

**"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 2-15-26, Epiphany WK 6 - The Feast of the Transfiguration, Black History Month Wk
III, Year A

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian Faith of ancient ecumenical consensus.

St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth-century monk and theologian, described it as

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

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

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-14 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 828

Psalm: 97selected verses with responsorial verse

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 236

Gospel: Matthew 16:24 - 17:9 NRSV 2ND Testament page

***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 1st 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. 1st 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

Veronica Floyd: 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. This church is your Spiritual Service Station, and Faith Repair Shop, where our Loving Creating God is C.E.O., the owner of record is Jesus, the Christ, and the Operations Manager is The Holy Spirit. Our Congregation is a franchise location of the Body Of Christ, the Church. The Members and Friends are the working staff here today to facilitate your worship experience. Today is February 15, 2026, the Sixth and final Sunday in the Season of Epiphany, and

the third Sunday of Black History Month. We announce all instructions, pages, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

To all who are online or may view this recording later, to facilitate your participation, please look for today's bulletin, Order of Worship, and the Music Supplement on Facebook Live by right-clicking the "Featured Links" icon. On Zoom, 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. The Zoom link is also posted on the webpage.

Lisa Frost: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning, and welcome. (** Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.**) We invite you to participate in as many or as few parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable. To people watching online, you may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. To participate in Communion, please bring to your table 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, and 3) a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Now, gather all these items, and we will start shortly.



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

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



Bell's 2nd ring will announce the start of the worship event.

Katrina Lourdiane: (**PLEASE wait for the second bells to ring, and remember to look up at the people and smile.**) Good morning, my name is Katrina Lourdiane. Thank you for choosing to spend time with us today. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

Katrina Lourdiane: 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 living in us, Christ Jesus Our Lord and Saviour living in us, and in the name of the Holy Spirit living in us.** Amen

Brother: The grace of Our 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.



Brother: Welcome to **Our Lord's** Spiritual Service Station and Faith Repair Shop. We promise to do our best to help one another worship God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. At Ray Of Hope, we embrace a free-thinking standard, meaning, in part, that what you believe is between you and God. You are welcome here from any faith tradition, and even if you have no faith at all. God will take care of the relationship between God and you. We are here to welcome, love, and affirm all of who you are.

Today is 2-15-26, Epiphany WK 6, The Feast of the Transfiguration, Year A, and the third week of Black History Month.

Next weekend, we will celebrate Tami Whatley's birthday. Annie and Gary are celebrating their birthdays with us today. So, Annie and Gary, we pray for God's continued blessings on your ministry, your health, and your witness as a celebrated couple proving the longevity of friendship in relationships.

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

Ray Of Hope Church officially began on Reformation Day, October 31, 1983, the vigil of the Feast of All Saints. October 31, 2024, marked our forty-first anniversary, and we are now in our forty-second year of ministry.

The first public worship event in the Southern Tier was held on

Saturday, September 14, 1996, The Feast of the Triumph Of The Cross. September 14, 2025, was the twenty-ninth anniversary of the first worship event. We are in our 30th year of ministry in the Southern Tier.

Sunday, June 1, 2025, was the twenty-second anniversary of the opening of the Elmira Chapel. We are in our 23rd year at 380 W. First Street, Elmira, NY.



Colby Dense: 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.

Colby Dense: Our first song today is "Lift Every Voice and Sing" from the Glory and Praise hymnal, number 561. The music is also in the electronic Music Edition, the words are below. Please rise as you are able for our first song, Lift Every Voice and Sing.

FIRST SONG: WORDS ONLY Lift Every Voice And Sing. Onelicense song #85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition # 561 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

TEXT ONLY

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson

1. Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song
full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song
full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come

over a way that with tears has been watered;

We have come,

treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,

Till now we stand at last

Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years,

God of our silent tears,

Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who hast by the might

Led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet

stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;

Lest our hearts,

drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;

Shadowed beneath thy hand,

May we forever stand,

True to our God, true to our native land.

Text: 66 10 66 10 14 14 66 10; James W. Johnson, 1871–1938. Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954. **Lift Every Voice And Sing**. Onelicense song #85147 Words and Music © OCP Glory and Praise Second Edition # 561 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ The Candle Of Hope



Marcus: Please be seated. We light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate the Truth Jesus promises 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)

Marcus: Please look over and watch as the Candle of Hope is lit. When the flame flickers, we pray our proclamation of Faith.

Marcus: Together:

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Marcus: Ray Of Hope started in part to form a Church with an intentional ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS. It is forty-three 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. The World Health Organization reported nearly 40 million people were living with HIV globally in 2023. In 2024, the United Nations AIDS, UNAIDS organization, reported the number had risen to 40.8 million people, and we are confident the number will continue rising in 2026. Therefore, to keep HIV and AIDS in the conscious prayers of people, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into over 50,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the National AIDS Memorial. Scroll the page to see the panels on block 178.



These are the names on Block # 178

- Charlie Romero (1)
- Stephen Perry (2)
- Jon Nite (3)
- Scott Flack (4)
- Michael H. Greer (5)
- Lady Gene (6)
- Will Dashiel (7)
- James Siegel (8)

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

Marcus: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have preceded us in death. **(**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>)

Katrina Lourdiane: Our second song is "Glorify The Lord" words and music by Sandra Crouch. As of today, we do not have music for this song. The text is below and in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Glorify The Lord."

