

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

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

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

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

We extend a special welcome to our visitors.  
You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.  
In Romans 15:7 the Scriptures exhort us to:  
**"Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God"** (NABRE – 2011)

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

Today is 11-24-24 Pentecost Week 28, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B  
Eschatology Week 2 of 6

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: \*\*\* these readings were chosen for this event.

**First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 828**

**Psalm: Psalm 93:1-2, 5 Responsorial psalm inside bulletin.**

**Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 245**

**Gospel: John 18:28—37 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 112 \*\* my  
change**

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

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

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

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



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

**+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning. Welcome to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York and now all across the World through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. To facilitate your full participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and Music Supplement available on Facebook Live; right-click the "Featured Links" icon. On Skype, look in the Chat window for two document icons. On our website, look at the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). For people watching on the Internet, we recommend you have two Internet devices on. Set one device on Facebook Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#).

Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>.

You do not need an account on Skype to "enter as a guest" when prompted.

You may 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.

**Leader-2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am in\_(city) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_(State)\_\_\_\_\_. Good morning, and welcome. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\*)

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second part of this worship event. We celebrate the Lord's open table where Membership in this or any church is not required to receive Communion.

People participating on the Internet, please bring the following items to your table at this time so you are prepared: 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. Take a moment now and gather these items.

This morning, Ed Askins will play the piece "Jesus Lord To Me," a song written by Gary McSpadden and Greg Nelson, as a prelude to help us prayerfully prepare for worship. We ask everyone to refrain from visiting and spend this time in prayer; thank you.

**Prelude** played by Ed Askins on the piano. "Jesus Lord To Me"  
**Words and Music by Gary McSpadden, Greg Nelson.** © 1981 Yellow House Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) River Oaks Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing). CCLI Song # 16976 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



(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 will announce the start of the worship event.**

**Leader – 2:** (\*\* Reader, look up at the people and smile.\*\* ) Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. 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 -2:** You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. (\*\* Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.\*\* ) Show the glory of God by introducing yourself and welcoming the **SAINTS** around you. To be extra careful, we observe COVID-19 safety protocols by waving across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

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

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

June 1, 2024, was the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELMIRA CHAPEL.

Today is 11-24-24, Pentecost Week 28, the 34th and final Sunday of the Church Year, year B, the Feast of Christ The King. Next Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, is the First Sunday of the New Church Year and is World AIDS Day.

The Church Calendar takes up the Theology of Eschatology for the six Sundays leading up to Christmas. Today, November 24, 2024, is the Second Sunday of Eschatology, the study of the final events, the End Times revealed in Scripture. Today, we will touch upon the question of the Reign of Christ, what it is and what it is not, and what it will be in the future.

Ray Of Hope Church stands on the principles that all people are equal in God's Creation and that this congregation will always welcome and embrace everyone. Therefore, we support all persons of every sexual orientation and every gender expression of one's state in life as holy and uniquely created by God as we endeavor to show everyone how to bring Christ to every area of our lives.

**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. Alleluia!**



**FIRST SONG:** For You Are My God. G&P 612



## **For You Are My God**

**Words and Music by John Foley, S.J.**

### Refrain

For you are my God;  
you alone are my joy.  
Defend me, O Lord.

1. You give marvelous comrades to me;  
the faithful who dwell in your land.  
Those who choose alien gods  
have chosen an alien band.

2. You are my portion and cup;  
it is you that I claim for my prize.  
Your heritage is my delight,  
the lot you have given to me.

3. Glad are my heart and my soul;  
securely my body shall rest.  
For you will not leave me for dead,  
nor lead your beloved astray.

4. You show me the path for my life;  
in your presence the fullness of joy.  
To be at your right hand forever  
for me would be happiness always.

**For You Are My God.** G&P 612 Text based on Psalm 16. Text and music © 1970, John B. Foley, S.J. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. OCP Octavo/Bonus Music. Onelicense Song #81275 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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

**Leader - 2:** Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture,"

the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to celebrate the Truth they promise us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

**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 and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people. Scroll the page to see the panel names on Block # 134.



