



Ray Of Hope

Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

(Isaiah 56:7)

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

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

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

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

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

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend a 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 they 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 refreshments and sharing.

Today is February 19, 2023 Black History W.K. 3

The Feast of the Transfiguration 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."

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 70

Psalm: Song

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 236

Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28; 17:1-9 NRSV 2ND Test. pg. 18

***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.**

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.

Bell's 1st ring. As the bell rings, 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 honor the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes, we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) The bell is rung before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

Leader – 1: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of ___ in the State of _____. 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. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the Chapel and online through Skype and Facebook. To be added to our email list, email rayofhopechurch@aol.com and write "email list" in the Subject.

Visitors in the Chapel can fill out the email information form at the

hospitality table and place it in the offerings/donations box on the wall.

In this church, you decide to participate in some or all the parts of the worship event as you feel comfortable. We also assist people at various stages of visual impairment by announcing all instructions, page, and song numbers and using a psalm response verse.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Participants on the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You are not required to be a member here or in any church to receive Holy Communion with us today. We celebrate the Lord's open table. Viewers at home, please bring the following items to your table at this time to prepare for the Holy Communion portion; 1) a cup with some wine or grape juice, 2) a small piece of bread, cracker, or matzo on a plate, 3) a second cup with some water, and 4) a side napkin.

Leader-1: The bulletin order of worship and the music supplement for today are available in three ways. On Facebook Live, right-click the "Featured Links" in the window. On Skype, right-click the "Order of Worship" and "Music Supplement" posted in the Chat window. On our website find the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION at www.rayofhopechurch.com. Take a moment now and gather these items. We will start shortly.

This morning, Ed Askins will play a piano prelude for our service. We ask everyone to listen attentively to enjoy this prayer time and not visit during the music. Thank you.

Music Prelude played by Ed Askins. "Surely The Presence Of The Lord" Words and Music by Lanny Wolfe. © 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music (Admin. by Capitol C.M.G. Publishing) CCLI Song # 7909. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



ALL PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AS A FREE GIFT FROM GOD, ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN GOD'S LOVE AND ARE BY MODERN TERMS, "SAVED." ALL 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)

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



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

Leader – 2: Thank you for choosing to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7, the Scriptures instruct us to:

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

Leader -1: Glorify God by introducing yourself and welcoming the people around you. **During COVID, we may wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

Pastor: I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

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

Pastor: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: We come here to pray. Each person is an equal and active partner in all we do in the next 90 minutes. At Ray Of Hope, the worship event is not an observer's activity where people come to hear some good music and then hear a message. Instead, we are here as active participants in every part of the worship event. The primary responsibility is to actively pray during each portion of the "service." The definition of the word liturgy is the prayer work of the people. The people lead, serve, organize, and facilitate this public time of assembly to worship God. The people are actively praying and serving each person present and God.

Today is the third Sunday of Black History Month.

Transfiguration: transaction of transformation? The Transfiguration is another Theophany, another Epiphany in Scripture of an actual historical event written about by eyewitnesses.

Before we start, I want to say there is no conflict between the Scriptures and Science. Scientists are involved in discovering what God has done, is doing, and will do in the future. God is revealing through the Scriptures, through the Creation itself. Scientists do their best to understand and uncover the Cosmos God is continuing to create and to evolve into the fullness of what God has in store for the Universe. Science studies what is there, what may have been there, and what might be there. God is doing what Scientists are determined to understand. Therefore, there is nothing to be afraid of and everything to celebrate and be thankful for when it comes to Science and Exploration. I will say more about this in today's Sermon.

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 began on 10/31/1983.

Today we are celebrating the fifteenth Sunday in our 40th year of ministry. Welcome to the **"WOKE"** Church of Elmira, NY, and the World.

Romans 13:11 "Now is the time to WAKE from your SLEEP."

We are proud to be known as the "WOKE" Church of Elmira and Central NY. Popularized by African-American young men, the definition of "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: 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 on these ideas.

Right Click Here:

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/purpose.htm>

Our prayers for Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria will be at the Prayers of the People this morning. We intentionally hold these and so many other people in our thoughts as we progress through this worship event.

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

ALL: Together, we give God thanks and praise.

FIRST SONG: I'm So Glad, Jesus Set Me Free

Text and Music: Traditional African-American

© Words: Public Domain, Music Public Domain.

I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.

