



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory.”

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

December 27, 2020 Nativity – Year B

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

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

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 638

Psalm 96 verses 1-3 and 11-13 with Responsorial.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 215

Third Reading: Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 NRSV 2ND Testament page 58

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

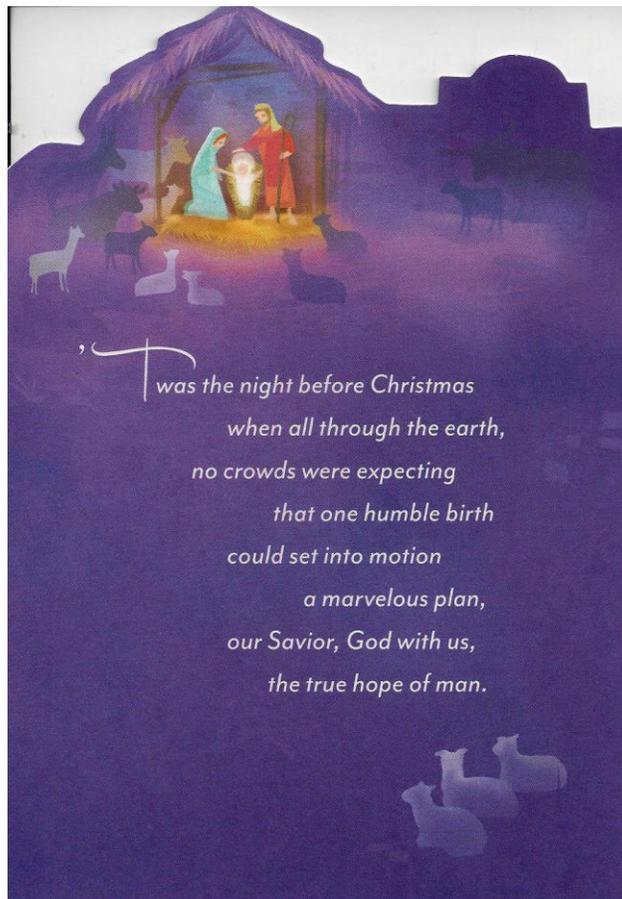


CALL TO WORSHIP

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

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 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 are in honor of the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We always ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.

**** We will welcome the Facebook Live guests before the second bells. ****
Bells 2nd ring to announce the start of the worship event.





WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

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

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

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

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

ALL: Amen

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG

+ The Candle Of Hope

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

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

Leader -1: Our faith community is looking forward and waiting “for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.”^(Titus2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of Hope in honor of the “Blessed Hope,” the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

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

Leader -3: (Names are read at this time.)

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

ALL: Amen

SECOND SONG



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

Leader -2: We pray together:

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

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

ALL: Amen.

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

Song:

Glory be to the one God, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever

shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen. (Traditional Gloria Patri hymn with inclusive language.)

Spoken:

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

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

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

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

+ Opening Prayer



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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

Reader: Our first reading is found in the Book of Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 6-7.

You will find this on page 638 in the front of the NRSV Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 638

6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Psalm

Reader: The psalm is 96 verses 1-3 and 11-13 with Responsorial.

R. The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. (Titus 2:11, 3:4)

Sing to the LORD a new song;

 sing to the LORD, all you lands.

Sing to the LORD; bless God's name.

R. The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. (Titus 2:11, 3:4)

Announce God's salvation, day after day.

Tell this glory among the nations;
among all peoples, God's wondrous deeds.

R. The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. (Titus 2:11, 3:4)

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

R. The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. (Titus 2:11, 3:4)

God's people shall exult before the LORD,
at the appointed time to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.

R. The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. (Titus 2:11, 3:4) Praise God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. Amen.

+ Second Reading

Reader: Our second reading is found in the Book of Titus, chapter 2, verses 11-14 and then chapter 3, verses 4-7. You will find this on page 215 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity

and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: Continuing our reading, in Chapter 3, verses 4-7.