Names (panel number) on Block # 134

- ☐ Mary's...Naturally (1)
  - ☐ Rod Ezio (1)
  - ☐ Bill Warren (2)
  - ☐ Rusty Virgen (3)
  - ☐ Joe Bob Law (4)
- ☐ David Oleson (5)
  - ☐ Dennis Dunwoody (6)
- ☐ Garry "Chris" Christofoletti (7)
  - ☐ Shorty Harris (8)

Read the story of Mary's, Naturally was a world-famous gathering place that was in Houston, Texas here: (<https://www.houstonlgbthistory.org/houston-marys-history.html> )

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

**Leader -2:** In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy



Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (\*\*pause for silent prayer.\*\*\*) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

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

**Second Song:** Glory & Praise Second Edition 422

**To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King** Text: Martin B. Hellrigel, 1891-1981, alt.,  
© 1941, Irene C. Mueller

1. To Jesus Christ, our sov'reign King,  
Who is the world's salvation,  
All praise and homage do we bring  
And thanks and adoration.  
Christ Jesus, Victor!  
Christ Jesus, Ruler!  
Christ Jesus, Lord and Redeemer!
2. Your reign extend, O King benign,  
To ev'ry land and nation;  
For in your Kingdom, Lord divine,  
Alone we find salvation.  
Christ Jesus, Victor!  
Christ Jesus, Ruler!  
Christ Jesus, Lord and Redeemer!
3. To you, and to your church, great King,  
We pledge our heart's oblation;  
Until before your throne we sing  
In endless jubilation.  
Christ Jesus, Victor!  
Christ Jesus, Ruler!  
Christ Jesus, Lord and Redeemer!

**To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King** Text: Martin B. Hellrigel, 1891-1981, alt., © 1941, Irene C. Mueller. Catholic Community Hymnal #287 Onelicense Song# 92401 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.



## **WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

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

**Leader 3:** 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, being truly present among us, forgiving our sins through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. In silent prayer, we consider our relationship with God and others, confess faults, sins, and failures to Christ, who is present in this room and our bodies, and receive His immediate forgiveness.

### **Pastor: Colossians 3:11b - 13 reads:**

There is only Christ, who is all in all. <sup>12</sup> Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

<sup>13</sup> Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. <sup>14</sup> Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

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**Pastor:** The Lord has heard our confession and has granted forgiveness, and so we declare together:

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

**Leader - 3:** The Church now provides the service of praising God in thanksgiving together. Please rise as you are able as we sing "The Gloria."

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

### **"The Gloria"**

From "Music for Worship"

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

Refrain:

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

Verse 1:

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

Refrain:

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

Verse 2:

Lord, Jesus Christ;  
The Only Begotten Son of God  
You are Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of God;  
receive our prayer.

Refrain:

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

Verse 3:

For You alone are the Holy One.  
You alone are the Lord of all,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God.  
In the Holy Spirit, in the Holy unity of God.

Refrain:

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

Verse 4:

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

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

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

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

# The Gloria

## "Music for Worship"

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

**Refrain**

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

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

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

10  
We give you thanks and praise.

12 **Verse 1**

You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un-i-verse, On - ly

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

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

21 **Refrain**

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

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



2





85

Verse 4: Amen

A\_ men\_ We

We give You thanks and praise!

Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

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

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

**PASTOR:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader-4:** The Lord is with you, Alleluia!

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

**Leader-4:** Together, we lift up our hearts.

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

**Leader-4:** We make this exhortation together:

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

**Leader-4:** Saint Origen, who lived from 185 – 254 A.D., wrote this prayer. His prayer is our prayer on this day. Please be seated now and listen with all your heart, soul, and mind as we open the Word of God.



## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

### + First Reading

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

This morning's first reading is in the Book of Daniel, chapter 7, verses 13-14. The reading is on page 828 in the first testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

<sup>13</sup> I gazed into the visions of the night once again,  
and I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,  
one who looked human,  
but somehow more than human.

This One came to the Ancient One  
and was led into the divine Presence.