I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
Jesus set me free.

Prejudice held me down, but Jesus set me free.

The Church told me no, but Jesus set me free.

Now I live rejoicing, 'cause Jesus set me free.

I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
I'm so glad, Jesus set me free.
**I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
**I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
**I'm singing glory, hal-le-lu-jah!
Jesus set me free.

+ The Candle Of Hope

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

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

Leader -2: While lighting the Candle Of Hope, it is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt to remember those who died of AIDS. Unfortunately, some churches continue to reject sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV/AIDS who need spiritual guidance.

Leader -3: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Looking up at the screen we see the Block we are reading today.

The names on Block # 63 are:

- Arthur B. Hill (1)
- Robert Wright (2)
- Hugh Gray (3)
- J. T. Tucker (4)
- Tony Akins (5)
- Jerry Ludiker (6)
- Howard Cowell (7)
- Karl Stewart (8)

We remember them here and pray for their families.

Leader -2: In silent prayer we remember the names of our family and friends who have died from COVID-related illness and other causes of death. We also pray for their family members as they remember their loved ones. May this candle's flame remind everyone of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the "Blessed Hope" we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000 panels and over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

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

SECOND SONG: SHINE JESUS, SHINE Words and Music by Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)
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WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

Leader -2: Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting one another, and praising God in song, we prepare our hearts to accept renewal when we listen to the Word, the Holy Scriptures. Now the Church invites us to reflect on our relationships with others and with God. Christ is present and actively listening to receive the sins we are about to confess in silence. He will immediately forgive us as He promised.

(silent prayer)

Leader -2: We pray together:

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

Therefore, I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints, to forgive me and pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

God has created and is sustaining one Human Race on this planet. While there may be life on other planets, we are responsible for this planet, and these people. Here, on Earth, we have divided ourselves into groups instead of enjoying the entire spectrum of this Human Race, we pray, Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

L-4: Through the ministry of Christ, we should study in our schools and celebrate every ethnic and cultural identity; Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

L-4: We pray that pastors and congregations lead the way to correcting discrimination; Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

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

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

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Please rise as you are able to give God thanks and praise for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria. The Church has prayed this prayer since the earliest records of worship services.

Spoken:

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

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

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

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

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

+ Opening Prayer

Leader 5: O Loving, Eternal, and Holy God, our hearts and minds are open to being led into your truth. So, Word of God, cause action and change in our lives. Word of God, transform and equip us for many more years of ministry, we pray.

ALL: AMEN.

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

+ First Reading

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

The first reading is in Book of Exodus, chapter 24, verses 12-18. We are reading from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of ©2021 (See the citation below the reading). The New Revised Standard Version pew bibles have a similar reading on page 70. Here begins the reading:

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and

the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Read full chapter (Source:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+24%3A12-18&version=NRSVUE>)

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

+ Psalm

The Psalm today will be Psalm 23 as sung in the verses of the song **Come To Me by Gregory Norbet and the Weston Priory**, the Benedictine Foundation of Vermont. It is in today's music edition. Tune: Text based on Matthew 11:28–30; Psalm 23. Original text and music: Gregory Norbet, O.S.B.; © 1971, 1994 (revised text), The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Onelicense Song # 81269 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

+ Second Reading

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

The second reading is in the Second Letter of Peter, chapter 1, verses 16-21. Again, we are reading from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of ©2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The New Revised Standard Version pew bibles have a similar translation on page 236 in the second testament. Here begins the reading:

Eyewitnesses of Christ's Glory

¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory

from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved,^[a] with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's ^[b] own interpretation, ²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. ^[c]

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

[1.17](#) Other ancient authorities read *my beloved Son*

[1.20](#) Or *the prophet's*

[1.21](#) Other ancient authorities read *but, moved by the Holy Spirit, saints of God spoke*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A16-21&version=NRSVUE>)
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+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score is divided into four systems, with measure numbers 6, 11, and 16 indicated at the beginning of their respective lines.

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, verses 24-28 and Chapter 17, verses 1-9. We are reading from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of © 2021 (See the citation below the reading.). The New Revised Standard Version pew bibles have a similar translation on page 18 in the second testament.

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

ALL: And also with you.

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

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

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

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."

