

**"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 2-22-26, Lent WK I, Black History Month Wk IV, 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: 97 selected 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.**

All Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. online presentations and accompanying bulletin programs are covered by our Onelicense Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278, our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121, and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152. Copyright credits and U.S. Copyright Fair Use statements are in the presented materials. We are making every effort to comply with all regulations. Please contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions to improve our copyright practices. Thank you.



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 22, 2026, the fourth and final Sunday of Black History Month and the

first week of Lent. 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, where 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 2-22-26 Lent Wk I, Black History Week IV Year A, and the fourth and final week of Black History Month.

We wish Tami Whatley, Veronica's wife, a very blessed birthday. Tami and her family are celebrating her birthday this morning, so we know she will see this recording later. God bless you, Tami, and thank you for being part of the Ray Of Hope family.

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



Kaiden: 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)

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

Kaiden: Together:

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

Kaiden: 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 179



These are the names on Block # 179

- Bob Nelson (1)
- Jerry Thornburg (2)
- Reno AI (3)
- Chaz Watson (4)
- Harvey Thompson (5)
- Charlie Kail Cunningham (6)
- Chuck Furbush (7)
- Don Baker (8)

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

Kaiden: 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 "Hosea" words and music by Gregory Norbet. Please turn to Glory & Praise #340 and in the Electronic Music Edition. Please rise as you are able to sing, "Hosea."

Second Song: Hosea Text and Music Weston Priory and Gregory Norbet

Contributors: Gregory Norbet, Weston Priory

Tune: Text: Based on Hosea. Text and music, Gregory Norbet, OSB, © 1972, The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Onlicense # 81048 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278



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.**)

Ian McLaughlin: Loving, Creating and Eternal God, all life in the Universe gives You praise and glory. You invite us to see beyond ourselves and to experience life's energy and flow. When we become self-absorbed, we close ourselves to opportunities for healing and refreshment. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Ian McLaughlin: Christ Jesus, you call us to present the Love of God to everyone we meet. The stress of society, with its conflicting ideas, agendas, and systems, can dim our resolve to speak of your presence among us. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Ian McLaughlin: Holy Spirit, you desire to help us understand our

circumstances and the world system we live in. You desire to open our minds to a fresh understanding of the Sacred Scriptures, the Bible. So often, we are distracted by the noise and conflicts in society. Sometimes we convince ourselves there is no time to spend in the Word and prayer. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Ian McLaughlin: 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.

Ian McLaughlin: 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.

Ian McLaughlin: The Church now provides the service of praising God together in thanksgiving. Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

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.

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 is in Book of Genesis, chapter 2, verses 7-9; and Chapter 3, verses 1-7. 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 2. Here begins the reading:

⁷ then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground^[a] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Chpt 3:1-7

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, **nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.**" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God,^[a] knowing good and evil.**" ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the

eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

[Read full chapter](#), [Read full chapter](#) (Source:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A7-9&version=NRSVUE>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis3%3A1-7&version=NRSVUE>)

Footnotes

- a. 2.7 In Heb the word for *ground* resembles the word for *man*
- b. 3.5 Or *gods*

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.

+ Psalm:

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

The Psalm today is 32. We will sing the psalm together.

32. The joy of being forgiven

¹ Happy those whose of-fense is for-given,
whose sin is re-mited.

² O happy those to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no quile.

³ I kept it secret and my frame was wasted.

I groaned all day long,

⁴ for night and day your hand
was hea-vy up-on me.

In-deed my strength was dried up
as by the summer's heat.

⁵ But now I have ac-knowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: "I will con-fess
my of-fense to the LORD."
And you, Lord, have for-given
the guilt of my sin.

⁶ So let faithful people pray to you
in the time of need.
The floods of water may reach high
but they shall stand se-cure.

⁷ You are my hiding place, O Lord;
you save me from dis-tress.
**(You sur-round me with cries of de-liverance.)