<sup>14</sup> Thus was conferred sovereignty,  
glory and dominion,  
and all peoples, nations and languages  
became this One's subjects.  
This sovereignty is an eternal Sovereignty  
which will never pass away,  
nor will this dominion ever be destroyed.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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**+ Psalm** \*\*\*\* If an introduction is needed.\*\*\*\* Hello. My name is

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

Today's Psalm reading is number 93. The text we are singing is from the Inclusive Language Version, copyright © 1993, the Grail Version; see below for more details. We will sing the text to a Gospel melody written by Brother Benedict.

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;  
the Lord is robed with might,  
and girded round with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;

<sup>2</sup> Your throne has stood firm from of old.



From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

<sup>3</sup> The waters have lifted up, O Lord,  
the waters have lifted up their voice,  
the waters have lifted up their thunder.

<sup>4</sup> Greater than the roar of mighty waters,  
more glorious than the surgings of the sea,  
the Lord is glorious on high.

<sup>5</sup> Truly your decrees are to be trusted.  
Holiness is fitting to your house,  
O Lord, until the end of time.

**Give praise to God and to the Christ,  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

**Psalm 93.** (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #06569 All rights reserved. Published through exclusive license agreement by G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Used with Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278. Doxology by Br. Shawn Benedict.

## **+ Second Reading**

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

The reading is on page 245 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV pew Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible Version. Here begins the reading.

<sup>4</sup> From John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you, from the One who is, who was, and who is to come, from the seven spirits before the throne <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the Firstborn from the dead, sovereign of the rulers of the earth. To Christ—who loves us, and who has freed us from our sins by the shedding of blood, <sup>6</sup> and who has made us to be a kingdom of priests to serve our God and Creator—to

Jesus Christ be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.<sup>7</sup> Look! Christ is coming on the clouds for every eye to see, even those who pierced Jesus, and all the peoples of the earth will mourn over Christ.

S o be it! Amen.<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says our God, "who is, who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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## **+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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 on page 112 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of John, chapter 18, verses 28-37. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible.

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

**ALL:** And also with you.

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

**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.**

<sup>28</sup> At daybreak, they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. The Temple authorities didn't enter the Praetorium, for they would have become ritually unclean and unable to eat the Passover seder.

<sup>29</sup> So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charges do you bring against this person?" <sup>30</sup> They responded, "We wouldn't have brought him to you if he weren't a criminal." <sup>31</sup> Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own Law." The Temple authorities replied, "We

don't have the power to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup> This was to fulfill what Jesus had said about the way he was going to die. <sup>33</sup> So Pilate reentered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. "Are you the King of the Jews?" asked Pilate. <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, "Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the Temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world." <sup>37</sup> Pilate said, "So you're a King?" Jesus replied, "You say I'm a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice." <sup>38</sup> "Truth? What is truth?" asked Pilate. With that, Pilate went outside and spoke to the people. "I find no guilt in him," he said. <sup>39</sup> "But according to your custom, I always release a prisoner at the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the King of the Jews'?" <sup>40</sup> They shouted, "Not him! We want Barabbas!" Barabbas was a robber.

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

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

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## **Gospel Acclamation**

## Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

The musical score is written on five staves in 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined for emphasis. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, with measure numbers 5, 9, 13, and 17 indicated at the start of their respective staves.

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

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### + Sermon: Br. Shawn Benedict

We are celebrating Gratitude, Appreciation, and Thankfulness for 41 years of ministry, welcoming all people to the free gift of salvation. We are now in our 42nd year of ministry.

**LAST SUNDAY, I FORGOT TO SAY:** I would expect any of you to ask me how this section of the last book of the Bible could align perfectly with the Book of Daniel in Chapter 12 of their books, respectively. Actually, that is how I remember where the two stories match up; they are both in chapter 12. In answer to the question of how they line up, some people have such a high opinion of themselves that they dare to suggest these two books are impostures, dishonest pseudepigraphy, indicating they were not written by the Prophet Daniel or the Apostle John, who lived hundreds of years apart, likely 600 years apart, but rather by some unknown author from somewhere to make the books appear to be about the same events.



