP\)%20%E2%80%94%20The,of%20some%20property%20laws%20today.](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/vatican-formally-rejects-doctrine-of-discovery-after-indigenous-calls#:~:text=VATICAN%20CITY%20(AP)%20%E2%80%94%20The,of%20some%20property%20laws%20today.))

Pope Francis opened a series of meetings extending over two years this last Wednesday, October 4, the actual Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This first session is a three-week, closed-door meeting. Pope Francis quoted the voice of Christ in the vision to Francis of Assisi: "Go and rebuild my church." Conservatives have already "warned its call for radical inclusion of LGBTQ+ people could lead to schism." as reported in this article, see here:

<https://apnews.com/article/vatican-pope-conservatives-women-lgbtq-0525e295f5befd4ec97ed553f165bfc8>

*****OPEN MICROPHONE *****

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

10-8-23 UPDATED Indigenous Peoples Year A Page 21 of 39
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

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, and now we add the war between Hamas and Israel. We pray for increased respect for the lives of others, 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 561st day. We continue to pray that World Leaders work together to end the war in Ukraine and roughly thirty-three additional Countries; 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 continue praying for people we know who need healing and support, including Gillie, Cheryl, April, Henrietta, Trudy, Gilbert, Jacob, Ed's Sister, 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: As the Earth suffers the effects of climate change, we pray for people who have lost their shelter, jobs, friends, and family in these recent natural disasters. We pray that world leaders will recognize and respond to this environmental emergency 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: "I Worship You Almighty God" Words and Music by Sondra Corbett. ©1983 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music). CCLI Song # 20807 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License

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.

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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

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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

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

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

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

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 - 8:00 .m. Bible Enrichment. Sacraments, Ordinances, and Rituals part 3.

Friday, October 20, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting, Skype and in person.

October 29, Sunday, celebration of our 40th Anniversary. Feast of All Saints. Sacrament of Anointing for Healing and Confirmation of our Faith. Refreshments following worship.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Noon Traditional Mass in English – Feast of All Saints. This will be a 45 minute worship event; in person only.

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

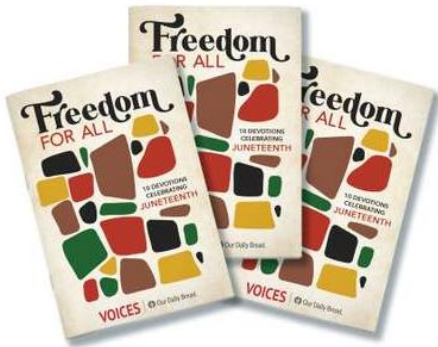
December 3, Advent, week 2 – Hope, World AIDS DAY Celebration

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

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

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

October 12, 2023, is the 25th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's murder in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1998. The Southern Finger Lakes Pride presents The Laramie Project, a play by Moises Kaufman, and The Tectonic Theatre Project on October 11 (National Coming Out Day) and October 12 at the Rockwell Museum. For more information go to <https://facebook.com/events/s/the-laramie-project/1977687032573315/?mibextid=RQdjgZ>



https://odb.org/page/freedom-for-all-day-1?utm_source=reading-plan&utm_medium=unbounce&utm_campaign=juneteenth-23

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.

Last Song: Prayer Of St. Francis words and music by Sebastian Temple. Dedicated to Mrs. Francis Tracy. Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascribed to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226. Text and music © 1967, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory and Praise Second Edition #650. Onlicense Song # 80478. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

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/@rayofhopechurchlgbtgsia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.

=====

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 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

=====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. 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.

Visit us online:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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