Glorify The Lord

Words and Music by Sandra Crouch

Chorus

Glorify the Lord
Praise His holy name
Let the trumpet sound
Let the bells ring
We've been redeemed
By the blood of the Lamb
Come on and praise His holy name
Ev'rybody sing
God is holy and He's worthy
And we worship we worship Him

Sandra Crouch. © 1985 Bud John Songs, Inc.; Sanabella Music. CCLI Song#15544. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins, our failures.

Ed Askins: Please be seated. (**wait**) Now, Ray Of Hope Church provides another service: Christ is truly present among us and forgives 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.

(*Please wait to provide some silence for private prayers and**

confession.***)

Kaiden Benedict: The presence of God fills us with the Divine Love, yet we often miss or avoid opportunities to share and help others find this love. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Kaiden Benedict: With Christ living in us, we are called to embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion of every person, especially when we are uncomfortable. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Kaiden Benedict: The Holy Spirit directs us toward God and enables us to put our Faith into action. For the times we choose the safety of silence rather than to speak our Faith into action, we pray: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Lisa Frost: We pray for forgiveness and renewal together.

ALL: Lord Jesus, hear our confession, and receive our sins. Touch our hearts and shape our desires so that we will seek your Will daily in our lives. Send your Holy Spirit now to heal the wounds in our memories. Inform our conscience with the fire of your divine love so we will follow you without reservation. Draw us closer to you with your gentle voice and loving arms. We accept your forgiveness and restoration, in the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen and Alleluia.

Lisa Frost: 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.

Lisa Frost: The Church now provides the service of praising God together in thanksgiving. 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;

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

28

praise. Al-le-lu__ ia We give you thanks_ and praise.

31 **Verse 2**

Lord, Jes - us Christ;_____ The On - ly Be - got - ten

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; Have mer - cy on

41

us; You are sea-ted at the right hand of God; re - ceive our prayer.

46 **Refrain**

Glo - ry to God in the high - est,_____ and peace to all peo - ple on_ earth_

50

Glo - ry to God in the high - est_____ We give you thanks_ and

53

praise. Al-le-lu__ ia We give you thanks_ and praise.

56 **Verse 3**

For You a-lone are the Ho - ly One You a - lone are the Lord of all,

61


You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, With the Ho - ly

66



Spi-rit in the glo - ry of God. In the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the

71



Ho - ly un - i - ty of God.

75 Refrain




Glo-ry to God in the high-est, - and peace to all peo-ple on_ earth_

79



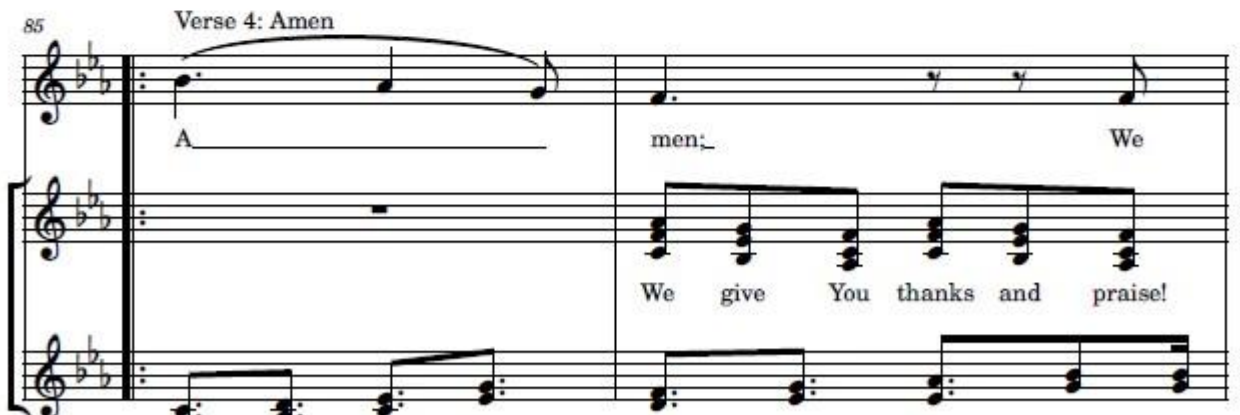
Glo-ry to God in the high-est_ We give you thanks_ and praise. Al-le-lu_ia

83



We give you thanks and praise.

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 thnks, We give You praise We give You thnaks and praise

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Wayne Harris: Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

+ Opening Prayer

Wayne Harris: The Lord is with you, Alleluia!

ALL: And also with you, Alleluia!

Wayne Harris: Together, we lift up our hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Wayne Harris: 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

Wayne Harris: 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

Ed Askins: Hello. My name is

_____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The first reading on this, the sixth and final Sunday of Epiphany, is in the Book of Daniel, chapter 7, verses 9-14. The reading is on page 828 in the front of the 1989 NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the ©2007 Inclusive Bible. [***Pastoral Introduction Here.**](#) The Book of Daniel was written in the 6th Century B.C. We begin the reading:

Judgment before the Ancient One

⁹ As I watched, Thrones were set up,

and the one who sat there
was the Ancient of Days,
whose clothing was snow white,
with a head of hair as white as wool;
whose throne was flames of fire,
with wheels of burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire surged forth,
flowing from the Ancient One's presence,
with tens of thousands ministering,
and hundreds of thousands standing in attendance.