I certainly do not have to tell you I find those ideas to be horrifically death-defying and dishonest.

The reason the ideas in the Books of Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Psalms, Zechariah, Zephaniah, Micah, Malachi, Hosea, Genesis, and more line up with the prophecies fulfilled, being fulfilled and yet to be fulfilled in the Second Testament from Matthew to Revelation is they are all Divinely designed, intertwined, and thoroughly through-lined by the One and only God, Christ, and Holy Spirit, page one, to page none any further; call it, "One and done." (Br. Benedict, 11-17-24)

Today, we will touch upon the question of the Reign of Christ, what it is and what it is not, and what it will be in the future.

What it is: Christ reigns in the hearts of those believers who choose to open the door of their being to His Divine Being. Revelation 3:20 <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. (NRSVUE) The King of Hearts.

What the Kingdom of Christ is not: The Kingdom, Realm of Christ is not the Church, church, this church or that church, no church, old, or "restored." The Kingdom of Christ is also not the world system, which is under the rule of evil and sin. Ephesians 2:1,2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, <sup>[a]</sup> following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. (NRSVUE) John 12:31-33 <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people <sup>[a]</sup> to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. (NRSVUE) 1 John 5:19 <sup>19</sup> We know that we are God's children and that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one. (NRSVUE) 2 Corinthians 4:4 <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (NRSVUE)

What the Kingdom of Christ Will Be. Christ will come again to rule the Earth.

[Revelation 20:1-6](#) [Isaiah 30:19-21](#) [Isaiah 65:17-24](#) [Amos 9:11-15](#) [Zechariah 14:16-19](#) [Revelation 5:10](#) (many available lists, here is a source:

<https://www.cgg.org/index.cfm/library/verses/id/1138/millennium-verses.htm> )

**Last week we learned of the Prophet Daniel having the scroll that he was to eat and keep secret until the time of the end. Here is that scroll in Revelation Chapter 5:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to break its seals,

for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from<sup>[a]</sup> every tribe and language and people and nation;

<sup>10</sup> you have made them a kingdom and priests serving<sup>[b]</sup> our God,  
and they will reign<sup>[c]</sup> on earth."

[Read full chapter](#)

# Praying And Singing With the Holy Sprit *W. 9*

Start anywhere on the page and sing or speak these prayers.

Add your own! Make your own melody to God with all your heart!

We praise You!
I love you, Jesus!
Fill me Holy Spirit!
I glorify You my Saviour!
Alleluia!
We love You!
You are risen for ever!
Lord of lords.
We are Yours!
You are our HOPE.
You are Faithful and True.
I serve only You, Jesus!
I give you my life!
Praise you for life.
Most High God, I love you.
Glory to You, Blessed God!
We glorify You!
Glory to You!
Praise to your holy Name!
My Saviour!
You are our God!
Praise you, Lamb Of God.
I adore you, Jesus.
I serve You, Jesus!
O Prince of Peace!
Love of my soul!
You alone are True!
Almighty, Good God of all!
I worship you!
Praise to You Eternal Word!
I praise you, Holy Spirit!
We give you thanks.
Glory to you, Holy Saviour!
You have redeemed me!
Praise to You, O Jesus!
Fill us with your Holy Spirit!
I am yours, O God!
We give you praise.
Glory To You Christ!
Saviour forever!

You are my joy!
Praise you, Holy Spirit!
Saviour of my heart!
Use me Jesus!
I give you thanks.
We worship You!
O Jesus!
We praise You for your great glory!
I adore you!
Praise to You!
We adore you, Jesus.
You are the Great Amen!
Praise you, Holy Saviour!
You have set me free!
King of kings.
You're my strength, O God.
I praise You!
Praise You Word Of God.
You are my life, dear God.
You alone are Saviour!
You are my Shepherd!
I say yes, Lord!
You alone are Righteous!
O, Lamb Of God!
Rock of safety
You alone are Worthy.
Thank you Holy Saviour!
You alone one the One God!
Alpha and Omega!
I love You, O my Lord!
You reign forever!
Hallelujah, Lord Jesus!
Lion Of Judah!
O Loving God!
The Way, The Truth, The Life now and forever!
My Redeemer!
Jesus is the Holy One!
Lord God, Heavenly King.

