

**"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 2-23-25, Epiphany WK 7, Year C, Black History Month Week Four.
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: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 NRSV 1st Test. Pg. 270

Psalms: 103 selected verses with responsorial.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 15: 45-49 NRSV 2nd Test. Pg. 177

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 NRSV 2ND Testament Pg. 64

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

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Visit and greet one another until the bell rings.

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

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



WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND GIVE THANKS

+ Pastoral Welcome

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

Live to listen to the Music. Right-click on this link to access our [Facebook page](#). Open the Skype meeting on the second device to interact with us. Right-click on this Skype Link: <https://join.skype.com/qt6Y1PQvj04I>.

You do not need an account on Skype to "enter as a guest" when prompted. We announce all instructions, page, and song numbers and use a psalm response verse to assist people with various stages of visual impairment.

Leader-2: Hello. My name is _____. I am in_(city) _____, _(State)_____. Good morning, and welcome. (** Reader, please remember to look at the people and smile.**) We invite you to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion with us during the second half of this worship event. You need not be a member of this church or any church to receive Communion with us if you choose to. To the people watching on the Internet, to participate in Communion, please also 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.

Leader – 2: (** Reader, look up at the people and smile.**) 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)

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

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

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

Pastor: Good Morning, **SAINTS!** I ask you, in whose Name are we meeting?

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

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

ALL: And also with you, praise the Lord.

Pastor: Today is 2-23-25, Epiphany WK 7, Year C, Black History Week Four. RED Martyr dry martyr, wet martyr. People are feeling crushed, however, speaking of Black History Month, the terrible and unspeakable cruelties of how people have been killed for racial, religious, and social reasons. Last week, the readings provided instruction and wisdom on becoming humble and operating from a place dependent on the Wisdom of the Word of God.

Today, the epiphany is Jesus identified as Compassion as Empathy, as Forgiveness. Jesus instructs us to follow the example of God that He, the

Christ is exemplifying. The Compassion, the Love, the Forgiveness is God in person, and we are called to be in that personhood to share it with everyone. Listen to the readings to see if you hear it.

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP PROCLAIMS FEBRUARY 2025 AS NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/01/national-black-history-month-2025/#:~:text=Today%2C%20I%20am%20very%20honored,indelibly%20shaped%20our%20Nation's%20history.>

We are not here to practice a religion. One practices the piano or goes to football practice. We are here to participate in a multi-dimensional relationship in ways far beyond our human comprehension. We are here to dedicate these few minutes of our existence to entering into our living and loving relationship with God, each other, and all of creation. God comes to us at every moment of our existence, and God will continue to come to us forever throughout all time. This is what God does. God participates in our existence. In worship, we move in and have our being in that same existence.

Pastor: 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:

Blessed Assurance

Arranged by Br. Shawn F. Benedict & Brian Ellison for Ash Wednesday 2025

$\text{♩} = 32$

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2. mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3. mis - sion, al is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal -
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and

- va - tion, pur - chase of God. Born of the
 - scend - ing, bring from a - bove ech - oes of
 wait - ing, look - ing a - bove. filled with his

REFRAIN:

Spi - rit; washed in his blood.
 mer - cy, whis - pers of love. *This is my*
 good - ness, lost in his love.

2

Blessed Assurance

9 10 11

sto - ry, this is my song. Prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day

12 13

long! This is my sto - ry, this is my

14 15

song. Prais - ing my Sav - - ior all the day

16 17

1.2. 3. long! long!

2. Per - fect sub
3. Per - fect sub

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)

ASSURANCE

MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908). Re-harmonized and arranged by Br. Shawn F. Benedict & Brian Ellison (2025).

Music transcribed and scored by Randy Cornell

Blessed Assurance Text: 9 10 9 9 with refrain; Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, alt. Music: ASSURANCE; Phoebe P. Knapp, 1839-1908.