* * * * *

⁸ I will in-struct you and teach you
the way you should go;
I will give you counsel
with my eye up-on you.

⁹ Be not like horse and mule, unin-telligent,
needing bridle and bit,
else they will not ap-proach you.

¹⁰ Many sorrows have the wicked,
but those who trust in the LORD
are sur-rounded with loving mercy.

* * * * *

¹¹ Rejoice, rejoice in the LORD,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart.

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 for-ever. A-men.

Psalm 32: The joy of being forgiven. Psalm (31)32 (inclusive language - 1993) ©1963, 1986, 1993 The Grail (England). Onelicense Song #31049. 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 Brother Shawn F. Benedict.

+ Second Reading

Lisa Frost: **** **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 Book of Romans, chapter 5, verses 12-19. You will find this on page 156 in the back of the NRSV Bible, the second testament. Romans 5:12-21 Scripture states seven times that all are saved through the "free gift" of grace that is the result of Jesus being obedient "even unto death, death on the cross."

Romans 5:12-22 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 156

Adam and Christ: The Doctrine of Universal Salvation

SIDE 1: ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

SIDE 2: ¹⁵ But the **free gift** is not like the trespass.

(In Romans, Chapter Five, the Holy Spirit through St. Paul states SEVEN TIMES that all are saved. Notice the numbers highlighted in light blue to indicate each time the Doctrine is stated. Br. Benedict)

(#1) **SIDE 1:** For if the many died through the one man's trespass, **SIDE 2:** much more surely have the grace of God and the **free gift** in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

¹⁶ And the **free gift** is not like the effect of the one man's sin.

(#2) **SIDE 1:** For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation,

SIDE 2: but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.

(#3) **SIDE 1:** ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one,

SIDE 2: much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

(#4) **SIDE 1:** ¹⁸ Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all,

SIDE 2: so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.

(#5) **SIDE 1:** ¹⁹ For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners,

SIDE 2: so by the one man's obedience, the many will be made righteous.

(#6) **SIDE 1:** ²⁰ But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied;

SIDE 2: but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

(#7) **SIDE 1:** ²¹ so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death,

SIDE 2: so grace might also exercise dominion through justification^[f] leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(Read full chapter (Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5%3A12->

[19&version=NRSVUE](#)) Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. See notice above announcements in this bulletin.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

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!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

Reader: The Gospel reading is Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11. 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 3 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 Testing of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, **9** and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!
ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
[Read full chapter](#)

(Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+4%3A1-11&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.

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

(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

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

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

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ 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 ===2-22-26=====

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

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

News: The Supreme Court of the USA ruled on February 20, 2026, that the president does not have the authority to impose many of the tariffs that have affected the prices of every good we have been purchasing over the last year. According to numerous economic watchdog sources, each American is owed about \$1,700.00 in these tariffs. (Source: USA TODAY, February 20, 2026 <https://www.aol.com/articles/world-leaders-react-supreme-court-201738490.html>)

February 17, 2026: Rev. Jesse Jackson, a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, passed away at 84. His daughter, Santita Jackson, reportedly said, "Our father was a servant leader—not only to our family, but to the oppressed, the voiceless, and the overlooked around the world." "We shared him with the world, and in return, the world became part of our extended family. His unwavering belief in justice, equality, and love uplifted millions, and we ask you to honor his memory by continuing the fight for the values he lived by." Dr. King

once said of Jesse Jackson in part: "The cause of justice has no greater co-worker than Jesse Jackson. It's hard to imagine how we could have come as far as we have without the creative power, the keen intellect, the loving heart, and the relentless passion of Jesse Louis Jackson." (SOURCE: <https://eji.org/news/pioneering-civil-rights-leader-jesse-jackson-dies-at-84/>)

February 20, 1956, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ann Robinson, Rosa Parks, and Rev. Ralph Abernathy were arrested for organizing the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The next day, a grand jury indicted 89 leaders of the boycott for violating a 1921 statute forbidding boycotts without "just cause." (SOURCE: A History of Racial Injustice <https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/feb/20>)

February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated. He was a religious leader and a Black nationalist. He was addressing the Organization of Afro-American Unity in Washington Heights, NYC, at the Audubon Ballroom when he was gunned down at 39 years old. Malcom's own father was also murdered by the white supremacist Black Legion in 1931, in Michigan, where authorities refused to prosecute those responsible.