## SERMON SELECTION Notebook #79 Priestly People.

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

**Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE:** Hurricanes, floods, war, disease and healing, prayers for Annie and Gary -car accident, Josef Post for healing and guidance, who else should we pray for?

**Veronica:** Worship is our primary activity as a church. The church has an old standard, *lex orandi, lex credendi*, which means that "the law of prayer is the law of faith" or "that which we pray is that which we believe." Our prayer, our worship is the key to understanding what God has revealed for us to accept as Eternal Truth. Our Congregation serves the general public by providing qualified leadership, an organization accountable to its members, teachings based on ancient ecumenical consensus, the presentation of worship experiences, the physical building space for worship and education in spirituality, and our presence on the Internet platforms. All are welcome to avail themselves of our services of worship. (<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Worship.htm>)

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



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

Also, at this time, we will set our altars and communion tables at home and in the Chapel. Those viewing at home, please turn to the highlighted text on page three of this bulletin to review the instructions for items needed for Holy Communion. In the Chapel here, everyone may assist in setting the Table of the Lord together. We begin now.

**Offertory 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

**Leader - 3:** (\*\*You may improvise a prayer or use this one.) God, we bless you and praise you for all the gifts we have received to support this ministry. We bless you for those who can give financially, and for those who give with their skills, prayers, and many other ways. We bless you for those who could not give at this time, and pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen.

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

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



### **WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Pastor or?:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Kaiden:** Please set down your Bread. For those at home, pour your wine or grape juice into your cup if you have not already done so. Then, add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human. With this fruit of the vine, we remember He is divine forever.

**Brother Benedict:** Now, please lift your cup with me as I pray this prayer. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit,



this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

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

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

**ALL: And also with you!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

**Leader - 3:** At Ray Of Hope Church, we pray together and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the same gifts Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. We invite you to extend your hands forward over the Bread and fruit of the vine or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

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

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

**Leader - 1:** You may relax your arms and hands.

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

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

**+ The Lord's Prayer**

**Kaiden:** 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**

Music setting information: **The Lord's Prayer Composed by Albert Hay Malotte.** ©1935 G. Schirmer, Inc. (Admin. by Music Sales



## The Reception of Holy Communion

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

**ALL:** Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the Christ truly present in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread and drinks of this cup, though they die, they shall live forever, and I will raise them up on the last day.

**Leader - 2:** Blessed are those who come to this table; everyone is welcome.

**ALL:** Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word, I am healed. It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

## Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

**Kaiden:** Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion at this time. Receive now the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Gift of God for the People of God. Receive these gifts of love to strengthen your resolve to serve others and God and to fortify your Salvation. I assure you, by the promises of Christ, that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will indeed receive sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit, and will be raised by Christ to new life, and live forever.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

### **+ Sign Of Peace**

**Leader-1:** The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Leader-1:** 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-1:** 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.

**COMMUNION SONG** **Holy and Anointed One.** Words and Music by John Barnett.

**Verse 1**

Jesus, Jesus.  
Holy and Anointed One,  
Jesus.

**Verse 2**

Jesus, Jesus.  
Risen and Exalted One,  
Jesus.

**Chorus**

Your name is like honey on my lips.  
Your Spirit like water to my soul.  
Your Word is a lamp unto my feet.  
Jesus, I love You, I love You.

**Ending**

Jesus, Jesus.

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

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### **THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 2024, given by Ed Askins, Treasurer, at the November 21, 2024 of the Church Council.**

**General Fund** opening balance at the beginning of October was \$1,016.27. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$1,963.03 which includes the undeposited funds off \$122.66 from last month . Pastoral compensation of \$495.00 per week for 5 week was paid equaling \$2,475.00, Verizon \$62.39 and Paypal charges of \$40.03 came out of this account. After these were paid the ending balance of this account at the end of the month was \$401.88.