Contributors: ASSURANCE, Phoebe Knapp, Fanny Crosby Onelicense Song#94239 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-74127.

Blessed Assurance

Verse 1

**Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood**

Chorus

**This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

Verse 2

**Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love**

Verse 3

**Perfect submission all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting looking above
Filled with His goodness lost in His love**

Fanny Jane Crosby, Phoebe Palmer Knapp

CCLI Song #22324

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www.ccli.com

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+ The Candle Of Hope

Leader - 2: Today, we light our Candle Of Hope to celebrate our Faith and trust in the promised "Blessed Hope," also known as "The Rapture," the return of Christ who will transform the living faithful and raise all to new life. Those viewing at home may light a special candle and bring it to your table. Now, everyone, please join me and recite these words of Jesus to

celebrate the Truth they promise us. Jesus said: (John 5:25 and Titus 2:13)

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

Leader -2: In 1983, Ray Of Hope Church was started in part to form a unique ministry to persons affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS and to extend a radical welcome to all people to worship with us. Our witness to God's unconditional love for everyone is as relevant today as in 1983. Here we are forty-one years later, and still, some churches, religions, and, yes, even some countries continue rejecting the sick, lonely, and dying people with HIV and AIDS who deserve comfort and spiritual guidance.

Therefore, at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue to read aloud over **110,000** names sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt to keep HIV/AIDS in the conscious prayers of people. Scroll the page to see the panels on block 139.



These are the names on Block # 139

- Lyle (1)
- Teri Dehn (2)
- Bruce Bradley (3)
- Bill W. (4)
- Paul B. Miller (5)
- Jim Wirz (6)
- Scott Elliot (7)
- Allen Meyer (8)

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

Leader -2: In silent prayer, we also remember the names of family and friends who have died from COVID-19-related and other illnesses. We pray that those who feel left behind in the face of death experience a blessing from the Holy Spirit when they remember their loved ones. (**pause for silent prayer.**) May this candle's flame help bring to mind the Joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the promise of the "Blessed Hope" we have in the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

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

SECOND SONG:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty - altered text. Joachim Neander, 1650-1680, tr. composite. Contributors: Renewing Worship. Text: © 2001, Augsburg Fortress Evangelical Lutheran Worship #859 Onelicense Song#57289 Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!
My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.
Melody make, dulcimer, harp, now awake.
Sound forth you praise, ev'ry nation.

2. Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,

and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen? All that is needful has been sent by God's gracious ordaining.

3. Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you: see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do: infinite Love here befriends you.

4. Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.

Let the amen sound from God's people again, gladly forever adoring!



WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.

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

Leader -2: We pray together:

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

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

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

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

WORDS ONLY HERE. MUSIC SCROLL DOWN

"The Gloria"

From "Music for Worship"

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

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!

We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 1:

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

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to all people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise. Alleluia!
We give you thanks and praise.

Verse 2:

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

Refrain:

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

Verse 3:

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

Refrain:

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

Verse 4:

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

Amen.

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

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

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

The Gloria

"Music for Worship"