The court was convened, and the books were opened.

¹¹ All the while, the horn kept making its arrogant boasts. Then, as I
watched, beast was killed and its body was thrown into the fire to be
burned up. ¹² Though the other beasts were thrown out of power, they
were allowed to live a while longer.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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!

(Daniel 7:9-14. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 491 location 30891) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 495. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

+ Psalm:

Lisa Frost: (Introduction only if needed.) Hello. My name is _____
and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____.

The Psalm today is 97, with selected verses. The response is: "The Most High sets the course of time. Christ will rule over all the earth. Alleluia!"

R: The Most High sets the course of time. Christ will rule over all the earth. Alleluia!

¹ The LORD is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.

² Surrounded by cloud and darkness;
justice and right, God's throne.

R: The Most High sets the course of time. Christ will rule over all the earth. Alleluia!

⁵ The mountains melt like wax
before the LORD of all the earth.

⁶ The skies proclaim God's justice;
all peoples see God's glory.

R: The Most High sets the course of time. Christ will rule over all the earth. Alleluia!

⁹ For you indeed are the LORD
most high above all the earth,
exalted far above all spirits.

¹¹ Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.

¹² Rejoice, you just, in the LORD;
give glory to God's holy name.

R: The Most High sets the course of time. Christ will rule over all the earth. Alleluia!

Give praise to the Living God.

To God's Son, Jesus the Christ, Our Lord.

**To the Spirit who reigns in our hearts.
Both now, and forever. Amen.**

Psalm 97 (Inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 Psalm (96) 97. The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #01251 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

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

The second reading is Second Peter 1:16-19. You will find this on page 236 in the back of the 1989 NRSV Bible. will be reading from the ©2007 Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

¹⁶ We did not cleverly devise fables when we taught you of the power and coming of our Savior Jesus Christ; we ourselves saw the majesty of our Savior. ¹⁷ For Jesus was honored and glorified by our Creator God when the voice of the Majestic Glory spoke out, "This is my Own, whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We heard this ourselves—this voice from heaven—when we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ Moreover, we have the prophetic word, which is even more certain. Depend on it for your own good as a light shining in the dark, until first light breaks and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(2Peter 1:16-19. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (pp. 780-781 location 48587-48589) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation Page 784. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

+ 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 Matthew, chapter 16:13-17 and 16:27-17:9, on page 18 in the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the ©2021 NRSVUE.

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

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

May the Word of God be

in our (+) minds that we will understand it,

on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and

in our (+) hearts that we will love it.

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,^[c] the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Transfiguration

¹⁷ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I^[a] will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved;^[b] with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

2-15-26 Epiphany Wk VI, Transfiguration, Black History Week III Year A Page 24 of 55
Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Footnotes

- a. 17.4 Other ancient authorities read *we*
- b. 17.5 Or *my beloved Son*

(NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE))

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ. Copyright Information "Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Quotations or reprints more than five hundred (500) verses must be approved in writing by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., 110 Maryland Ave., Suite 108, Washington, DC 20002.)

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

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+ Sermon

 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.** 
 The LGBTQSIAN2ss+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
 The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSIAN2ss+ community for 43 years. October 31, 2025 - 42nd Anniversary now in our 43rd year in Ministry.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain.

1 Cor. 15:10

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves (workers, servants, assistants) for Jesus's sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (NRSVUE)

RED for Martyrs; dry martyr, wet martyr. People feel crushed under the weight of massive firings across the United States, a result of the new President and his Administration. **Good news: Federal Judges ordered the Executive Administration to reinstate all Federal Employees who have been fired since the start of this Administration. (Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/13/politics/judge-opm-probationary-employees-fired-hearing/index.html>)

=====SERMON NOTES: Brother =====

For God so lo **V** ed the world
That God g **A** ve
God's On **L** y
Begott **E** n
So **N** .
T hat whoever
Believes **I** n Him
Should **N** ot perish
But have **E** verlasting life.
John 3:16

"Love endures all things, believes all things, bears all things, and hopes all things. Love never ends." (NKJV 1 Cor. 13:7-8)

Saint Valentine was a 3rd-century bishop who was known for his compassionate and empathetic ministry to people who were condemned to death for being arrested in the act of worship, or being rumored to be Christians, in a time when it was illegal to practice Christian worship. Eventually, he was also arrested, and the Roman Empire executed him on February 14, thus the color red, for martyrdom. Bishop Valentine's name is derived from the Latin word "valens," which means "worthy" (one who deserves respect and praise), "strong," and "powerful." Certainly, we can see the faith of

this man in the face of life-threatening discrimination.

Like so many other holy days, this one, February 14, has been twisted and turned into something unrealistic, expensive, and for many people, heartbreaking. In our day, people often define themselves, in part, by the success they have in meeting the undefined standard of human love and affection, especially around Valentine's Day. We all know the truth; humans are incapable of giving Divine Love that replaces the Divine, Who is Love. We are frail, wounded, and seasoned in the ups and downs of what we think is human affection. What we are searching for may only be found and experienced in a relationship with the source of life, and is Love.