**Building Fund** opening balance was \$1,242.41. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00 and transferred in \$309.95 from the Building Improvement fund. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$61.41, electric \$633.92, gas bill \$253.00, Isaac's Heating and Air Conditioning \$309.95 for boiler repair and I transferred \$200.00 into savings to save for the liability insurance bill that will be due the beginning of December. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,134.08.

**Building Improvement Fund** opening balance on this account was \$4,888.99. Donations to this account for this month were as follows: Undeposited funds from September from Ian and Christina \$627.34, Anonymous donation of \$500.00, a second Anonymous donation of \$200.00, Veronica and Tami \$150.00, Denise Robinson \$100.00, Diane Housely \$50.00 and Tejuana McMillian \$25.00. I transferred to the Building Fund \$309.95 to cover the Isaac's invoice listed above. The ending balance on this account is \$6,231.38.



**Savings (Council) Account** opening balance \$243.65. I transferred in \$200.00 from the building to cover the upcoming liability insurance payment, so the ending balance in this account is \$443.65. There was a gifts in kind donation of \$40.00 by Ed Askins to cover the cost of the gate repair done by Travis Askins.  
There were no undeposited funds for the month of October.

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

**General Offering** for the week of October 20 \$295.00 Attendance 19 on Sunday  
Wednesday, October 23, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of October 27 \$840.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday  
Wednesday, October 30, Attendance 5

**General Offering** for the week of November 3 \$1,300.00 Attendance 19 on Sunday  
Wednesday, November 6, Attendance 6

**General Offering** for the week of November 10 \$310.00 Attendance 10 on Sunday  
Wednesday, November 13, Attendance 7

**General Offering** for the week of November 17 \$70.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday  
Wednesday, November 20, Attendance 9

**\*\* Special Gifts this week\*\***

Everyone is very grateful for all the cooking talents that have been recently shared. Thank you Wayne Harris, Katrina Lourdiane, Ruth Goyette, Gary Davis, and Ed Askins.

Everyone expresses gratitude to our Church Council Members: Christina McLaughlin - Acting Moderator, Veronica Floyd - Clerk, and Ed Askins - Treasurer for the many hours they each volunteer doing the behind the scenes administrative duties for the Church.. We do appreciate our Council Officers.

Kaiden is Chairperson of the **Chapel Assistance Committee**. Kaiden wishes to thank Glen Rathbun, Wayne Harris, and Katrina Lourdiane for assisting with the storage of the Fall chapel decorations and the decorating for the Feast of Christ The King. There is more chapel decorating ahead and your assistance is welcomed.

- Friday 11/29, Saturday 11/30 I'm looking for assistance with taking down Christ the King (gold and white) decorations/setting up the Chapel(Purple & Red Ribbons) and the Advent Wreath. Check strings of lights.
- Thursday 12/5, Friday 12/6 Take down (Red Ribbons), Christmas tree up with purple colors
- Thursday 12/12, Friday 12/13 Put up the Pink Decorations(take down Purple) add pink to Christmas Tree - Gaudete Party
- Thursday 12/19, Friday 12/20 Put up Purple full color ornaments. COLOR lights  
Sunday December 20 - Mother's Day
- 12/23 Change to Gold and White with about 70 artificial poinsettias to open, set up the Manger

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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR**

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

\*\*\*\*\* **Blessed Birthday wishes to Veronica** who celebrated her "Born Day" on this last Tuesday, November 19. We appreciate you, Veronica.

Sunday, November 24, Worship 10:30 a.m. Feast of Christ The King

November 25, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26 6:30 - 8:00 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 1 of 4**

November 27, Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29 Chapel Decorating for Advent.

Sunday, December 1, Advent Week 1 World AIDS Day, the Candle of Hope. - purple

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 3 6:30 - 8:00 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 2 of 4**

December 4 Wednesday NOON - 12:45 Mass In-Person

Saturday December 7 1:00 - 2:00 P.M. Dr. Stephen Coleman will hold his sixth **Unity in the Community** event to **Celebrate Democracy in America and the Twin Tiers**, on Saturday, December 7th, from 1-2 at Wisner Park in downtown Elmira. The rally is cosponsored by the Elmira-Corning Branch of the NAACP. It is free, open to the public, with no tickets required. The event will also honor the brave Americans who perished when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; plus all those who serve or have served in the military to protect our freedom.