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

Refrain

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

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

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

10
 We give you thanks — and praise.

12 **Verse 1**
 You are the One God, Sov - ereign of the Un - i - verse, On - ly

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

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

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

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

2

28

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

31 **Verse 2**

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

34

Son of God, You are Lord God,

36

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

41

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

46 **Refrain**

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

50

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

53

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

56 **Verse 3**


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

61

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

66

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


71

 Ho - ly un - i - ty of God_____

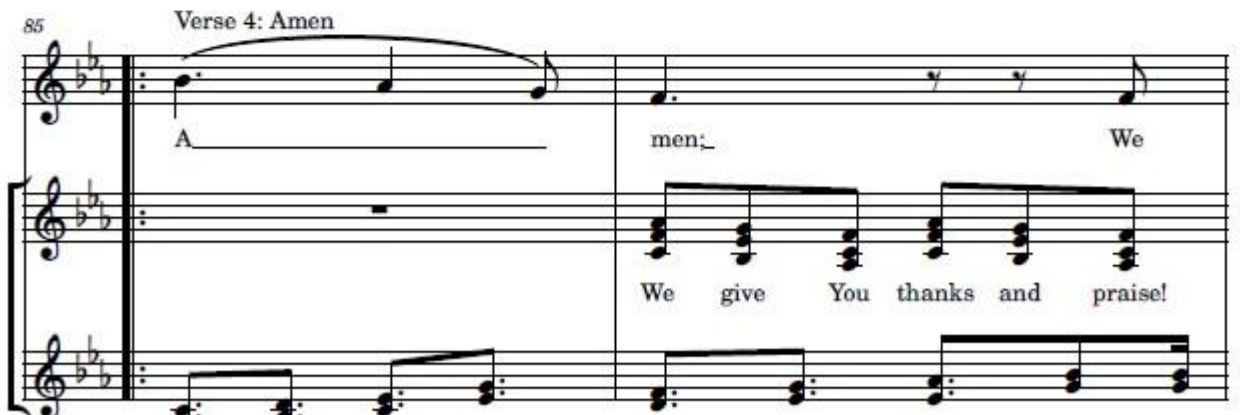
75 Refrain

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

79

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

83

 We give you thanks and praise.

85 Verse 4: Amen

 A_____ men_ We
 We give You thanks and praise!
 Lord we praise You, Lord we bless You, We

4

87

give You thanks and praise!

We give You thanks and praise!

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

89

A men

A men. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

PASTOR: Please remain standing for the opening prayer.

+ Opening Prayer

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

ALL: And also with you, Alleluia!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader-4: We make this exhortation together:

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

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



THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD

Reader: Hello. My name is _____, and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Our first reading is in the Book of 1 Samuel chapter 26, verses 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23. You will find this on page 270 in the front of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

² Saul immediately journeyed down to the desert of Ziph with 3,000 Israelite troops chosen to search out David.

⁷ Abishai and David entered the camp after dark and found Saul asleep with the lines with his spear thrust into the ground near his head. Abner and the army slept all around him. ⁸ Abishai whispered to David, “God has delivered your enemy into your hands today. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear. I won’t even need a second thrust.” ⁹ But David said to Abishai, “Don’t harm Saul, for who can lay hands on YHWH’s anointed one and remain unpunished?”

¹⁰ David continued, “As YHWH lives, it must be YHWH alone who strikes Saul

down, whether the time comes for him to die, or Saul goes out and dies in battle. ¹¹ But God forbid that I touch YHWH's anointed one! Just take the spear at Saul's head and his water jug, and let us be on our way." ¹² So David took the spear and the water jug sitting just near to Saul's head; they were able to get away without anyone being seen, or known or awakened. ¹³ David crossed over to the opposite slope and stood on remote hilltop at a great distance of Abner ben-Ner and the troops.

²² "Here is the ruler's spear," David answered. "Let one of your attendants come over to get it. ²³ YHWH rewards all people for their righteousness and faithfulness. YHWH gave you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on YHWH's anointed.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 653-655). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 169. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

+ Psalm

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. The Psalm today is 103 with selected verses. Our response today is; "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He cast our sins away."

R: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He cast our sins away.

1 My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless God's holy name.
2 My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all God's blessings.