While Malcom was in prison in his early 20's, he studied the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, the leader of the Nation of Islam, who advocated for Black nationalism and racial separatism. Malcom changed his last name, Little, to X to formally symbolize his stolen African identity.

Following six years in prison, Malcolm became a loyal and very effective minister of the Nation of Islam in Harlem, NY. In contrast to Dr. King and others, he supported ideals that included self-defense and the use of any means necessary to liberate African Americans. He was murdered by three members of the Nation of Islam, and they served twenty years to life in prison. (SOURCE: https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/February-21/malcolm-x-assassinated?cmpid=email-hist-tdih-2026-0221-02212026&om_rid=) see also (SOURCE: <https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/feb/21>)

See also the monthly calendar put out by A History of Racial Justice here: <https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/feb>

A History of Racial Injustice Daily Calendar

Learn more about our nation's history of racial injustice by reading our online calendar, which features a different historical event each day.

[Visit calendar website](#)

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](#)

For Black LGBTQ Christians, storytelling is a tool of resilience

Christian Science Monitor 1-27-22

(https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2022/0127/For-Black-LGBTQ-Christians-storytelling-is-a-tool-of-resilience?cmpid=mkt:ggl:dsa-np&gclid=Cj0KCQiAgOefBhDgARIsAMhqXA5usfm3tssn1FrM2CIQdyJqP1_z0NeYT5siW3cYhRDKQk4moSQd8AEaAgvmEALw_wcB)

S.B.C. reaffirms resolution for history of racism in the denomination

The Southern Baptist Convention. The measure also affirmed a 1995 resolution apologizing for the history of racism in a denomination that was founded in 1845 in support of slavery and for "condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime".
(<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jun/16/southern-baptist-convention-president-ed-litton>)

=====

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

Ray Of Hope Church, Inc. Statement on the Doctrine of Universal Salvation.

"We believe that Salvation is a gift that God has given to the entire human race. Romans Chapter Five explains this Doctrine of Universal Salvation. One's personal salvation is assured by believing in God as per John 5:24. Salvation is best known through the Gospel of Jesus the Christ, and through rebirth by the Holy Spirit." (Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc By-Laws September, 2011 Lines 1141 - 1148)

https://www.openbible.info/topics/universal_salvation

<http://www.city-data.com/forum/christianity/1300999-nice-compendium-all-verses-supporting-universal.html>

www.destinedforsalvation.org

The Basis of the Teaching of Universalism by Rev.Kalen Fristad, UMC

<https://www.destinedforsalvation.org/Basis.html>

Fristad: "These passages teach of hell following death, but none indicate it is without end. The Greek word, **aiionios**, which is translated "eternal" (in reference to the length of suffering in hell) does not mean "without end" but means "age lasting" or "indefinite but limited duration".

If the writers of the New Testament had intended to communicate that suffering in hell would be without end, they could have used the Greek word **aidios**, which means perpetual, but they didn't.

Instead, they chose **aiionios** and by virtue of its definition we can conclude that suffering in hell, whether in this life or beyond, will eventually come to an end."

=====**READINGS**=====

Genesis

A word about the supposed "first sin" in the Genesis reading today.
The first sin in the Bible is in Ezekiel Chapter 28: 12b-17 +

You were the signet of perfection,¹²
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God;
every precious stone was your covering,
carnelian, chrysolite, and moonstone,
beryl, onyx, and jasper,
sapphire,¹³ turquoise, and emerald;
and worked in gold were your settings
and your engravings.¹³

On the day that you were created
they were prepared.

¹⁴You were a cherub,¹⁴
I placed you on the holy mountain of God;
you walked among the stones of fire.