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

[17.4](#) Other ancient authorities read we

[17.5](#) Or *my beloved Son*

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16%3A24+-17%3A1-9&version=NRSVUE> <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16%3A24+-28&version=NRSVUE>)

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Gospel Acclamation

January 29, 2023 Memorial Service page: 16
Forever, We Are Yours!

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

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the
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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 **Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.** 
The LGBTQIA2SS+ Pride Activities, and Social Events Center of Elmira, NY.
The only Church in Central New York founded and fostered by the GLBTQSA2SS+ community for 39 years. October 31, 2022 - 39th Anniversary now in our 40th year in Ministry.

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

+ Sermon

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."**

<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/faith.htm>

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

Some people are speedy to say it is impossible that any of this happened. How could a cloud of light come over the mountain where Moses was? How could it have looked like fire? How could Peter, James, and John have seen Jesus in radiant light, and how could they have experienced all of this in a cloud? These things are not possible, someone will say. We can imitate this with digital effects on the computer or in a digital movie studio. If we can make electricity expressed in 1's and 0's to recreate, even in 3-D, even in reality environment, then why couldn't these things happen naturally?

BY THE WAY, Notice, Peter, James, and John RECOGNIZED Moses and Elijah. Notice Moses and Elijah were so very present that Peter was ready to build shrine tabernacles for each of them on the spot. Notice Moses and Elijah conversed with Jesus about the kind of death Jesus would endure. MOSES AND ELIJAH were and are REGULAR GUYS! Nothing was divine about them, but we can learn a mountain top's serving of knowledge about our own lives in our resurrection bodies from this event.

In both the first reading and in the Gospel, the persons who receives the direct revelation of God, go up the mountain to pray. In Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses declares, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a prophecy: **A New Prophet Like Moses**

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet."

Hebrews 3:1-6 Moses a Servant, Christ a Son

3 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, partners in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in all^[a] God's ^[b] house." ³ Yet Jesus^[c] is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's ^[d] house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. ⁶ Christ, however, was faithful over God's ^[e] house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm^[f] the boldness and the pride inspired by hope.

[Read full chapter](#)

Footnotes

- a. [3.2](#) Other ancient authorities lack *all*
- b. [3.2](#) Gk *his*
- c. [3.3](#) Gk *this one*
- d. [3.5](#) Gk *his*
- e. [3.6](#) Gk *his*
- f. [3.6](#) Other ancient authorities add *to the end*

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+3%3A1-6&version=NRSVUE> Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

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. Systematic Theology. © 1947, 1953, 1980 Dallas Theo. Seminary.

Transaction or transformation? Are we here "at church" for a transaction: I go to church to get into heaven or to avoid hell. Or, are we here to be transformed into the image of Christ within us as mentioned in 2 Cor. 3:18?

17:2 CHRIST'S TRANSFIGURATION

The transfiguration scene contains, in miniature, all the elements of the future kingdom in manifestation (2 Pet. 1:15–21):

- (1) the Lord Jesus, not in humiliation but in glory (v. 2);
- (2) Moses, in glory, representative of the redeemed who have passed through death into the kingdom (Matt. 13:43; compare Luke 9:30–31);
- (3) Elijah, in glory, representative of the redeemed who have entered the kingdom by translation (1 Cor. 15:50–53; 1 Thess. 4:13–17);
- (4) Peter, James, and John, not glorified, representatives, for the moment, of Israel in the flesh in the future kingdom (Ezek. 37:21–27); and
- (5) the crowd at the foot of the mountain (v. 14), representative of those who are to be brought into the kingdom after it is established over Israel (Is. 11:10–12; etc.).

This picture is on page 1333, The Scofield Study Bible, New King James Version. Copyright © 2002 by Oxford University Press, Inc. Available on Amazon in hardcover: [Right Click Here](#). Available on Amazon in leather bound: [Right Click Here](#). Available at Christian Book Distributors in hardcover: [Right Click Here](#). Available at Christian Book Distributors in leather bound: [Right Click Here](#). For more information on this website on the Scofield Bible [Right Click Here](#).

Science:

When Jesus, other Prophets, or the Apostles raised the dead, they did what Science could not do until cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the electric shock paddles used to restore a normal heart rhythm – defibrillation, were discovered and made readily available. Even today, with all the medical Science we have, there are numerous stories of patients being declared dead only to find them revived before embalmed. In fact, on February 2 of this year, 2023, a story of this magnitude was national news.