**R: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He cast our sins away.**

3 It is God who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
4 who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,
5 who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

**R: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He cast our sins away.**

8 The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
9 The Lord will not always chide,
will not be angry forever.
10 God does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

**R: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He cast our sins away.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is God's love for the God-fearing;
12 As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

**R: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He cast our sins away.**

13 As parents have compassion on their children,
the Lord has pity on those who are God-fearing.

**R: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has He cast our sins away.**

+ Second Reading

Reader: Hello. My name is _____ and I am in the City of _____ in the State of _____. Our second reading is found in the Book of First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 45-49. You will find this on page 177 in the back, the second testament of the NRSV Bible. I will be reading from The Inclusive Bible. Here begins the reading:

45 The first Adam, as scripture says, “became a living soul,” but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. 46 That is, the natural comes first, not the spiritual; after that comes the spiritual. 47 The first, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second is from heaven. 48 As this earthly one was, so are we of the earth; and as the One from heaven is, so are we in heaven. 49 And we, who have been modeled on the earthly, likewise will be modeled on the One from heaven.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

(1 Corinthians 15:45-49. Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 30560). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 751. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

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

Gospel Acclamation

We Love Your Word!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the
truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your
Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our
hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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Reader: The Gospel reading is on page 64 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 6, verses 27-38. I will be reading from the Inclusive Bible.

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

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

²⁷ "To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. ³⁰ Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don't demand it back. ³¹ "Do to others what you would have them do to you. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. ³³ If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' do as much. ³⁴ If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' lend to other 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full.

³⁵ Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You'll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ "Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. ³⁷ Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Pardon, and you'll be pardoned. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you'll be given back."

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

(Luke 6:27-38 Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2787- 2788). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition. The Inclusive Bible Page 682. Copyright © 2007 by Priests for Equality. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. To Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., September 4, 2024. Please accept this correspondence as authorization and permission to use the cited material at no charge. Please do use appropriate citation and referencing protocols. The Rights & Permissions Team, Globe Pequot International Sales, Marketing & Rights, Part of the Globe Pequot Publishing Group Representing the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, now part of Bloomsbury.)

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

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

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+ Sermon
NOTES

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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

REMINDER of this great resource that is available for your private study: *** Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord <https://walvoord.com/series/328>

An **Epiphany in Holy Scripture** is an event where God reveals God's self in an obvious and public way.

Epiphany – Week 7 Jesus demonstrates the He is Compassion, He is Forgiveness, He is Empathy. Then, we have these examples to show us that we too can personify these aspects of the presence of God with, in, and through us.

In the first reading today, Book of 1 Samuel chapter 26, verses 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, we see God protecting David from the jealous King Saul. The application today is in this reading David has the opportunity to kill Saul but he does not, fearing the will of God. David realizes God is merciful and he must be also. This is reflected in the psalm, “The Lord is kind and merciful.”

When one studies the entire story of the love between King Saul’s son, Prince Jonathan and Saul’s former personal assistant, David, we understand the human reasons Saul wanted to kill him. God, however not only saves David and Jonathan from the many plots to kill David, but God blesses them. However, due to Saul’s pride both the King and the Prince are killed the same day in battle. David, the partner of the Prince inherits the throne as had been prophesied when he was just a boy by the prophet Samuel. God shows tremendous patience and mercy in the story of David.

In the second reading, First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15, verses 45-49, we have Christ identified as the Second Adam. Christ is the life-giving Spirit born into the flesh like the First Adam, but able to redeem us.

Today’s Gospel, Luke, chapter 6, verses 27-38, takes a deeper meaning if you

put it in the context of verse 22:

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. (Luke 6:22,23)

This is the same idea we find in Matthew.

Matthew 5:10, 11

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The theme of today’s Gospel is the call to agape, to love with universal God love our enemies. It is hard to love those who persecute us.

This is exactly what the Christian Church has done to LGBTQIA people and their straight allies and family members for centuries. This persecution still continues even at the level of national governments in some places. Last week Lisa mentioned what a privilege it is to be able to gather for worship without breaking the Law. The amazing grace in all of this is those who have been persecuted by religionists, churchianity, and sexianity in the Name of Jesus will in fact be automatic residents of God’s Eternal Kingdom according to these promises of Jesus.