The Book of Sirach / Ecclesiasticus 7:14-17

15 Faithful friends are priceless.

Their value is beyond counting. 16 Faithful friends are the essence of life, a blessing for those who fear YHWH. 17 Those who fear YHWH treat others with respect; and their friends will behave the same way.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 610). Bloomsbury Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Lasting relationships are grounded in friendship. Jesus valued friendship (John 15:12-15).

¹² "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for their friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

Friendship is elevated as the greatest love in these verses. Those who marry and have children work to maintain their friendship and to teach their children to be friends with all. Any union that lasts through all the storms of life, even a Religious Community, is grounded in friendship. Often our friendships survive and sometimes thrive better when life's circumstances change, our living together in the same location. The Quakers have it right, identifying as The

Society of Friends. Here at Ray Of Hope, we often use phrases such as 'our Holy Family of Choice'. It seems to me that St. Valentine would want to guide all of us to God, and to know that we are all worthy, we are all strong, we are all powerful, we are all "Valens" when we are grounded in the friendship of God.

Sermon notes 2-15-26 Epiphany Wk VI, Black History Month Week III Year A

The theme of the Light of the Divine

We said last week that the Light of God will melt the ice's structure over time; you will see.

But, we, who see "the source of light, and in that light we see light itself" (Psalm 36:10), will continue to shine that Light forward to bring to the front D. E. I. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and we must stay WOKE.

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, "WOKE" is having or being marked by an active awareness of systemic injustices and prejudices, a liberal progressive orthodoxy, especially promoting inclusive policies or ideologies that welcome and embrace ethnic, racial, and sexual minorities. Awake and aware.

Source: Dictionary.com: <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/woke>

In Theological terms, to be "WOKE" means to be awakened by the Holy Spirit, alive in Christ, actively supporting persons of all Religions and faiths, and those with no faith or religion. See the Ray Of Hope Church Statement of Purpose for more information. Right Click Here: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>.

The History Channel website: <https://www.history.com/articles/black-history-month>
87 videos!

SERMON - the start of the "sit-in" movement.

[Nashville Students Launch Protest; Face Violence and Jail Time](#)

Sermon - the readings.

Today, Sunday, February 15, 2026, we end the Season of Epiphany with the Transfiguration, and now we hear the voice of God saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; LISTEN TO HIM."

The Gospel readings of the last six Sundays of the Season of Epiphany demand our attention to a season of epiphanies if one emphasizes the divinity of Christ. The six weeks of the Season of Epiphany is the single reason we kept the Gold color out and did not switch to Green, for this is not "Ordinary Time" as the green would indicate. Though the name Ordinary Time comes from using ordinal numbers for this season on the liturgical calendar, Ordinary Time is practiced as a less important time. Instead, this is a season to reveal that the Christ was and is fully human and divine. At Ray Of Hope Church, we take these six weeks to focus on the readings showing us God proving who the Beloved Son is, **not for Jesus' sake, but for us**, you and me. This six-week concentration is all about hearing The Word of God and responding.

Revelation and Response; R&R.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-14. The Book of Daniel was written in the 6th Century B.C. (600 BC - 501 BC). According to the book's second chapter, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. In the seventh chapter, the Prophet Daniel has a vision that interprets the dream and lays out significant prophecies regarding the birth and death of Jesus, as well as the events of the Gentile world that would lead up to Christ establishing his Kingdom "on Earth as it is in Heaven."

Daniel's vision is confirmed seven centuries later with the writing of the Book of Revelation. There, the events of this vision are similar. In the vision, God over all creation clearly gives power and dominion to the Son, who, after the Gentile kingdoms revealed in the dream have come and gone, establishes a divine Kingdom "on Earth as it is in Heaven."

The four schools of eschatology offer four different answers to what these prophecies concern. The four schools of eschatology are symbolic, amillennial, postmillennial, and premillennial. The symbolic school claims a "higher

criticism" of the biblical text and concludes that it is all too confusing when your car is parked on the corners of Myth and Allegory Lanes. The purveyors of this school tell us there is nothing of value to glean from apocalyptic literature.

Reading these lections for today from a premillennial view, one can see Jesus in the prophecy of the Book of Daniel. On the mountain of Transfiguration, Jesus is confirmed to be this very personage by the presence of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus himself in a state of glory. The Apostles, Peter, James, and John, can see into the Heavenly realm and see Jesus, Moses, and Elijah glorified and sanctified. With this mountain-top experience, Peter, James, and John have confirmation that Jesus is the Son of God. Then God clearly says, "Listen to Him."

The second reading is Peter writing about the Transfiguration years after the experience. The letter of Peter is further proof that this is a historical event.

Sermon

Moses and Jesus seem to pray for about six days. In both cases, the glory of God was known and manifested in light and clouds.

Strong's # **G3339**

μεταμορφώω

metamorphoō

met-am-or-fo'-o

From **G3326** and **G3445**; to *transform* (literally or figuratively "metamorphose"): - change, transfigure, transform.

Total K.J.V. occurrences: 4 **Matthew 17:2; Mark 9:2**

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Transfiguration

The word for *transfigure*—μεταμορφόομαι—is used both of Christ and Christians.