¹⁵You were blameless in your ways
from the day that you were created,
until iniquity was found in you.

¹⁶In the abundance of your trade
you were filled with violence, and you sinned,
so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God,
and I drove you out, O guardian cherub,
from among the stones of fire.

¹⁷Your heart was proud because of your beauty;
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.

I cast you to the ground;

I exposed you before kings,
to feast their eyes on you. (<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+28&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.

About one year ago, Ian and I were discussing world governments, and Ian said, "Well, Adam and Eve gave it all away. They gave everything to Lucifer." Yes, and that is where we start our discussion on today's Scripture readings. Notice Jesus did not spring to his feet to order and declare: "Get behind me, Satan, you do not own the world governments; my Father in Heaven owns them." Instead, Jesus offers no resistance to the claim that Lucifer can hand over all the world governments to Jesus if Jesus would worship Lucifer and declare Lucifer as the god.

Satan is only an Archangel, not a god of darkness.

Prince of the powers of the air: Ephesians 2:2 - head of a vast host of demons (Matt. 7:22 note Scofield). god of this age 2 Corinthians 4:4 ruler of this world by Jesus John 12:31. Note on "world" Kosmos "...present world system, the ethically bad sense of the worldunder which Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon his cosmic principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and pleasure..." (Scofield note Rev. 13:8) Satan, Summary Scofield Revelation 20:10

The reading of Jesus' temptation in the desert is way out of chronology for the events in the

life of Jesus. Reading the temptation event at the start of Lent is an example of the Church using the "spiritual interpretation," the one Phillipa told me she "likes the best." Why do I say this is the spiritual interpretation? The temptation of Jesus in the desert happened immediately after his baptism and, thus, before His public ministry, not six weeks before His crucifixion, where it would be placed if these readings were a strict chronology. There are six weeks in Lent, and we will be figuratively, metaphorically, and spiritually in Holy Week at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, April 3, 2026. So why does the Church schedule the story of the Temptation of Jesus in the desert now?

Thinking about the Temptation of Jesus can be a spiritual exercise. We may draw on Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights and use them for our spiritual, introspective journey through the church's Season of Lent. We spend 40 days and 40 nights in this season, not counting Sundays. We can understand how long Jesus prayed and fasted to know God's will in His life. So, we draw from his historical experience and apply it to our individual and collective spiritual experience.

Recently, a person told me I am using your time to teach elementary things, the basics of Christianity. Well, I would agree, and my reason is that most adults under 50 had very little religious education beyond Sunday morning services. Significantly fewer adults under 50 attended Sunday School, a Religious Education Program, or C.C.D. Program, or even a Bible Study, anytime in their lives. So, why would I waste your time on critical theories of deconstructing a faith tradition you were never brought up in anyway? Instead, I know I provide a foundational education in the faith, the Church, and the Bible for a very high percentage of our community. Where else would we get this information: the store, the post office, or the Internet? AHHH, the Internet. We will discuss the powerful information disseminators online and in the media in a few minutes. For now, back to the basics, the building blocks, the fundamental foundational, ancient, Apostolic pieces of education that come to the surface in today's Scripture readings. Four readings are universally scheduled for today, three, and a psalm. These are planned in the Revised Common Lectionary for churches of every major and most smaller denominations. I trust you can handle the full serving of Scripture scheduled for today, so I do not reduce it to only one Scripture reading. Instead, I aim to educate and familiarize anyone who will listen with the working knowledge of the Holy Bible.

*)- 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

(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 *****

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 due to this winter weather, especially those who lack warm, safe shelter. 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 for guidance from the Holy Spirit that leads to improved communication between people. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kaiden: We pray for approximately 304 million people who are migrating around the world. We pray that government leaders will think beyond their own

countries and seek to understand the global crisis of so many people on the move. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kaiden: We pray for the homeless, for those who are deemed to be unemployable, for people excluded from fair opportunities, and for oppressed people everywhere. We pray for more solution-minded leaders to work together and show cooperation for everyone's benefit. 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 poverty, social status, 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: "Jesus Name Above All Names." The music is available in the electronic Music Edition, and the words are below. Please sing along as we set the Table of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG TEXT 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
© 1974, 1978 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing. All rights reserved. CCLI Song #21291. Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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.