In Black History Month we pause to think of all the people who were led by the Holy Spirit to stand up against slavery, even die for the cause of liberty and justice for all. The church has played a very significant role in the promotion of slavery. The Southern Baptist Convention apologized “to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime; and we genuinely repent of racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously (Psalm 19:13) or unconsciously (Leviticus 4:27);...” Quote from “Resolution On Racial Reconciliation On The 150th Anniversary Of The

Southern Baptist Convention Atlanta, Georgia - 1995." To read the full resolution (<https://www.sbc.net/resource-library/resolutions/resolution-on-racial-reconciliation-on-the-150th-anniversary-of-the-southern-baptist-convention/>).

This is only one example of institutional racism the church has participated in. The entire Civil War was fought over the issue of slavery. We continue to address all forms of racism today because we are Christians first, and then because our Statement Of Purpose of Ray Of Hope Church calls us to be actively involved in changing the world around us....

Through it all, we have trusted in Jesus, the Lord. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

"Trump fires Gen. Charles Q. Brown as chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, other senior officers."

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-fires-gen-charles-q-brown-as-chair-of-the-joint-chiefs-of-staff-nominates-lt-gen-dan-razin-caine/> "respected officer as part of a campaign to rid the military of leaders who support diversity and equity in the ranks." and "the second Black general to serve as chairman," Both quotations from the article by CBS cited above.

*** * * Keeping Watch* * *** On Sunday, January 19, 2024, I wrote the following in the bulletin. Finally, a hopeful thought to close with: on Friday, January 17, 2025, President Biden announced the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution is the law of the land because all of the required votes of the States have been received. The American Bar Association agrees that all requirements have been met. The National Archivist, Colleen Shogan, only has to certify and publish the 28th Amendment. (Source:[https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20\(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2025/01/17/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-the-equal-rights-amendment/#:~:text=The%20American%20Bar%20Association%20(ABA,Constitution%20as%20the%2028th%20Amendment)

) NPR story on the ERA <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/17/nx-s1-5264378/biden-era-national-archivist-constitution>



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

=====

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

=====
Brother: PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE: Heather Austin, Henrietta Bower, Michael Austin, Ruth Goyette, Glenn Rathbun, Annie Houser and Gary Davis, Ed Askins, Phillipa Askins, Marty Grinolds, Cheryl Allen, Louisa Lourdiane, the Baptist community of Elmira, and



Pieta statue painted by Wayne Harris. Gift from Wayne and Glenn. This week Wayne also painted the St. Francis statue that was a gift from Lisa Frost many years ago. Thank you Wayne.



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

Leader: Worship is our primary activity as a church. We are grateful for all the people over these last forty-one years of ministry who have given help and assistance so that Ray Of Hope is here in this new year of 2025. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with your gifts "seen and unseen." Your giving has been exemplary and extraordinary; 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 QRCode, this link in the bulletin: [Donate to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#); other live links on [our website](#), the envelopes and donation box next to the door always available in the Chapel. Checks sent in the mail are also accepted. [Right-Click Here](#) for our contact information, including our street address. We always say, "Give what you can, but never give your last."

OFFERTORY SONG: NTBK #63 "Thy Word" Words and Music by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith. © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Vinny Mae's Girl (Admin. by ClearBox Rights, LLC); Curb Word Music. For use solely with the SongSelect®. CCLI Song # 14301 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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

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

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



WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST

Pastor or?: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation. Through your goodness, we have this Bread, which the Earth has given us, and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this Bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God

(John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

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

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

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Kaiden: Please set down your cup.

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

ALL: And also with you!

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

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!

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

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

Pastor: (An improvised prayer is said here.)

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

Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

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

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

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

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

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

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

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

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

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+ The Lord's Prayer

Kaiden: Having heard the Word of God and remembering the sacrifice of the Cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: Our Father, who Art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily
Bread; and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

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

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

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

Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts
October 31, 1993

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

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

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

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.

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

Oh, My Jesus, I believe you are truly present in the

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

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

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

+ Sign Of Peace

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

ALL: And also with you.