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **6** This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Reader: The Gospel reading is found on page 58 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Book of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-20. We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

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

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

6 truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your

11 Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our

16 hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

Reader: 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.**

Reader:

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" **15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and

Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Acclamation

Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

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

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+ Sermon

NOTES

Matthew 24:6-8

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

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

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

with

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

with

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

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

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

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Colossians 2: 1-7

Christ the Mystery

2 For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. ² I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Fullness of Life in Christ

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives^b in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

R. The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. (Titus 2:11, 3:4)

[New International Version](#)

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

[New Living Translation](#)

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

[English Standard Version](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

[Berean Study Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone.

[Berean Literal Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

[New American Standard Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

[New King James Version](#)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

[King James Bible](#)

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

[Christian Standard Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

[Contemporary English Version](#)

God has shown us undeserved grace by coming to save all people.

[Good News Translation](#)

For God has revealed his grace for the salvation of all people.

[Holman Christian Standard Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people,

[International Standard Version](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people.

[NET Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people.

[New Heart English Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people,

[A Faithful Version](#)

For the grace of God, which brings salvation for all men, has appeared;

[Aramaic Bible in Plain English](#)

For the all saving grace of God has been revealed to all men;

[GOD'S WORD® Translation](#)

After all, God's saving kindness has appeared for the benefit of all people.

[New American Standard 1977](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

[King James 2000 Bible](#)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

[American King James Version](#)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

[American Standard Version](#)

For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

[Douay-Rheims Bible](#)

For the grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men;

[Darby Bible Translation](#)

For the grace of God which carries with it salvation for all men has appeared,

[English Revised Version](#)

For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

[Webster's Bible Translation](#)

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

[Weymouth New Testament](#)

For the grace of God has displayed itself with healing power to all mankind,

[World English Bible](#)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

[Young's Literal Translation](#)

For the saving grace of God was manifested to all men,

Titus 2:11-15

New American Bible (Revised Edition)

Transformation of Life. ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, **saving all** ¹² **and training** us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, ¹³ as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of **the great God and of our savior Jesus** Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

¹⁵ Say these things. Exhort and correct with all authority. Let no one look down on you.

Titus 2:11-15

New International Version

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared **that offers salvation to all people.** ¹² It teaches **us to say “No” to ungodliness** and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

¹⁵ These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Titus 2:11-15

New King James Version

Trained by Saving Grace

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all **men,** ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Reader: Continuing our reading, in Chapter 3, verses 4-7.

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. **6** This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ (optional) Profession Of Faith

Creed #1: The Apostles' Creed

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

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

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

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

He descended to the dead.

On the third day God raised Jesus from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God.

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

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

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

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

(Revised 10-31-20 Br. Benedict)

+ The Prayers Of The People: Shared Prayer

Leader – 4: Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome to pray out loud for themselves, for others, prayers of praise and thanksgiving, or whatever is on your heart. Please keep the prayers brief so as many people as possible may participate in the given time. We invite you to speak your prayers loud enough so everyone may hear your prayer and join you in spirit and in truth. So, we begin with _____

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

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

ALL: Amen

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

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

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of

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

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

Leader -1: (*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

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

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

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your bread.

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

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.

Pastor: We offer ourselves, with our whole heart, our whole soul, and our whole mind unto you Almighty God. Accomplish your desires for us in our lives. Mold us to be more like you every day. Receive us along with these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine to be made holy,

and through them make us into a perfect offering to you, One and Only Holy God. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: Together we lift up our hearts!

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) 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. Ho - san - na in the high-est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

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

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

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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

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

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

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

**ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

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

Pastor: Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

+ Optional Christological Canticle:

#1 Philippians 2:6-11

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

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

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

Because of this, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above every other name, So that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend

(optional** genuflect or bow**)

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

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

#2 Colossians 1:15-20

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

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

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

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

+ The Mystery Of Faith

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

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

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

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

+ Final Doxology

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

Pastor: Together we pray:

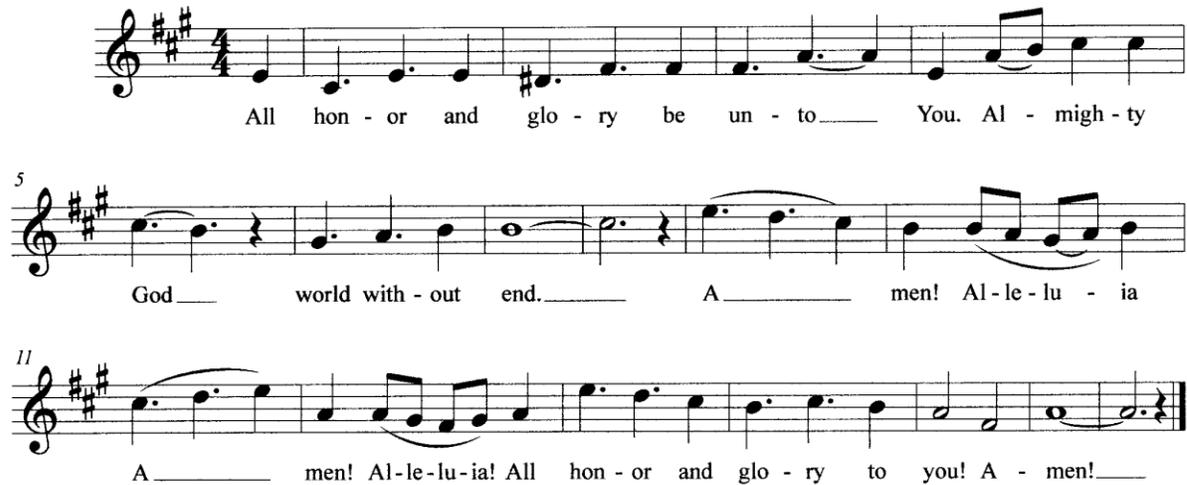
ALL: It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993



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

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

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

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The Reception of Holy Communion

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

+ The Lamb Of God

Pastor: Please break the bread as we pray together:

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

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

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

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

+ Priestly Prayer For All People

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

ALL: AMEN

+ Invitation to the Lord's Table

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy

Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception.

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

Special Music during Communion: Celebration Medley (Hallelujah Chorus/Joy to the World) G. F. Handel. Featuring Lisa B. Frost playing violin solo with the orchestra.



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: Amen

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

(Romans 15:13)

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS

General Offering for the week; Worship December 20, 2020 Offering: \$98.00. Attendance - 8. Special Gifts: Lisa Frost made a donation of \$100.00 in memory of Jean Tipton, Whitney Tipton's Grandmother. We give God thanks and praise for all the gifts given.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Donations Sought In January 2020, the Members of the Congregation voted to budget \$1,000.00 payment toward the pastor's estimated tax for 2020. Please consider making a special donation by January 10, 2021 to help cover this budgeted expense.

Dec. 27 TONIGHT 8:45 p.m. on Facebooklive on our page:

<https://www.facebook.com/lgbtqisia2ssByYou/> Kwanzaa principle 1 Umoja (Unity) and 2 Kujichagulia (Self determination)

Dec. 28 Monday Kwanzaa day 3 Ujima (Collective work &responsibility) 8:45 p.m.

December 29 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Bible Enrichment Session Kwanzaa day 4 Ujamaa (Cooperative economics) 8:45 p.m.

Dec. 30 Wednesday Kwanzaa day 5 Nia (Purpose) and 6 Kuumba (Creativity)8:45 p.m.

Dec. 31 No Kwanzaa

January 1 Friday Kwanzaa day 7 Imani (Faith) 8:45 p.m.

January 3 The Holy Name Of Jesus

January 10 The Epiphany

January 17 The Baptism of The Lord

January 22, 2021 Council 2:00 p.m.

January 24, 2021 37th Annual Meeting

February 17, 2021 Ash Wednesday

March 14, 2021 Laetare Sunday, Rose Sunday in Lent

March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday

April 1, 2021 Holy Thursday

April 2, 2021 Sacrifice of the Cross

April 3, 2021 Vigil of the Resurrection

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

[Click Here.](#)

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

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

PM. [Click Here.](#)

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm. Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

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

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

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

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

___ Other _____



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us on line:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyqlbtgs

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

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

Titus 2:11 The **grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all**..

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)