(An Iowa woman was declared dead and sent to a funeral home. Then she 'gasped for air,' report says. DES MOINES, Iowa – An Iowa care home is being fined \$10,000 after declaring one of its residents dead and transferring her to a funeral home – where she was found to still be alive. USA TODAY: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2023/02/02/iowa-woman-declared-dead-alive-funeral-home/11172947002/>)

Jesus waited until Lazarus had been dead four days before Jesus went to raise Lazarus so everyone would understand Lazarus was utterly dead. There used to be a custom in European Countries and here in the U.S.A. of three nights of viewing called The Wake, where people would pray rosaries and prayers hoping the unembalmed would "wake" up,

and some did. After the third night, the "viewing" was for mourning.

Have you heard of **Lazarus Syndrome**? "Lazarus syndrome happens when that problem resolves itself shortly after C.P.R. stops, and your heart starts beating again. Lazarus syndrome is very rare. One [2015 case report](#) found that only 32 cases were reported between 1982 and 2008." "Lazarus syndrome refers to your blood circulation returning spontaneously after your [heart stops beating](#), and fails to restart despite [cardiopulmonary resuscitation \(C.P.R.\)](#). In short, it's returning to life after it appears that you've died. Lazarus is a character in the Bible who emerged from his tomb alive and well 4 days after his death. The syndrome was named after him because when your circulation spontaneously restarts, it looks like you've come back from the dead." Article: Coming Back to Life After Dying: What to Know About Lazarus Syndrome. Medically reviewed by Kevin Martinez, M.D. – By Nancy Moyer, M.D. on January 11, 2021(<https://www.healthline.com/health/lazarus-syndrome>)

Embalming and Cremation interfere with the possibility of raising the dead. When I was going into surgery for each of my knees, the Anesthesiologist asked me about my D.N.R. Both times, the Anesthesiologist wanted to clarify that a heart-stop event is very common during surgery. However, they both made light of it by saying, "it is just a blip to us; we quickly shock the heart," and all is well. I told them before each surgery that one or two shocks would be fine; however, if it turned into a battle, they were to honor my D.N.R.

When Jesus cured mental illnesses, he was hundreds of years ahead of what Psychiatry would continue to discover and attempt to perfect.

When Jesus and others healed twisted limbs and other body parts not functioning optimally, He showed what Science would DIScover, UN-cover through many hundreds of years of study. Scientists would do well to ask God and God's Son, who have done the Lab experiments successfully, how to do these same works. Instead, someone has lied to the scientific community and spread the idea that God does not exist and the Bible is a scrapbook of stories with no historicity behind them. No one asks the successful professor who has already shown us how to travel through time and space without fossil fuels, how to heal with electric powers and light, and how to feed thousands of people just by the power of charity. I guess his successes didn't impress the professors of today.

Science is working so hard to discover what is already there. So why not ask the One who put all this together to share Divine Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge with us to

speed up the discoveries? The best part of asking Professor Jesus to instruct our Scientists is we wouldn't increase the National Debt one cent because Jesus would give us the knowledge for free.

ASH WEDNESDAY

SPECIAL MUSIC Sung by Mrs. Christina McLaughlin: "Shepherd Of My Heart" Words and Music by Mark Baldwin and Dick Tunney, © 1985 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Pamela Kay Music (Admin. by Capitol C.M.G. Publishing). CCLI Song # 14679 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ The Prayers of the People

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

Leader – 3: Lord Jesus, we intercede for all the people, animals, and land affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria on Monday last week. We pray for the families of the more than 46,000 confirmed deaths. The grief, shock, and sorrow these families are experiencing must be immeasurable. We also pray for the medical professionals as they treat tens of thousands who sustained bodily injury and are trying to recover and hundreds of thousands of people displaced throughout the region. We also pray for workers tasked with restoring utilities and facing the realities of the destroyed infrastructure. With all of these concerns in mind, we pray to the Lord;