Leader-1: Please take a moment to share a sign of Peace with those around you. ****During COVID, we wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.**

Leader-1: Now, we clean our tables and altars. Please be sure all of the crumbs are in your cup. Add some water and swirl it around inside the cup. Drink the water. Dry the cup with the side napkin. Clear your worship table and altar.

COMMUNION SONG: **Just As I Am** Text: William B. Bradbury. Music: Charlotte Elliot. Onelicense Song #150248. Used with Print Permission and Streaming License A-741278.

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New Revised Standard Version – 1989

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Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2025

General Fund opening balance at the beginning of January was \$2,178.68. Donations to the General Fund for the month were \$3,022.28. This included special donations of \$500.00 towards Brothers' self-employment tax. Pastoral compensation of \$2,080.00 was paid plus \$1,000.00 towards his 2024 Self Employment tax, January Self-employment tax was transferred to savings of \$83.34. The following payments were made from this account: Verizon \$62.47, CCLI annual payment of \$387.00, One License annual payment of \$198.00 and communion set expense of \$126.44. After these were paid the balance of this account at the end of the month was \$1,263.71.

Building Fund opening balance was \$903.71. Donations to the Building Fund were as follows: Brother Shawn Benedict \$640.00, Kaiden Benedict \$400.00. Regular bills that came out of the fund this month were the Credit Card bill with Key Bank of \$56.87, electric \$223.35, gas bill \$253.00, Elmira City Sewer tax \$36.20. Ending balance of this fund was \$1,374.29.

Building Improvement Fund opening balance on this account was \$1,220.63. Ian and Christina donated \$450.00 during January. The ending balance on the account \$1,670.63

Savings (Council) Account opening balance \$443.65. I transferred \$83.34 for Brother's Self Employment tax to this account. The ending balance is \$526.99.

There were no undeposited funds for January.

Here are the bank balances as of 2/21/2025

General Fund: \$1,960.37, Building Fund \$790.21, Building Improvement Fund \$ \$864.36 and Savings account \$610.33 which includes \$166.68 of Brother's Self Employment tax. We have no bills due at this time.

Many thanks to God for His faithfulness and to all of you for your donations.

veeflo@aol.com <veeflo@aol.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 12:14:42 PM EST

Subject: New area of concern that has surfaced regarding website

Dear Members and Friends, to keep you informed, we wanted to share with you that we have been notified by an organization called PicRights International Inc. that we alleged used images that were copyrighted on our website in 2021. This is a new area of concerns that we are facing as Pic Rights operates on behalf of the Associated Press and EPA photographers. We are being told that this is a copyright violation and were initially fined a total of \$1,875 for 5 images. The images used were all linked to an article that was posted for educational and religious education purposes. They in essence were part of the article.

Although we believe all rules of the Fair Use Act were applied and materials well sourced on our website, I was told that those rules of engagement do not apply to the use of these images on our website. Br. Benedict has worked tirelessly and continues to do so to ensure everything we do is in compliance and we thank him for all the hours he has donated to this.

The council is 100% committed to getting clarification on what the rules of engagement are and putting into place compliance with those rules if indeed they are not what we believe to be the case so this is not a recurring issue. We have spoken with a friend of the church who provided us with some attorneys that specialize in Intellectual property and copyright laws. We are moving forward with contacting an attorney to represent us.

We were able to negotiate an offer with PicRights due to our status as a Not for Profit Religious Corporation as well as the impact such a stiff fee would have on our church finances. The reduced fee is a 60% reduction to \$750. We were given a due date of February 14, 2025 to take advantage of the negotiated rate. We will be speaking with an attorney prior to that time to see if this is the best course of action for us at this time and how to proceed in the future.

I am bringing this to the attention of all our members and friends to first make you aware of the concern. Secondly, if you would like to assist with website maintenance expenses, please contact our treasurer Ed Askins. Any amount of donation would be beneficial. Also, if you know anyone who has copyright law experience that could help us moving forward, please let any council member know.