Sunday, December 8, Advent Week 2 The Candle of Peace, praying for world peace. - purple

**TUESDAY ELMIRA POLICE AND NAACP Law-Enforcement Zoom** meeting 5:30 - 6:30

The Elmira-Corning branch of the NAACP is sponsoring a Law-Enforcement zoom meeting on December 10, 2024 from 5:30-6:30 pm, featuring the Elmira, NY, Police Chief Kristen Thorne. The meeting will consist of a PowerPoint presentation reflecting takedown procedures with explanations and more. The public is invited to zoom in an effort to learn what procedures are legal, illegal and more.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83010795485?pwd=KFSA3RZsrjv1MnhxNgxSaWgk596sKN.1>

Meeting ID: 830 1079 5485

Passcode: 529546

One tap mobile

+16469313860, 83010795485# US

+16465588656, 83010795485# US (New York)

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 7:15 - 8:45 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 3 of 4**

Sunday, December 15, Advent Week 3 GAUDETE REJOICE SUNDAY PRIDE PARTY  
IN THE WINTER. PINK DAY! GIFT EXCHANGE AND DINNER TOGETHER - PINK CANDLE  
TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 6:30 - 8:00 PM NEW By-Laws Discussion 4 of 4

December 19, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING Council final recommendation for  
new By-Laws, and recommendation for 2025 Budget

Sunday, December 22, Advent Wk 4 Reverend Mother's Day in the Winter, Mary, - purple  
December 23, Monday 3:00 - 4:30 PM By-Laws Revision Committee if needed.  
December 24, Tuesday no scheduled events.

December 25, Wednesday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 1 of 8 live on Facebook  
December 26, Thursday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 2 of 8 live on Facebook  
December 27, Friday 5:00 PM 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 3 of 8 live on Facebook  
December 28, Saturday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 4 of 8 live on Facebook

December 29, Sunday CHRISTMAS AT RAY OF HOPE

December 30, Monday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 5 of 8 live on Facebook  
December 31, Tuesday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 6 of 8 live on Facebook  
January 1, Wednesday MASS???? 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 7 of 8 live on Facebook  
January 2, Thursday 5:00 PM Hanukkah Night 8 of 8 live on Facebook

Sunday, January 5, Orthodox Christmas EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 12, The Baptism Of The Lord

Sunday, January 19, Dr. Martin Luther King and Civil Rights Sunday

January 23, Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING COUNCIL Votes on new By-Laws and 2025  
Budget

SUNDAY JANUARY 26 ANNUAL MEETING AND PASSING NEW By-Laws 2025

MARCH 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP??????????

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 7, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith  
Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads  
Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)  
Inquiries Class #4 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible  
Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

??? APRIL COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE GREAT VIGIL MEMBERSHIP SO, APRIL 10????

APRIL 13, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 AM HOLY WEEK

APRIL 17, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 PM

APRIL 18, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 PM

APRIL 19, 2023 GREAT VIGIL OF THE RESURRECTION OUR EASTER EVENT MEMBERSHIP

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 8, Sunday Pentecost

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 15, Sunday, Father's Day and 29th Ordination Anniversary

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



Besides Dr. Coleman and NAACP President Verdier, the following local leaders will speak at the rally:

State Senator Tom O'Mara,

Elmira Mayor Dan Mandell,

Reverend Lori Thornton, Pastor, Friendship Baptist Church in Corning,

Mr. Jonathan Mack, Faith Leader, Word of Faith, Church of God in Christ, Elmira,

Attorney Bryan Maggs, retired Major, United States Army, and Chemung Family Court Judge--elect.