1. Of Christ. Jesus Christ's Transfiguration is reported in each Synoptic Gospel (Matt. 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36). Related to the prophetic office of Christ as it is, every report of this transfiguring records the command from heaven, "Hear ye him."

2. Its Meaning. The record of Christ's Transfiguration is preceded every time by the words: "There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom" (Matt. 16:28). Note as agreeable to this word Peter's interpretation of the meaning of the transfiguration episode (2 Peter 1:16-18). The elements of the Messianic kingdom were surely present for the Transfiguration: (a) a glorified Christ, (b) glorified saints like Moses and Elijah—one having left the earth by death and one by the process of translation earlier, (c) Jews still on the earth but enjoying all the light of the glory—as seen in the three disciples.

3. Its Purpose. As the kingdom preaching was coming to its end because of the rejection and imminent death of the King, it became necessary to encourage the disciples in the expectation that the Messianic kingdom would yet be set up according to covenant promise, later if not at once. The Transfiguration bore out this certainty.

4. Of the Saints. The word *transfigure* is used twice as an appeal to believers (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18). How is it to be distinguished from the word "transform"? A thing may be transformed by a light shining on it from without, of course, but a transfiguration is the shining forth of a light from within. The first appeal to believers, then, is for them to let the light of the divine nature shine forth unhindered (see Christology) from within, now that they have become partakers thereof. In the 2 Corinthians passage is revealed the nature of the divinely wrought change being enjoined.

Volume 7: Doctrinal Summarization. Lewis Sperry Chafer.

*)- CONTINUING REVELATION * * * **Keeping Watch** * * * On Sunday, January 19, 2024, I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment.

(Source: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment.)) NPR story on the ERA <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/17/nx-s1-5264378/biden-era-national-archivist-constitution>)

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

Katrina Lourdiane: Today, we are adding a sermon selection. Please turn in the Glory and Praise Hymnal to number 478 or in the Electronic Music Edition to "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Please rise as you are able to sing, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by the late Thomas Andrew Dorsey, known as the father of Gospel Music.

SERMON SELECTION: **Precious Lord Take My Hand. Thomas Andrew Dorsey**© Words: 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1983 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI Song #7205306. Glory and Praise 2nd Edition, #478 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Brother: Our Prayers of the People will each be followed by our common petition, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Katrina: We hold up to You, oh God, all who have asked us to pray for them and those for whom we have promised to pray. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Katrina: We pray for all who are in danger in this winter weather. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Katrina: We pray for those whom we have wronged, and all who have wronged us - or so we may have felt because of ill will or misunderstanding. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kaiden: We pray for about 304 million people who are migrating around the world. We pray that government leaders will think beyond the borders of their own country and understand that we face a global crisis of people on the move. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kaiden: We pray for the homeless, for those who are unemployable, people excluded from fair opportunities, and oppressed people everywhere. We pray for more solution-minded leaders to work together in new cooperation. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kaiden: We pray for the 42.5 million refugees who are seeking security and safety. When added to those deemed to be internally displaced, the number rises to over 117 million people globally who are fleeing tragic and often impossible living conditions. We pray for insight into how to share our economic opportunities and to welcome people into a sustainable workforce, thereby building up our society. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Colby: We pray for people who suffer oppression and discrimination, especially when it is based on ethnicity, sexual identity, and gender expression. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Colby: We pray for all who are sick, all who are in treatment of any kind, all who care for the sick, and all who support those delivering care and their families. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Colby: We pray for the conversion of people throughout the world, the lukewarm of faith, and those in most need of your mercy, O God. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Colby: We pray for warlords, the victims of war, for all people who live with the results of war. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Colby: God, give us the grace to bear with each other's burdens and to be instruments of your peace. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor concludes the Prayers of the People.

(For more information on government statistics regarding some of the populations mentioned above, see the following source: [https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20250728/samhsa-releases-annual-national-survey-on-drug-use-and-health#:~:text=Among%20people%2012%20or%20older%2C%2016.8%25%20\(or%2048.4%20million.2021%20to%209.8%25%20in%202024](https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20250728/samhsa-releases-annual-national-survey-on-drug-use-and-health#:~:text=Among%20people%2012%20or%20older%2C%2016.8%25%20(or%2048.4%20million.2021%20to%209.8%25%20in%202024)).




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

Ed Askins: Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful to all the people over the last forty-two years of ministry who have given their help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in 2024. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen," may God bless you.

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 QR Code , 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."

Katrina Lourdine: As we set the Table of the Lord here in the chapel and in your homes, we are going to sing: "Arise Shine." The music is available in the

Notebook, number 17, and the electronic Music Edition, and the words are below. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG TEXT ONLY: Notebook to number 17, **Arise, Shine** by Words and Music by Steven Urspringer and Jay Robinson, ©1983 Priesthood Publications. CCLI Song #13797. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

Arise Shine

Verse

Arise shine

For thy light is come

Arise shine

For thy light is come

Chorus

And the glory of the Lord is risen

The glory of the Lord is come

The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee

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Ed Askins: (**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 thank you for those who can give financially and by sharing their skills, prayers, talents, volunteering, and other forms of support. We bless you, Lord, for those who could not give at this time, and we pray that all their needs will be met. We dedicate all this to the Name of Jesus, Amen. Please rise as you are able **to sing and pray**
the conclusion of the Service of the Word with the Doxology.