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

+ 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. Katrina, please show the Bread today, and Ian, 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!

©1993 by Gaude! Liturgical Arts. All rights reserved. International Copyright Secured. Reprinted here under CCLI#706121

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, and 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

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

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 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

General Offering for the week of February 15, \$523.00 Attendance 16 on Sunday
Tuesday February 17 - 8, Ash Wednesday, February 18, Noon Mass -9 Ash Wednesday evening - 13

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**: Brother made a \$650.00 donation to the Building Fund, thank you Brother.

**** Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts made recently**** 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. 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

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 the ministry in worship music will bring. 2-6-26 Br. Benedict.

I want to alert everyone to a special program on Christian Nationalism that will air this Sunday, February 22, 2026: [CNN's Pamela Brown Reports in "The Rise of Christian Nationalism" for The Whole Story with Anderson Cooper](#)

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

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

Monday, March 2, 2:30 p.m. Inquiries Class #3 Polity and Practice. Veronica & 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



SIGN UP FOR A FREE CLASS TO LEARN ABOUT PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to normal conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit.

WHERE: Friendship Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
120 Pearl Street Ext.
Corning, NY 14830

WHEN: Tuesday, March 10, 2026
5:30 PM

REGISTER:

Registration is required to attend the event. To register visit www.prepare.ny.gov or scan the QR code



THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY GOVERNOR HOCHUL IN CONJUNCTION WITH:



Elmira-Corning NAACP, Friendship Baptist Church and Steuben-Chemung Counties LWV

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 - Clarion Hotel

ELMIRA-CORNING NAACP


36th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026
12:00 – 2:00 pm

The Clarion Inn • 760 E. Water Street • Elmira NY

**"MEMBERSHIPS: LIFE BLOOD IS DETECTED
 WHEN MEMBERSHIPS ARE SELECTED"**

Tickets: \$35 Adult • \$17 Youth Ages 4-10
 Ages 3 and under free



Speaker
Mr. Jonathan D. Mack, ACE CPT
 Staff, Integrated Program Planner
 Lockheed Martin Corporation
 Owego, NY

For Ticket Information Call:
 (607) 962-8398, (607) 936-6770, (607) 862-5362, (607) 733-7963

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 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Council Meeting online and in person**

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**

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.	Three of four Rehearsals before Holy Week Palm Sunday - The King of Glory Holy Thursday - songs about Eucharist

5 of 6 before Holy Week	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, Glory & Praise hymnal number 349, and in the Electronic Music Edition, "Change Our Hearts." Please rise as you are able to sing "Change Our Hearts."

LAST SONG: WORDS ONLY

Change Our Hearts Words and Music by Rory Cooney/Jeffrey Honoré

Refrain Change our hearts this time, your word says it can be. Change our minds this time, your life could make us free. We are the people your call set apart, Lord, this time change our hearts.

1. Brought by your hand to the edge of our dreams, one foot in paradise, one in the waste; drawn by your promises, still we are lured by the shadows and the chains we leave behind. But

2. Now as we watch you stretch out your hands, off'ring abundances, fullness of joy. Your milk and honey seem distant, unreal, when we have bread and water in our hands. But

3. Show us the way that leads to your side, over the mountains and sands of the soul. Be for us manna, water from stone, light which says we never walk alone. And

Final Refrain This time change our hearts. This time change our minds. This time change our hearts, change our hearts.

Change Our Hearts. Words and Music by Rory Cooney/Jeffrey Honoré © 1984, OCP. All rights reserved. Glory & Praise Second Edition 349 Onelicense Song #81517 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127

=====

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)