Mr. James Turpin, Journalist, Veteran, United States Marine Corps,

Mrs. Anita Lewis, Musical Artist, and Chief Development Officer, Economic Opportunity Program,

Dora Leland, Educator, Community Leader, Activist,



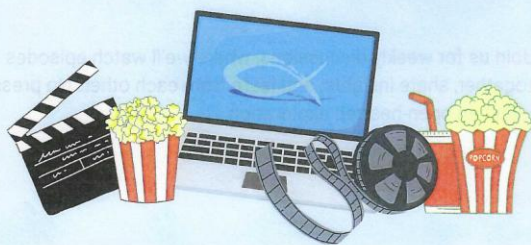
Dr. Coleman may be reached at 607-259-6051.

# SHOW TIME ELMIRA PRESENTS The CHOSEN

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Elmira  
1054 W. Clinton St. Elmira, NY 14905  
Dates: Saturday afternoons, Oct 5 - Nov 23  
Time: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Get ready to dive into the epic saga of "The Chosen" with our first screening on Saturday, October 5th at 4:30 PM! Join us every Saturday at this time to catch all of Season One, ending on November 23rd. That's 8 chances to get together to enjoy, explore and discuss this fantastic, ground-breaking series.

Gather your friends and family and mark your calendars for this unforgettable adventure of friendship and faith.  
Can't wait to see you there!



The First Presbyterian Church  
North Presbyterian Church  
And Elmira Community Leaders

*are embarking on an exciting journey together,  
and we'd love for you to join us!*

What?

We're diving into the acclaimed series "The Chosen." This groundbreaking show beautifully portrays the life of Jesus and those around Him.

But here's the best part:  
*it's not just for one faith—it's for everyone.*

Why?

Because we believe that stories have the power to unite us.

Whether you're a person of faith, curious about spirituality, or simply appreciate compelling narratives, "The Chosen" invites us all to explore universal themes like forgiveness, friendship, and transformation.

How?

Join us for weekly discussions, where we'll watch episodes together, share insights, and learn from each other. No pressure, —just an open-hearted exploration.



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Leader - 2:** **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Leader - 2:** We bless and praise you, God, for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have

experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (\*+\*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Leader - 2:** We pray Romans Chapter fifteen, verse thirteen together, saying:

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

**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:** How Great Thou Art. Words and Music by Stuart Wesley Keene Hine. Notebook #45

Verse 1

O Lord my God

When I in awesome wonder

Consider all the worlds

Thy hands have made

I see the stars

I hear the rolling thunder

Thy pow'r thru'out

The universe displayed



## Chorus

Then sings my soul  
My Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art  
How great Thou art  
Then sings my soul  
My Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art  
How great Thou art

## Verse 2

When through the woods  
And forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds  
Sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down  
From lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook  
And feel the gentle breeze

## Verse 3

And when I think

That God His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die  
I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross  
My burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died  
To take away my sin

Verse 4

When Christ shall come  
With shout of acclamation  
And take me home  
What joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow  
In humble adoration  
And there proclaim  
My God how great Thou art

**How Great Thou Art.** Words and Music by Stuart Wesley Keene  
Hine © Copyright 1949 and 1953 Stuart Hine Trust CIO Stuart K. Hine Trust  
(Administration: USA All rights by Capitol CMG Publishing,  
except print rights for USA, North, Central and South America administered by  
Hope Publishing. All other non USA Americas rights by the Stuart Hine Rest of  
World – Integritymusic.com.) All rights reserved. CCLI License #706121 CCLI  
Song #14181 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License

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

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



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

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

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

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

**WE ARE YOU!**

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

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

## *Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule*

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public, the way it used to be from 7:00 AM to 11:59 PM daily, as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in to pray, read, or visit The Blessed Sacrament. 1-607-280-0374 Our regular services will be blended with live participation in the Chapel, live on Skype and Facebook. To read the information on how to use Skype to participate with us, [Click Here](#).. Recordings of most of our Worship events are on our Facebook page, to see [Click Here](#). We will reopen the Chapel as soon as it is reasonably safe and prudent.

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

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

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

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

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

☐ I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us online:

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

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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)