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

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

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.

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.

Pastor: Please set down your cup.
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
5 might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
10 high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
16 Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
22 Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho -
27 san - na in the high-est.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Lisa Frost: 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

Lisa: You may relax your arms and hands. Ruth and Glenn, please show the Bread today, and Wayne, please show the cup. **Today, we pray together in song the words of Institution.**

+ 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

Colby Dense: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to (pray or sing) 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 Corporation) CCLI Song#1534 Used with permission by our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



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.

Pastor: 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!

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Ed Askins: Please open your kit and receive Holy Communion now. 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.

Ed Askins: 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 on a prayer in the Prayer Book of 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 anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion. Still, circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

Colby Dense: 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.

Katrina Lourdiane: 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.

Katrina Lourdiane: We continue our prayers now by singing together: "I Surrender All." The music is in the Electronic Music Edition, and the words are below. Please rise as you are able to sing "I Surrender All."

COMMUNION SONG: I Surrender All Text: Judson W. VanDeVenter, 1896, alt. Music: Winfield S. Weeden, 1896 © Words: Public Domain, Music Public Domain. CCLI Song# 23189 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

**Lyrics only:
I Surrender All**

Verse 1

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 2

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 3

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 4

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

Verse 5

All to Jesus I surrender
Now I feel the sacred flame
O the joy of full salvation
Glory glory to His name

Chorus

I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all

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Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2025

Thanks be to God for His great faithfulness and to you all for your generous donations. We are truly blessed.

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of December was \$1,119.42. Regular donations to the General Fund were \$2,522.26. I transferred into the account from savings \$166.66 and we had undeposited funds from November of \$945.00. Payments out of this account were: Pastoral compensation of \$2,060.00 Verizon \$62.84, I was reimbursed \$26.49 for Juice communion sets purchased from Amazon. Cyrus was paid for our web page \$450.00, U.S. Treasury was paid \$250.00 for the Appointed Pastor's 4th quarter self-employment tax, Concordia was paid \$99.95 for wine kits. Larger bills monthly allotment was moved to savings in the amount of \$153.00 and Paypal Charges were \$32.26. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$1,618.80. There were no undeposited funds for December.

Building Fund opening balance was \$493.65 Donations to the Building fund were as follows: Ian and Christina McLaughlin \$450.00, Brother Shawn Benedict \$648.00 and Ed Askins \$40.00. Bills that came out of the fund this month was the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$50.67, electric bill \$500.00, gas bill \$136.74, Insurance bill \$324.91, Water bill \$68.74 and I transferred \$216.00 to saving toward the large bill allotment. Ending balance of this fund was \$334.59.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$1,687.36. Deposits to this account were Ed & Phyl \$500.00, Veronica \$300 Wayne and Glenn \$50.00. We also had undeposited funds from November from Wayne and Glenn of \$50.00. There were no transfers out of this account during December so the ending balance was \$2,587.36. Our bill with Isaac's was \$2,510.00!

Savings (Council) Account opening balance in this account was \$1,252.19. Transfers to this account were \$153.00 from the General Fund for large bills and \$216.00 from Building fund for large bills. Transfers out of this account were \$166.66 to the General Fund towards the Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax payment. The balance at the end of the month was \$1,454.53.

Our year-to-date donations to 12/31/2025 are \$52,493.41. Our year-to-date expenses are \$51,244.80. We closed out 2025 with income over expenses of \$1,248.61.

Upcoming bills: For the Building Fund we have two repair bills from Isaac's totaling \$422.37, City of Elmira Property Tax Bill of \$36.66 both of these are due by the end of January. The transfers to savings for the Appointed Pastor's self-employment tax of \$83.34, the General Funds transfer to savings of \$153.00 for large bills and the Building Fund transfer to savings of \$216.00 for large bills and \$70.00 to Rainah Barnes still has to be done in January. Please note the following, I had mentioned a couple months ago that we were slowly exhausting the excess in the Building Fund. Our current regular monthly donations to this account are normally \$1,138.00 on a 4 week month. . Our monthly utility budget amounts have increased. Our regular bills out of the Building Fund for next month are going to be almost \$1,500.00. These are just regular bills of utilities, insurance, credit card and water bill. So we need some extra donations to the Building Fund. I'm asking the Council, what is the procedure if money does not come in for these bills? Do I transfer any excess from other accounts?

Credit Card

The balance on the credit card is \$2,129.62. There is available credit of \$1,870.38. I did make an extra payment on this of \$99.95 out of the General Fund on this as I had used the credit card to purchase the wine kits. Katrina had donated \$50.00 towards this.

Balances as of January 23, 2026

General fund: \$896.80, Building Fund \$418.73, Building Improvement Fund \$497.36 and Savings is \$1,254.53

Savings breakdown is: Saved for dishwasher \$150.00, saved for General Fund large bills \$398.00 and saved for Building Fund large bills \$706.53.

The donations records have been distributed or mailed depending on location, the Annual report has been done, the January council meeting reports is completed and the Appointed Pastor's last payment for his self-employment tax has been sent in. The only item I am waiting on is to receive the 1099 and 1096 in the mail from the IRS to complete the Appointed Pastors annual earnings and all of the end of year work will be complete. I ordered it from the IRS the first week of January and they said two weeks, so I'm expecting that any day.