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We continue to pray for the children and people of all ages whose lives have been changed forever by war anywhere in the World. For example, the war in Ukraine has raged on for 360 days. So, again we pray and ask You, God, to heal and strengthen the people traumatized by the loss of loved ones and the destruction of their homes, schools, hospitals, power sources, places of worship, and towns. For these intentions, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 4: We pray that all churches openly teach the truth as stated in the Bible regarding racism and show respect for all ethnicities; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: We pray for all persons and especially our friends, family members, and associates we know who need healing, support, and encouragement as they fight cancer. We especially continue to pray for Heather's mother Henrietta Bower, our Ray Of Hope member Cheryl Allen, and other people we remember right now. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide their doctors and medical teams as healing and wholeness are sought. We thank God for each day of life we have together. We trust in God's presence today and always; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Veronica: We ask for your blessing on people suffering from the effects of climate change, especially the loss of food, heat, water, and shelter. We pray the leaders of the World will respond to this emergency with empathy and compassion as well as short and long-term planning. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: We pray for Ed Askins, who will have surgery Tuesday of this week. We also pray for Philipa, who has severe issues with her knees. We ask God to guide the medical teams, and we pray for a speedy

recovery and resolution to these issues; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: We also pray for all the other people in our Congregation who have requested our prayers; we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Veronica: At this time, we will add our shared prayers. Please speak your prayer loud enough so everyone may hear you. Your prayers may be for yourself or others, thanksgiving, praise, or whatever is on your mind. We begin with _____

Veronica: We invite you to add your petitions in silent prayer.

(silent prayer)

Veronica: We pray to the Lord for these silent prayers.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader – 3: Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers to you. We ask you to intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

ALL: Amen



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

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

****** Leader:** At this time, we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body present in the World, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. In the Chapel, use the donation

box next to the door before, during, or after this worship event. In addition, there are donation envelopes available on the hospitality table by the door.

Internet participants may use the [PayPal link](#) in your bulletin or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira, NY 14901. Additionally, the electronic links are always available in posted bulletins, on Facebook, and on our website. So please give what you can, but never give your last.

We also prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the Chapel. Folks viewing on the Internet, please turn to page three and follow the instructions under leader two.

We are using the small Communion set at your seat in the Chapel. Shake the kit gently in case the contents have settled. After receiving Communion, someone will collect the cup.

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

(** Viewers on the Internet, please read the following statement. ** Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, 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.*))

SONG: Let All That Is Within Me by Melvin Harrell

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Leader -2: (*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

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

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

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

Pastor: Please set down your communion kit.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

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

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

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." 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

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

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

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

Cheryl: You may relax your arms and hands.

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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



The Reception of Holy Communion

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

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

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ The Lord's Prayer

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

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

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

+ Final Doxology

Pastor: Together we pray:

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

5
God____ world with - out end.____ A____ men! Al - le - lu - ia

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

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+ Sign Of Peace

Veronica Floyd: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.
ALL: And also with you.

Veronica Floyd: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. **During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

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

SONG:

A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, your death brought life to the World. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

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

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

General Offering for the week of January 29 \$25.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 5 \$1,556.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 12 \$93.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

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

Thank you to April Struhm for a \$100 donation toward the 2023 Pastor Self-Employment Tax line in the budget.

Many thanks to Ed Askins for the hours spent on repairing the interior walls and ceilings in the monastery. Visit the refinished kitchen, restroom, Fraiser Room, and the Chapel Entranceway, before leaving today. Ed has donated over \$600.00 in building materials.

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

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

Publisher: National Council of the Churches of Christ

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR CALENDAR

February 21, Tuesday NO Bible Enrichment 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 7:00 p.m. at Ray Of Hope Church

February 23, Thursday 5:45 – 8:10 p.m. movie TILL @ Steele Memorial Library

February 24, Friday, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Holy Week 2023: Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Vigil of the Resurrection Saturday, April 8, 7:45 p.m.

No service on Sunday, April 9.

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We Are Sent Forth To Serve

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: Amen

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

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and love to serve all the 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.

SONG: He Is Exalted. Twila Paris

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Visit and follow us on our new TikTok Page: [Right Click Here](#) Here is the link if you need to copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@rayofhopechurchlgbtqgia? t=8UgoVv5ekqg& r=1> Thank you, Heather and Michael for making this project possible and producing our videos.



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

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

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

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

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



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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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

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

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

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

It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other

church, to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is really present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

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

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

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

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

We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone who has been told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to all persons who have ever been told "no you cannot" go to Communion in any other church; hear us, "yes you can" at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or as we like to say as one of our mottos, when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien; "You are as welcome here as Christ Himself."

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

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

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

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

Policy Concerning Minors at Events

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

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

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

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

(Optional) Name: _____

(Optional) Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

Visit us online:

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

Our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

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