We will keep you informed of any updated developments.

As always, we thank you for your generosity and support as we endeavor to do God's work together and give God glory and praise.

Christ Peace be with you,
Veronica Floyd, Moderator Ray Of Hope

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

General Offering for the week of February 2 \$1,400.00 Attendance 8 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 5, Attendance 7

General Offering for the week of February 9 \$625.00 Attendance 9 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 12, Attendance 9

General Offering for the week of February 16 \$360.00 Attendance 7 on Sunday
Wednesday, February 19, Attendance 5

**** Special Gifts made in addition to offering plate gifts this week and recently****

** We received a \$500.00 gift from the Novant Community Benefit Fund (Robinson), a donor-advised fund of The Winston-Salem Foundation. The advisor donors are Dr. Elwood and Denise Robinson, Veronica Floyd's sister and brother-in-law. We thank the Robinson's for their friendship, support, prayers and participation in the life and mission of Ray Of Hope Church through the years.

Thank you everyone who has made or purchased treats for our social times including Wayne, Glenn, Christina, Kaiden, Lisa, Katrina, Gary and Annie, Ruth, and Ed.

Thank you, Wayne and Glenn for paper products.

Thank you, Katrina for assisting with the research on the copyright issues, and helping in the Monastery with cleaning, cooking, running errands, spending many hours assisting with typing and clerical skills.

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

REHEARSALS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Readers and Servers Monday February 24 at 7:00 PM or Wednesday at 3:00 PM
Choir Tuesday, February 25 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Wednesday, February 19, Noon Mass

MARCH 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP will be presented by the Elmira Area Clergy with up to ten churches participating. It will be hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church 256 S. Walnut St., Elmira, NY 7:00 p.m. Details will follow in singing in the choir, and serving in the worship event. Please plan to be in attendance.

Inquiries Class #1 Friday March 7, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Statement of Purpose, Statement of Faith

Inquiries Class #2 Friday March 14, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Worship and Common Threads

Inquiries Class #3 Friday March 21, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Polity & Practice (Liturgical Calendar +)

March 27, 2025 Council Meeting 6:30 PM.

Inquiries Class #4 Friday March 28, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

Inquiries Class #5 Friday April 4, 2025 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Human Sexuality and the Bible

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

APRIL 13, 2025 Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m. HOLY WEEK

APRIL 17, 2025 HOLY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 18, 2025 PASSION FRIDAY 7:00 p.m.

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

May 11, Sunday Mother's Day and Foundresses Day

June 1, Sunday Ascension Sunday

June 7, Saturday, Pride Elmira

June 8, Sunday Pentecost

June 14, Saturday, Pride Corning

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

June 22, Sunday Juneteenth Celebration (19th)

June 29th PRIDE SUNDAY



We Are Sent Forth To Serve

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

ALL: And also with you!

Leader - 2: We bless and praise you, God, for this time of worship we have enjoyed together today. Send us forth now to share what we have experienced with others. We ask you, Almighty God, to bless us with quiet miracles, the warmth of love, and fill us with wonder and peace; (*+*) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

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

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

Leader-4: We go forth in peace and Love to serve all people and the Lord ...

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

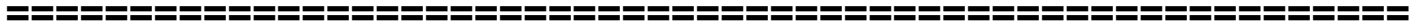
ENDING SONG: **Walking Up The King's Highway.** Words and Music Mary E. Gardner | Thomas A. Dorsey © Words: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Music: 1940. Renewed 1967 Unichappell Music, Inc. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB | Word Music Publishing) CCLI Song #78385 Used with permission through our Christian Copyright License Incorporated License Number 706121 and Christian Copyright License Incorporated Streaming Plus License 21787152.

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

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability.** The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation

to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



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

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Made by you and for you, because we are

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule

Elmira Worship- Sunday 10:30 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, 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> Face book 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)