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

General Offering for the week of January 18, \$00.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday
Tuesday January 20 - 10, Wednesday, January 21, Mass -8

General Offering for the week of January 25, \$600.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday
Tuesday January 20 - 8 attended Holocaust Remembrance Day, and 6 attended Bible Enrichment,
Wednesday, January 28, Mass -6

General Offering for the week of February 1, \$1,340.00 Attendance 12 on Sunday
Tuesday February 3 - 6, Wednesday, February 4, Mass -10

General Offering for the week of February 8, \$50.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday
Tuesday February 10 - 8, Wednesday, February 11, Mass -9

THANK YOU, EVERYONE, for all the donations made to date on our building improvements. You are making change happen with your generosity. CELEBRATE the accomplishments!!!!!!
Donations that cause change and growth are not always in cash; many thanks to everyone who donates time and talent, cooking, cleaning, transporting, calling, reminding, making copies, and so many other examples of donated help. Thank you.

DISHWASHER / APPLIANCE ROOM NOVEMBER: (11-1-25 Katrina Lourdiane made a \$50.00 donation) (11-16-25 Katrina Lourdiane made a \$50.00 donation), (11-19-25 Wayne and Glenn made a \$100.00, thank you both) **JANUARY, 2026:** Katrina 1-14-26 \$60.00, thank you! Deanna Caputo - \$360.00, thank you Deanna! **FEBRUARY, 2026:**

Building Improvement Fund: DECEMBER FUNDS: Ed and Phillipa Askins \$500.00, thank you both very much. 12-21-25 \$50.00 from Wayne and Glenn, thank you both. **JANUARY, 2026** 1-26-26 \$50.00 from Wayne and Glenn, thank you both. **FEBRUARY, 2026:** 2-1-26 \$100 from Katrina, thank you so much. 2-7-26 \$50.000 from Wayne and Glenn, thank you both.

Donations to the Building Improvements are still welcome as we have electricity, insulation, drywall, dryer vent, and finishing to do.

**** Special Gifts made this week:** see Wayne and Glenn listed above. Thank you to everyone who regularly bring food to the monastery to help us maintain an open table, including: Wayne and Glenn, Ed Askins, Katrina Lourdiane, Michael and Heather Austin, Christina McLaughlin, and Colby Dense.

**** Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts made recently**** Katrina and Brother donated all costs for four new Membership Books. Thank you, both.
Ian and Christina made a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you both. Ed Askins made a \$40.00 gift to the Building Fund, thank you Ed.

Marcus made a \$400 gift to the Building Fund, thank you, Marcus.

THANK YOU to everyone who brought gifts to the Monastery over the Season. Thank you to everyone who has been cooking, donating food, and making desserts.

Brother Benedict made a \$710.00 donation to the Building Fund, the first week of January, thank you Brother. Thank you Ed for a \$40.00 donation to the Building Fund. Thank you Ian and Christina for a \$450.00 donation to the Building Fund. Brother donated \$324.00 (2/2 of December donation) to the Building Fund, thank you Brother. Wayne and Glenn donated decorations, thank

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 and write "email list" in the Subject box.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON OUR CALENDAR



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Annie Davis celebrates on February 14

Gary Davis February 27

Tami Whatley February 23

The single, and I suggest, the most effective way to help grow our Congregation at this time is to join the Music Ministry. I sincerely believe that every person's participation in the Music Ministry will enhance every aspect of our service to people who are not in this room today but will want to participate as they witness the growth ministry in worship music will bring. 2-6-26 Br. Benedict.

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m. TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, Black History Month Week III, the last Sunday of the Season of Epiphany.

Monday, February 16 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #1 The Statements of Faith and Purpose. Veronica & Br. - abbreviated format

MONDAY, February 16, 6:30 p.m. Chapel Assistants Committee changes the chapel for Ash Wednesday and Lent.

Tuesday, February 17, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, February 18, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass - Ash Wednesday
February 18 is Ash Wednesday here: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Evening Prayer: three psalms, a canticle, a reading and Holy Communion from the Tabernacle.

There are no scheduled events for Thursday, February 19.

Friday, February 20, 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting ***No Music Ministry planned***

There are no scheduled events for Saturday, February 21.

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Black History Month Week IV, First Sunday of Lent.

Monday, February 23, 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #2 Worship and Common Threads. Ed & Br. - abbreviated format

Tuesday, February 24, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, February 25, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Wednesday, February 25, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Friday, February 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. *******Music Ministry Rehearsal*******Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.**

Sunday, March 1, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Women's History Week I, 2nd Sunday of Lent

See The National Women's History

Alliance <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/womens-history-theme-2026/>

Monday, March 2, 2:30 p.m. Inquiries Class #3 Polity and Practice. _____ & Br. - abbreviated format

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, March 4, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Thursday, March 5, 6:30 - 8:30p.m. Baptism Preparation Class #1

Friday, March 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m. *******Music Ministry Rehearsal*******Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.**

Sunday, March 8, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Women's History Week II, 3rd Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 9, 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #4 Polity & Practice, Human Sexuality and the Bible. _____ & Br. - abbreviated format

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 p.m. NYS Homeland Security and Emergency Services Citizen Preparedness Corps: Training Program - see flyer

Tuesday, March 10, **No Bible Enrichment Scheduled**

Wednesday, March 11, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. **Chapel Assistants change chapel to pink**

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 - 8:30p.m. Baptism Preparation Class #2

Friday, March 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m. *******Music Ministry Rehearsal******Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.**

Saturday, March 14, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. NAACP Membership Banquet

Sunday, March 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Women's History Week III, 4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday - Joy in Lent

Monday, March 16, 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #5 Human Sexuality and the Bible. Veronica & Br. - abbreviated format

Tuesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, March 18, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. Chapel Assistants change chapel to PURPLE

Thursday, March 19, 6:30 - 8:30p.m. Baptism Preparation Class #3

Friday, March 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m. *****Music Ministry Rehearsal*****Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.**

Sunday, March 22, 2026, 10:30 a.m. Women's History Week IV, 5th Sunday of Lent

Monday, March 23, 1:00 p.m. Inquiries Class #6 Ed & Br. - abbreviated format

Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Bible Enrichment - The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 Noon ecumenical Mass The Annunciation of the Lord

Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m. Chapel Assistants change chapel to RED

Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting online and in person

Friday, March 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. *****Music Ministry Rehearsal*****Come and join the Music Ministry, all are welcome. No previous music experience is required.**

=====PLANNING AHEAD=====

HOLY WEEK, 2026

Sunday, March 29, 2026, is Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m.

**No Bible Enrichment Session planned for Tuesday, March 31

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, Noon ecumenical Mass during Holy Week

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday -

Friday, April 3, 2026, NOON CHAPEL ASSISTANTS CHAPEL TO BLACK

Friday, April 3, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Sacrifice of the Cross, Good Friday The Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 4, 2026 NOON CHAPEL ASSISTANTS DECORATE FOR THE VIGIL

Saturday, April 4, 2026, 7:45 p.m. Vigil of the Resurrection - Baptisms, Membership

No events scheduled for Sunday, April 5, 2026

Music Ministry Schedule: 2/27/26 through 4/5/26

Friday, February 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. 2 of 6 before Holy Week	Rehearsal for Women's History Month - and two purple Sundays of Lent 3/1 & 3/8, and for the Rose Sunday of Lent 3/15 - Joy "Joyful People Come and Worship"
Friday, March 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m. 3 of 6 before Holy Week	Continue preparation for Laetare - Joy Sunday 3-15-26 One of four Rehearsals before Holy Week Palm Sunday - The King of Glory Holy Thursday - songs about Eucharist Passion Friday - Music for the Stations of the Cross and Lift High The Cross Vigil Saturday - Psalms, Hymns, canticles, chant
Friday, March 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m. 4 of 6 before Holy Week	Last rehearsal for Laetare - Joy Sunday 3-15-26 Two of four Rehearsals before Holy Week Palm Sunday - The King of Glory Holy Thursday - songs about Eucharist Passion Friday - Music for the Stations of the Cross and Lift High The Cross Vigil Saturday - Psalms, Hymns, canticles, chant
Friday, March 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m. 5 of 6 before Holy Week	Three of four Rehearsals before Holy Week Palm Sunday - The King of Glory Holy Thursday - songs about Eucharist Passion Friday - Music for the Stations of the Cross and Lift High The Cross Vigil Saturday - "The Easter Song," Psalms, Hymns, canticles, chant
Friday, March 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. 6 of 6 before Holy Week	Final rehearsal for Holy Week We must rehearse songs that continue into the six weeks of the Season of the Resurrection. We will be singing all styles during this period.

May 10, Sunday, Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

May 17, Sunday, Ascension Sunday

May 24, Sunday Pentecost

May 31, Trinity, Memorial Sunday

June 6, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 7, Sunday, Corpus Christi - relicense Servants of the Eucharist

June 13, Saturday, Pride Corning

June 14, Sunday, 30th Ordination Anniversary

June 20, Saturday, Juneteenth in Elmira E.O.P.

June 21, Sunday, Father's Day, Juneteenth Celebration (19th), and 30th Ordination

Anniversary

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY

There is a sign-up sheet on the table for desserts during the after-worship fellowship time, and we are seeking volunteers to sign up for desserts. Kaiden will text the volunteer during the week to remind them they have signed up to provide snacks that week.

=====



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Marcus: **SAINTS:** The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Marcus: **This is our closing prayer.** 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

Wayne Harris: **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)

Wane Harris: 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.

Wayne Harris: Please rise as you are able for our final song, Notebook #108, and in the Electronic Music Edition, "Walking Up The King's Highway." Please rise as you are able to sing "Walking Up The King's Highway."

LAST SONG WORDS ONLY

Jesus Name Above All Names words and music by Naida Hearn

Verse 1

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us.
Blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Verse 2

Jesus, loving Shepherd,
Vine of the branches, Son of God.
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor,
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Verse 3

Praise him, Lord above all lords,
King above all kings, God's only Son.
The Prince of Peace, who by his Spirit
Comes to live in us, Master and Friend.

Jesus Name Above All Names words and music by Naida Hearn

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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.

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 a.m. – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery . Join us live on Zoom. Sign on by 10:15 a.m. **Syracuse Worship-** looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information [Click Here](#).

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

The Chapel is not open to the general public, the way it used to be from 7:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. 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.

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

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)

